



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

JULY 2023

Summit Recap - Out of Chaos: A Positive and Affirming Message Regarding Violence Prevention in Allegheny County



After partnering with many of our peer organizations, YES was successful in hosting our 2nd Annual gun violence prevention summit, *Out of Chaos: A Positive and Affirming Message Regarding Violence Prevention in Allegheny County*. An event addressing youth trauma caused by violence, specifically gun violence, which took place at the Peterson event center on July 13th and 14th. Our students were excited to share the space with like-minded individuals who are working hard to find effective solutions to gun violence. Youth were able to experience a panel of adults and youth peers, in which they were asked difficult questions about why we believe we are dealing with these types of issues within our community. Students also connected with some of our adult leaders through a series of breakout sessions. These breakout sessions sparked discussion about personal trauma and the success that came from it, ways to process difficulty we face, and more.



Day 2 of the summit consisted of a symposium where select students were hand picked, as our youth leaders, to come together and find ways to put our words into action. Students were able to create collaborations between teens, community council members, and parent groups and come up with an innovative plan that will contribute to the decrease of gun violence in the city of Pittsburgh. As planned, with the help of city professional and community leaders, YES student leaders will implement these ideas into plans that will be put into action in Fall of 2024.



A few words from our Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey - "It's my time to lead right now, but it's your turn to be the future leaders of them all".

A few words from Senator Jay Costa - "What I hope to do today is speak with the students here and have them recognize that they are part of what we

need to do...”.



*A few words from Dr. Jones -
“We are in the business of
building a community... We are
in the business of seeing that
young people grow and develop
and become whatever they
want to be”.*

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Scholars Enjoy a 5-star Meal at the Rivers Club



As preparation for their transition to high school, Summer Scholars (students aged 14-15) took part in numerous lessons, preparing them to excel in their future academics and helping them find possible career paths. After a week of professional development training and fine-dining etiquette, the Summer Scholars indulged in a five-star meal at the Rivers Club Downtown Pittsburgh.

During the Summer Scholars summer magic program, students are provided academic, professional, and socio-cultural opportunities. From student-led community research to storytelling courses, students had enriching experiences, mostly led by college interns and esteemed University and secondary school faculty.



Thank You to YES Summer Interns!

YES' college interns are the backbone of our summer programming. Their contributions are immeasurable. This summer we were fortunate to have interns from CMU, Pitt, Gettysburg College, and University of Texas - Austin representing various university programs. Their diverse expertise, passion, and commitment made a difference in our organization this summer.

Sarah Nackman– Bridging the Gaps Intern, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
Teaches Beyond the Beat Apprenticeship

Rose Sabatino - Bridging the Gaps Intern, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
Teaches Pittsburgh Food Palate Apprenticeship

Taylor Symonette– Intern, Carnegie Mellon University
Teaches LIFE Course and Persuasion Playbook Apprenticeship

Tyshanti Montgomery - Intern, Carnegie Mellon University
Teaches Financial Empowerment Apprenticeship

Fran Centron - Intern, University of Texas - Austin

Nosimat Salami - Intern, Gettysburg College

Zaida Pearson - Intern, University of Michigan
Research Assistant



Exploring Issues of Violence in Exploratory Learning Courses

Students enrolled in a variety of experiential learning courses that ranged from Arts, Violence, and Peace to Effects of Violent Sports. These courses were taught by distinguished professors and post-secondary instructors who dedicated their summers to enriching our youth. Highlighted above is the Arts, Violence, and Peace course taught by Ms. Booker, a High School Counselor at University Prep! In this class, students learned more about the impact that various forms of art have on violence. Students have discussed art forms such as music, visual, and video games. Students started to create a song that inspires peace and learned from leaders in the industry about the impact of art.



GENERAL YES UPDATES

Social and Cultural Events: Swimming Pool and Highland Park Cookout

YES engages in educational trips as well as social and cultural events every summer and winter for students to interact with one another. On July 6, 2023, after a successful first couple weeks, YES had an amazing trip to Lake Point @ Highland Park for our YES students. Some of the activities for the students consisted of swimming, games, throwing frisbees, and face painting. Danielle Stewart, Manager of Workforce and Post-Secondary

programming, delighted the students with a face painting activity. She has been doing face painting professionally for the past 12 years and she really enjoys drawing and any activities that involve art.



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