



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

JUNE 2022

A Message from YES' Executive Director

For youth agencies serving students, the summer is the most precious time of the year to get ahead of academic and school-related gaps that may have appeared during the previous school year. It is also a time of discovery, exploration, self-challenge, and goal setting for future paths. This is the challenge that YES gladly accepts every summer. YES' 90%+ success rate for its summer programs will continue this year as our students receive tremendous returns from their participation in challenging academic and professional experiences.



This summer, we will have about 100 young students in our Learn and Earn program, participating in a variety of workforce development, academic enrichment, and social and cultural leadership development opportunities. In addition to this framework, YES is creating two special events for the summer to add to the unique experience for our students.

First, YES is hosting a Teen Public Safety and Violence Prevention Summit that will be a highlight of the summer because of the depth and breadth of presenters, panelists, and guests at the event. Over 150 registered youth will be in attendance to hear from the sharpest minds in the areas of addressing gun violence and other trauma-inducing events. The Summit aims to convene a group of youth beyond this single day-event to meet monthly, travel out-of-state, and collaborate to address these issues.

YES is also embarking on its first out-of-state trip since 2019 this coming August, when we will take about 40 young people on a Washington D.C. trip spanning several nights. Youth invited on this special trip will have received notoriety through their completion of summer program requirements, specifically their summer research projects. Youth will visit the African American History and Culture Museum, National Museum of the American Indians, and the Holocaust Museum. Youth will also tour Howard University, dine at the famous Ben's Famous Chili Bowl and Carolina Kitchen, and meet with local legislators. YES Board Member, Cheryl Biggs, is organizing and facilitating the trip. The trip will be funded in-part

by corporate donations.

Finally, we want to alert you to our end of summer events. Our Summer Research Symposium is Thursday, August 4th from 5-7PM at the Carnegie Library in East Liberty. Our End of Summer Celebration is Wednesday, August 10th from 4-7PM at the Rhododendron Pavilion in Highland Park. It will feature music from BAQ II BAQ, plenty of delicious food, and a fun celebration of a successful summer!

We greatly appreciate your continued involvement and effort in making YES the organization it is today. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Summit in just over a week! Thank you, all!

Best wishes,



Dr. Jones

GENERAL UPDATES

YES is a Hear Foundation Grant Recipient

Youth Enrichment Services has recently been named one of the grant recipients of The Hear Foundation, a new nonprofit focused on connecting law enforcement and city officials with communities where gun violence is prevalent. With former Google executive Kamal Nigam serving as the Executive Director of the nonprofit, The Hear Foundation has initiated a “Summer of Healing” project, in which they awarded three inaugural microgrants to support healing in local communities. “No one single person, group, or administration can tackle the issue of violence in our city alone,” Mayor Ed Gainey said in a press release for The Hear Foundation. “We need strong community partnerships working and moving together in order to create peace in our city, and help provide new economic opportunities so we can transform Pittsburgh into a welcome, safe, and thriving city for everyone.” [Click here to read more.](#)



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Learn and Earn Program

We’ve officially launched our Learn & Earn program! After a comprehensive orientation and pre-employment training, students had their first day on their worksites on Monday, June 27th. We’re so excited to see students apply their training to real life situations as they intern. Keep up with

the latest updates from worksites on our Instagram; [click here to follow us!](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

YES Students Graduate High School



Throughout the weekend of June 18th - 19th 2022, many YES students walked across the stage, officially graduating from high school. One student in particular, Maniyah Swann, performed the Pledge of Allegiance at Westinghouse High School's graduation. Maniyah will attend CCAC's nursing program in the Fall. We are so proud of all of our students and excited to see what their journeys hold!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Summer Interns

We're so excited to welcome our Summer Interns in person at the YES office! Every summer, they play a critical role in creating dynamic experiences for our young people. Meet our wonderful interns below.

Emmeline Wetzel • Information Systems Major & French, Human-Computer Interaction Minor at CMU



Hobbies: Playing Guitar
Why YES? I joined YES because they have such a deep commitment to serving their youth, and I could tell this was a place where it was really all about the kids.

Tyshanti Montgomery • Statistics & Machine Learning Major at CMU

Hobbies: Cooking

Why YES? I joined YES as an intern to expose at-risk youth to mentorship and knowledge I wished I had growing up. I want better for minorities and want to guide YES students in the right direction because I believe that everyone needs that one person to change their perspective on school and life as a whole. I hope I provide a safe haven for them during my time with YES.



Alexis Henderson • 2nd year of Grade School for Public Health at Pitt

Hobbies: Soccer & Painting

Why YES? I joined YES because I've seen the power of mentorship in my life and in others' lives, and I want to make that same impact on the students YES serves.

Jessie Ma • Senior in Nursing at Pitt

Hobbies: Playing with her dog & shopping

Why YES? I joined YES because I want to take healthcare into different communities.



Kiana Francis • Senior Biology Major at Mercyhurst

Hobbies: Playing lacrosse

Why YES? I joined YES because my end goal is to have the means to give back to those around me, and my father knew Dr. Jones and he hooked us up with this job to do exactly that.

Alayna Francis • Freshman in Athletic Training and Physical Therapy at Marietta

Hobbies: Playing lacrosse

Why YES? My dad was a former student of Dr. Jones, he had explained what Dr. Jones does and I had wanted to work with the community so it seemed perfect.



Willie Knight • Senior in Communication Arts & Art, Science, Innovation at Allegheny

Hobbies: Film & Digital Art

Why YES? I joined YES because I have a long history at YES, participating in the program from my freshman year of high school until now. I thought why not try to give back



and help in any way possible.

[Click here to visit our Website](#) | Thank you for your support!

