



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

FEBRUARY 2023

Dr. Jones Selected as a Distinguished Alumni



Last month, Dean Valerie Kinloch announced Distinguished Alumni recipients for The University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. Dr. Dennis Floyd Jones, YES' Executive Director, was selected as a 2023 Distinguished Alumni for the School's new Department of Health and Human Development. This recognition honors Dr. Jones' decades of service to more than 5000 youth through Youth Enrichment Services (YES). YES continues to be on the cutting edge of youth development, youth service delivery, and science-based approaches to addressing youth-related challenges.

As the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, Dr. Jones is humbled, grateful, and excited to continue working with faculty in the School of Education to help young people access more of the high-quality education and experiences afforded by the University of Pittsburgh.

Reimagining Work for Tech Professionals

It has come to my attention, through [research](#), that thousands of tech professionals have been displaced from their workplaces. As sad as this is for those who have found years of comfort in working at places like Twitter, Google, and Facebook, it is also an opportunity for folks to reimagine work possibilities. As a community-based non-profit, one that represents a large number of non-profit organizations starving for talent, we invite tech professionals to join us in our mission-driven work to improve the quality of life for our young people. We promise to pay you well and allow you to use your creative talent and skill to improve the communities and neighborhoods in which we deserve to live.



Best wishes,

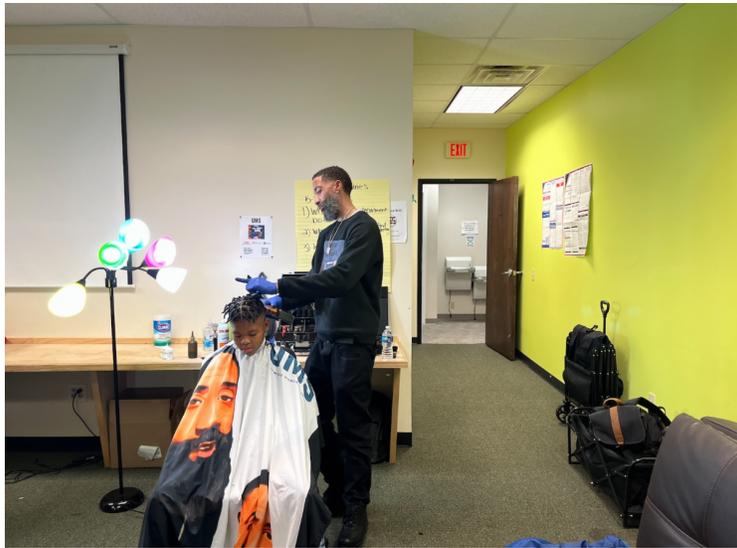
Dennis F. Jones

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Valentine's Day Wellness Events



YES kicked off our new violence prevention efforts by hosting self-care programs for our young folks and families who oftentimes are unable to engage with their peers as it relates to enjoying Valentine's Day festivities. Through two individual weekend programs, YES and community professionals provided more than 40 students with hair and nail care services, self-wellness sessions, healthy cooking strategies, and fitness opportunities. These experiences helped students feel seen, special, valued, and appreciated. Check out news coverage on these programs: [Male-Identifying Wellness Program](#) and [Female-Identifying Wellness Program](#).



Learn and Earn Programming



Believe it or not, YES is preparing for Learn and Earn 2023. To kick off our efforts, YES is recruiting students and worksites interested in participating in and providing meaningful, enriching, and transformative employment experiences again this summer. YES' summer program starts June 12 and ends August 11th. Interested Learn and Earn students can apply via jobs4summer.org starting Friday, March 10 and potential worksites can reach out to Melinda Jones at

YES & Highmark Partner to Celebrate Black History Month

YES students commemorated Black History Month with special events sponsored by Highmark that highlighted the positive impact Black individuals have made, and continue to make, in society.

Students engaged with guest speakers on Feb. 22 and 23 who talked about their careers and barriers they overcame to succeed. Speakers encouraged participants to think about careers that interest them and to pursue their dreams.



The Feb. 22 session was geared toward young women in YES' Pathways to Access Program and featured Ms. Martinea Goss, Real Estate Business Owner and Cassandra Oliver, Zone 5, City of Pittsburgh police officer. The Feb. 23 session was focused on young men in YES' Voices to Men and featured Elliot Howsie, judge in the Criminal Court of Common Pleas, and Evan Frazier, president and CEO of The Advanced Leadership Institute (TALI). [Read more on the event by clicking here.](#)

Youth Civic Leadership Academy (YCLA) Students Visit CMU



YCLA participants who are members of the extension program had the opportunity to visit Carnegie Mellon University on February 28 as they prepare for their 12 week experience with Faculty from the English Department starting in March. This exploratory opportunity helped to contextualize their upcoming experience where they will learn how to shape and narrate their stories as historic members of the inaugural YCLA class. More information on this initiative is forthcoming.

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