



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

STAY CONNECTED WITH YES AND GET THE SCOOP ON OUR STUDENTS & STAFF!

SEPTEMBER 2021

A LOOK AHEAD TO FALL

As we close out our summer programs at YES, we cannot help but celebrate our students' successes and thank our partners, stakeholders, and parents for making Summer 2021 one summer to remember.



As September commences, we wish everyone a fruitful, successful, and productive school year and look forward, with anticipation and excitement, to our enriching fall opportunities.

Read below to learn more about them.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Jones'.

Dr. Jones



Mission Accomplished: Summer Programming Ends with a Big Win!

YES started the summer seeking to connect 100 youth with enriching and transformative employment experiences. This tall charge came after a year of virtual programming. Although this was no small feat, YES did not miss a beat. YES successfully engaged young people in non-traditional employment opportunities, academic enrichment, research training, and sociocultural experiences that transcended the 6-weeks of summer.

YES' emphasis on wellness and social reconnection nicely supported youths' engagement and positioned them to make new – and lasting – friendships, all while prioritizing their wellbeing. YES' summer programming culminated in a high-energy celebration with a live-band, DJ, master chef, and gracious parents and guardians who collectively celebrated their youths' summer growth. While this summer looked different than previous ones, it was refreshing to revive the heartbeat of YES. Cheers to the summer that was!

More information on YES' summer programming outcomes will be available in the October Newsletter.

WHAT'S UP NEXT?



A Sneak Preview into Fall Programming

Fall is a magical time for most of us! The weather is just beginning to turn, the garden produce is being gathered, and in some areas, bopping backpacks are infiltrating the street scenes. This back-to-school hustle means it is time for YES' Fall Programming to begin.

As exciting as this time is for students and families, YES recognizes that this season is equally met with safety concerns, district leadership changes, and transportation shortages that pose immense challenges. During times like these, students and families need dependable sources of support and nurturing! Youth Enrichment Services, YES, is that resource. YES is available as a central access point for students and families, with offices in East Liberty and programs and services extending beyond the city limits.

Given that many students are transitioning back to school for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, YES is focusing its fall efforts on "Restoration" and aligning its programs with the following themes: restoration in society (Pathways to Access Program and Business Education Partnership), restoration in schools (All About Me and College Preparation and Alumni Support), and restoration in community (Diversion Services, Extended Diversion, and Diversion Prevention). YES' restorative practice efforts being implemented this fall are nicely supplemented by the Pathways to Access Program, an experiential workforce development opportunity, the All About me Program, a truancy prevention initiative for qualifying families and students who may have attendance challenges and need homework assistance, and YES' college support and traditional diversionary services.

Among YES' most celebrated programs are its gender-specific mentoring opportunities, Voices to Men and FEWI, which both promote prosocial engagement surrounding issues that affect young teens, carried out in open and informal environments where teens set the agenda. These popular programs have broad acceptability among participants and their

families and are grounded in YES' mentorship philosophy.

YES welcomes students between the ages of 14 – 21 to engage in its fall programs that starting September 2021.

[To learn more about YES' offerings or enrolling youth, click here.](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Shakyia Johnson, A Summer Scholar and Overcomer

Shakyia Johnson is no stranger to the YES family and its impact it has on individuals. Shakyia came to YES as a summer scholar, quiet, reserved, and calm. As the summer progressed, Shakyia quickly broke out of her shell and became acquainted with her many peers.

Shakyia is more than a participant at YES. She is a major leader in and outside of the classroom.

[Click here to read more about Shakyia's summer.](#)



Khalil Hauser, A Hidden Gem

This summer, the YES office was filled with students performing various jobs in support of its summer programs. Many students worked hard completing their Learn and Earn assignments and duties, however one student, Khalil Hauser, brought to YES by way of the Business Education Partnership Program, took command of the office space and made himself a valuable asset and presence missed when away.

[Learn more about Khalil, here.](#)



Dr. Jones takes on 10 Month Leadership Program with Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc.

Dr. Jones is joining the XXVII Cohort of Leadership Pittsburgh for a 10-month leadership certification program. One of the program goals is to acclimate leaders like Dr. Jones to a more robust large-scale workforce. The goals of enhancing YES' network, as well as extending its brand to a broader base of executives, is valuable as YES plans for the future.

Ultimately, this program will provide Dr. Jones with the resources and skills to be a better executive for YES, the staff he is blessed to lead, and the volunteer board, families, and stakeholders who depend on his cutting-edge leadership in the tough COVID-laced operating environment.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

YES is building capacity for its restorative and diversionary services. As part of its two-year strategic plan,

YES is developing a robust restorative practice program that will support the most pressing needs of students, schools, and communities. YES is also looking to expand Diversion 2000, a nearly 22-year-old program designed to provide juvenile delinquents with mentoring and monitoring alternatives to detention.

If you — or someone you know — is interested in learning more about these positions, please send application inquiries to dljones@yespgh.org.



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