



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

SEPTEMBER 2022

A Message from YES' Executive Director

YES has extended its programs for the fall to one of its widest audiences ever. Earlier this month, the Woodland Hills School Board approved a partnership with YES at its September 21st meeting where they adopted a motion to invite YES in as a partner in delivering workforce development to their students. This innovative and creative program, conducted by program staff, Anay Pope and Jordan Snyder, is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and tools to navigate employment and post-secondary educational landscapes.

Along with PAP, we are featuring our All About Me program that Jasmine Davis is kicking off. All About Me (AAM) is a program designed to provide students with academic resources and strategies to achieve short-term and long-term educational goals.

YES' gender-based programs, Voices to Men and FeWi, will make their Fall debut next month as well. Voices to Men, staffed by Miles Porter, Dorian Laniear, and Jordan Snyder and FeWi, staffed by Jasmine Davis, look to continue their success from previous years.

Voices to Men (VTM) is a program designed to create a safe space for young men to experience joy, friendships, and healthy identity development. Similarly, Female Empowerment and Wellness Initiative (FeWi) is a program designed to harness and support young women's emotional, physical, financial, environmental, and social wellness.

YES is also very excited to announce that the inaugural cohort of the Pittsburgh Youth Civic Leadership Academy will start in October. The PYCLA is directed by the Mayor's Office and is co-sponsored by Partner4Work, the Heinz History Center, and CCAC. YES will be the program facilitators. The goal of the PYCLA is to expose youth to various career opportunities in the civic sector and encourage them to become more civically engaged. The Heinz History Center will provide historical context for the weekly cohort meetings with various city departments. For their participation in the program, and the completion of an independent research project, students will receive 3 credit hours from CCAC.

Finally, YES has successfully completed another year of summer programming. We are finalizing the report and hope to release it in early October. Stay tuned!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Jones



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2022 Fall Programs Launch

YES has an impressive menu of program offerings launching next week, October 3. These programs, available to a myriad of youth, fall within the domains of academic preparation, workforce and post-secondary development, mentorship and wellness, and diversion and restorative practices.

More specifically, these programs include:

- **All About Me (AAM)**, a program designed to provide students with academic resources and strategies to achieve short-term and long-term educational goals
- **Pathways to Access (PAP)**, a program designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and tools to navigate employment and post-secondary educational landscapes
- **Pittsburgh Youth Civic Leadership Academy (PYCLA)**, a program designed to expose young people to civic leadership and empower them to become more civically engaged
- **Voices to Men (VTM)**, a program designed to create a safe space for young men to experience joy, friendships, and healthy identity development
- **Female Empowerment and Wellness Initiative (FeWi)**, a program designed to harness and support young women's emotional, physical, financial, environmental, and social wellness
- **Diversion 2000 (D2000)**, a mentoring and monitoring program designed to support justice-involved youth with alternatives to detention
- **Extended Diversion Services (EDS)**, an individualized program tailored to prevent young people from becoming justice involved or re-engaging in justice systems.



The unique affordances and opportunities of these programs are extremely invaluable for young people and are made possible by an incredible staff of people. In addition to these offerings, YES provides general power hour tutoring, enrichment opportunities, and social and cultural outings. To learn more or to connect young

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

YES Partners with Gwen's Girls to Support Black Girls Equity Alliance Efforts

YES is a firm believer in developing quality collaborations and partnerships with regional agencies and organizations. YES is fortunate to have cultivated a partnership with Gwen's Girls to advance their Black Girls Equity efforts. YES is excited to have youth attend their 2022 Equity Summit, September 30th, where they will engage with other like-minded peers to address critical societal and educational issues. YES looks forward to sustaining such a rich and mutually beneficial partnership with Gwen's Girls.

She Matters
PROTECTING & UPLIFTING THE WELL-BEING OF BLACK GIRLS

GWEN'S GIRLS & THE BLACK GIRLS EQUITY ALLIANCE PRESENTS
The 7th Annual Equity Summit and Awards Ceremony
Centering Youth Voice For Systemic Change

Featuring Speakers

September 29, 2022 (Virtual)
September 30, 2022 (In-Person)
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

Dr. Monique W. Morris, Ed. D.
Author of *Cultivating Joyful Learning Spaces for Black Girls*
Featuring on Sept. 29

Joanne N. Smith
Founding President & CEO for Gender Equity (GGE)
Featuring on Sept. 30

YEARS OF Gwen's girls
Black Girls Equity Alliance

STAFF & BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Miles Porter, YES' Manager of Diversion and Restorative Practices, Accepted into New Cohort of Leadership Development Initiative

Approaching his third year with YES, Miles Porter will participate in the City's Leadership Development Initiative. As one of the high-potential young professionals selected, Miles will undergo rigorous training, mentorship, and leadership development to enhance his professional capacity. This innovative 8-month program invests in and grooms future leaders like Miles and connects them to other individuals doing meaningful work around the region. In doing so, he will expand his scope of influence and continue making an impact in the lives of YES youth. Congrats, Miles, on this career milestone and prestigious honor.



Erica LaMar Motley Transitions as YES Board President



Erica LaMar Motley, a long-time board member who once held roles as treasurer and secretary, now takes on the position of YES' 2022 Board Chair. Following Mrs. Sumpter's four-year tenure, YES is confident that Mrs. Erica's dedication, expertise, commitment, and leadership will help chart the organization's future and strategic priorities.

GENERAL UPDATES

YES Receives Annie E. Casey Grant to Support Ending Group Home Placement

YES was recently selected as the Community Based Organization to partner alongside DHS and the Annie E. Casey Foundation to end the need for group home and institutional placement for youth. YES is honored to receive this opportunity and is ready to tackle the work that lies ahead. [To read more about this initiative, check out this report.](#)

YES Prepares to Present at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference in Boston



YES is a unique community laboratory that consistently produces high-quality scholarship and research to inform its practice and to sustain conversations with a broad scholarly audience. This coming November, YES will present two pieces at the National American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference to advance its evidence-based efforts. One presentation focuses on Harnessing Black Boy Joy through YES' Voices to Men Program ([click here to access Presentation One](#)) while the other narrows in on the Lessons Learned from engaging in Community-Centered Violence Prevention work ([click here to access Presentation Two](#)). Stay tuned for more updates on YES' conference

happenings.

YES Launches Parent Advisory Board

YES is convening parents to create an Advisory Board, which had its first meeting this month. The goal of the Council is to partner alongside YES staff in fulfilling its mission and supporting youth and families. YES will leverage parents' expertise in

creating and designing parent and family programming to facilitate family resource support and pathways for increased family engagement.



CMU Center for Shared Prosperity RFP

Carnegie Mellon received funding to create a Center for Shared Prosperity. Several community leaders were tasked with the privilege of building request for proposals for interested universities, nonprofits, or consortiums to assist in the distribution of funding for the series of programs that have been identified that the region needs to strengthen.

Dr. Jones, our Founder & Executive Director, working with several of his colleagues, has produced what we believe to be an extraordinary opportunity for folks to submit a Letter of Intent that can be reviewed for possible requests for full proposal to distribute the \$75,000 to design and pilot training materials that we will use with every Center team as they create plans and launch projects to create social justice in Pittsburgh.

[Click here to download the RFP due October 4th before 5:00 PM.](#)

[Click here to access the Virtual Information Session.](#)



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