

Floyd-based Safe Surfin' director speaks at California summit

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Eddie Worth, executive director and president of the Floyd-based Safe Surfin' Foundation, emphasized the importance of internet safety for youths during an address at last month's Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Summit in California.

The Safe Surfin' Foundation is a non-profit organization created by law enforcement professionals in 1998. It is dedicated to promoting safety and awareness for children and families in the online environment.

Worth said that's especially true for those in vulnerable communities, according to a foundation news release about the summit.

The event included leaders and advocates from across the country, focused on addressing the alarming statistics surrounding missing and murdered Indigenous youth and the unique challenges they face in today's digital landscape.

With increasing reports of online predation and exploitation, Worth introduced a curriculum designed in partnership with Skyll, aimed specifically at educating young people about safe internet practices and empowering them to navigate the digital world securely. Skyll is an organization dedicated to protecting children and families through innovative safety tools and educational solutions.

Drawing on the foundation's extensive experience in internet safety education, the new curriculum offers essential tools and resources tailored for vulnerable populations, integrating socially relevant content and insights, according to the release.

"Our youth are our future, and we must equip them with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves online," Worth said. "The alarming realities highlighted at this summit remind us that the voices of Indigenous youth must be amplified, and they need to be trained to recognize and avoid potential dangers in the virtual realm."

In alignment with the goals of the summit, Worth urged attendees to continue advocating for greater awareness and resources dedicated to protecting Indigenous youth both online and offline, and asked leaders to invite Safe Surfin' Foundation into their community conversations, according to the release.

"By working together, we can build a safer future for our children and ensure their voices are heard in every circle," he said.