

A Message from YES' Executive Director

Summer of 2022 was historic for YES. All programs returned to face-to-face in-person delivery with appropriate COVID precautions. As YES wraps up another successful summer of rigorous programming, we are looking ahead and planning for an equally rigorous school year program plan. It is so exciting that all programs have the best plans and YES has been discussing planning for the upcoming school year and beyond. Important program decisions include:



- YES' role in supporting Owen's Clinic's Black Care Equity Alliance pre-empt program with service delivery for youth who may be referred to the program because of their student involvement.
- YES' alignment with District of Columbia's Department of Health and Human Services on Crime and Delinquency to discuss strategies on addressing teen violence from a youth-oriented approach. Director Pennington was eager to engage in this area of discussion and continue YES momentum in this area.
- YES' efforts in PPS Schools through the support of Principal Melissa Peartman and several other middle and high school PPS principals who are eager to leverage YES programs and service delivery in their schools. These efforts further address violence, reduce trauma, and ultimately improve student outcomes.
- YES' collaborations with Dr. Danielle Weisz and the Carnegie Mellon University English Department to study the study of violence with the school factors and YES youth who have trauma challenges. These individuals and their expertise will be valuable to our youth as they begin to enter their next chapters. We want to make sure our youth are prepared with the therapy and analytical skills to be successful in our modern-day economy.

Our Fall program slate is coming together and we strongly believe it will continue the impact of our summer programs that for our young people. Our finalized Fall program calendar plans are forthcoming. We will be able to post to our website when it is complete. If you have any questions regarding YES programming, please contact Jasmine Davis at jdv@yespn.org.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jones



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Recap



Students have officially wrapped up their summer program experience.

Check out our blog to see what students went up to this summer.

Keep up with the latest updates from our website on our Instagram; click here to follow us!

The highlight of this summer's activities included the end of summer research symposiums. Summer Scholars and Advanced Summer Scholars impressed stakeholders with noteworthy research projects. Not only did they wow parents and guests with well-developed and intellectually challenging topics, but they also offered engaging content that they will continue to develop.

A unique addition to this symposium is that the students' topics were viewed as works in progress. Students will continue to work with staff on a quarterly basis as they move from fiction to a more scientific, methodically sound approach to completing their research efforts with the hope that they will eventually be published.

- Some of the projects presented include the following:
- Research Paper Access by Davonne Miller & Karlyn Jackson
 - Violence in Video Games by William Shufflett
 - Food Access & COVID-19 by Ryan Rouse & Hannah Hewitt
 - Racial and Gender Bias in Healthcare by Sarah Nivava, Takar Pack, & Brailah Jemigbo
 - Art & Tape Culture by Tye Carter
 - Toxic Masculinity, Aggression, and Sports by Kamari Jones & DeAisha Boyd
 - An Introduction into Violent Crime by Jalen Giles
 - Fish Contributions to Violence in Sports by Davon Williams, Taylor Richardson, James Johnson, Cameron Reed, & Brailah Jemigbo
 - Lack of Resources for Young Pregnant Women by Mya Jackson
 - Inflation and Access by Curtis Hill, Clara Street, & Howell Hesse
 - Addiction and Child Violence by Jaylynn Merritt
 - Social Media and Poverty Crime by Foren Sutton, Tyshean Perry, & Cornell Harris
 - Abuse in Lesbian Relationships by Ry Johnson
 - Fighting Food Insecurity by Mikaela Houston-Smith

DC Trip Recap

Our end of summer cultural education to Washington D.C. was full of fun and exciting moments. These were attended were highly regarded by their respective supervisors and individuals who completed their research projects. This jam-packed trip was dynamic, in nature and offered students an array of unique experiences in the nation's capital. During the trip, students, staff, and parent chaperones met with Senator Bob Casey of the U.S. Senate Building. We engaged YES students in an extensive question and answer session in which Senator Casey emphasized to students that they should embrace a future of opportunity and promise.



The group eagerly embraced this once-in-a-lifetime trip with like-minded teens to travel and explore. Students visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, United States Holocaust Memorial, the National Museum of the American Indian, and many other cultural landmarks. YES exposed this group of young people to new places and experiences and hopes to continue these efforts in future programs.

Click here to read more about this trip!

September Preview

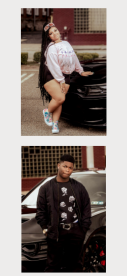


YES is rolling out its Fall Programming in three phases. Phase 1 features a host of pre-program activities to keep young people connected to and engaged in YES. Some of these activities include a book club, learning how to cook various dishes, back to school rights, money rights, and much more. All phase 1 events will be pre-program orientations and meet and greets in late September to onboard new youth and trained. All Fall Programs are set to launch in phase 2, which is the first week of October. Stay tuned for new program updates.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Emerging Leaders Win Worksite Excellence Awards

YES culminated its summer experience in an End of the Summer Celebration. YES always honors students for their summer commitment, contributions, and achievements. Several students with character awards, were being highlighted for special recognition. A small number were recognized as fully exceptional students and non-recurrent excellence awards which demonstrated their early and alignment with the program's goals and mission. Many awards from Pittsburgh. Students visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture. These students were key YES program activities to receive this award. They were selected as students who work on the organization and who embody the professional and leadership qualities we hope to nurture as they move through YES and advance in their educational and career endeavors.



GENERAL UPDATES

YES' Three-Year Strategic Plan is Approaching its End



YES' Strategic Action Plan that was initiated during Cohort VI of PACE is coming to an end and YES is submitting its final progress report. We have benefited greatly from the expertise of consultants funded by PACE, Marlene Walker of Walker Philadelphia Consulting and James Douglas of CANA Associates. The final strategic planning process has revealed the organization to new heights. YES is benefitting from a more highly resources, strategically aligned, and firm agency. In particular, we now have the resources to support youth in crisis, specifically those experiencing the negative impacts of gun violence.

Our stakeholders, Board of Directors, and funders are confident that we can continue to produce successful programs while also having a laser focus on the issue of gun violence prevention for young people. YES has positioned itself as a valuable community asset. We are able to meet the gap, meet the needs, and see across the horizon, prepared for whatever comes our way. We are in a strong position as we end this 3-year journey and move into the next level. Watch this space.

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