



# MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

**SUMMER 2022  
PROGRAM REPORT**

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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## TRACK 1: **WORKPLACE DEVELOPMENT & LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**

104 hours of in-person learning over 4 weeks and the opportunity to earn up to a \$1350 educational scholarship

### **PROGRAM BREAK DOWN**

10:00AM-4:30PM

MONDAY-THURSDAY FOR  
THE MONTH OF JULY

1 ENRICHMENT TRIP PER WEEK

LUNCH AND SNACK PROVIDED DAILY

### **WEEKLY ENRICHMENT TRIPS**

- Grounds for Sculpture
- The College of New Jersey
- Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
- The Watershed Institute

## TRACK 2: **EMPLOYMENT TRACK**

A small cohort of 15 youth were placed at non-profits and made strong contributions over their 6-week internships. They each earned up to \$2,700.

11

Nonprofit Employers

30

Hours Per Week  
Work Experience

1

Site Visit by Millhill Staff



**SUMMER WORK  
HOURS**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

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Demographics for the 42 participants who completed the program

42

PARTICIPANTS  
COMPLETED THE  
PROGRAM

GENDER



28



12



2

(Female, Male, Non-Binary)

## AGE RANGE

AGES 14 & 15

25

AGES  
16 & 17

10

AGES  
18-21

7

## RACE/ ETHNICITY

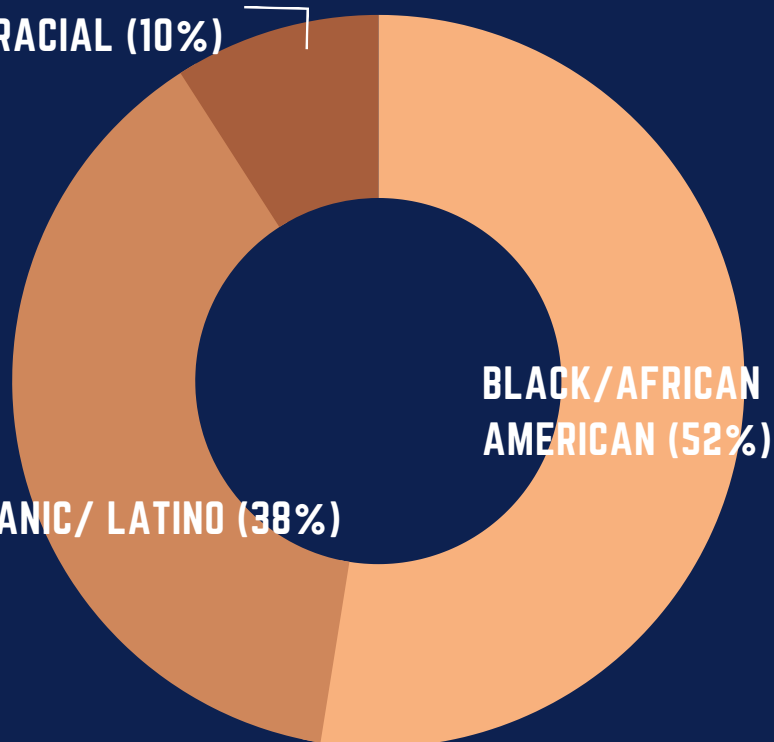
92%

OF YOUTH WHO  
FINISHED THE  
PROGRAM QUALIFIED  
AS **LOW OR VERY LOW**  
INCOME.

MULTIRACIAL (10%)

HISPANIC/ LATINO (38%)

BLACK/AFRICAN  
AMERICAN (52%)



# WEEK 1: KNOWING YOURSELF

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## PERSONALITY STYLES AND VALUES

Youth completed a personality style test and used it to find similarities within the group. They discussed positives and negatives about each style. Participants identified their most important values.

## RESUMES

Youth were provided information and examples for creating a resume. They then created their own and reviewed and discussed one-on-one with staff. Participants found this helpful, as it allowed them to consider what they could participate in for the upcoming school year to add to their resumes and develop their skills.

How to Write a Resume



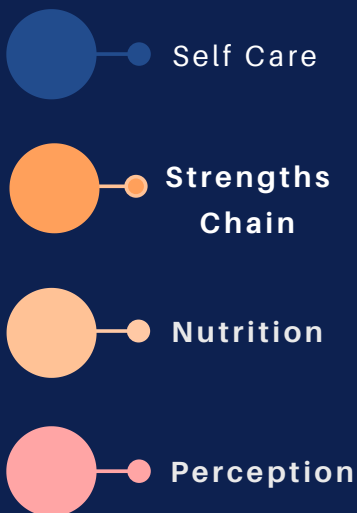
## VISION BOARDS

Youth created posters evaluating who they currently are and their future goals. They took time to ensure their poster represented them and then presented it to the group.

## YOUTH SAID...

"I found that doing a vision board **really helped me see what I wanted to do in the future** and what I'm doing now to accomplish that."  
-Keyani

"My favorite part was when we did the strength chains because I feel like it was **eye opening to see what I thought of myself.**"  
-Faith



# WEEK 2: TEAMWORK

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## PBC RETREAT

Princeton Blairstown Center staff led an engaging and eventful day. The students were able to bond and create deeper connections while identifying what makes a successful team.

## DISCUSSION: WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE TEAM

Youth engaged in an interactive discussion on what effective teams look like and how to be the best teammate. The students discussed the different characteristics of group members and the importance of having a leader.



## PARTY PLANNING

Participants were given a team project in which they had to plan a party. They had to follow specific requirements and a budget. Each group created their party ideas and a presentation to share with their peers and staff.

## YOUTH SAID...

"My favorite part about the week was learning our love languages because It **allowed me to learn more about myself.**"  
-Assetou

"I learned that **giving everybody a chance to speak** and to state their opinions is one of the things that **makes a successful group.**"  
-Marie

Additional Sessions



Alcohol/Drug Safety



Love Languages



Emotional Intelligence



Murder Mystery



# WORKPLACE PROFESSIONALISM



## WORKPLACE PROFESSIONALISM

Participants learned about various components of workplace professionalism including dress, communication, time management, and advocating for one's self appropriately.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

Bank of America Volunteers presented on financial literacy, leading an enriching discussion on healthy money habits that the youth can begin practicing in order to set them up for financial success. Loans, interest rates, and credit were also explained.



Network



## NETWORK PRESENTATION

Through a presentation and discussion, participants examined the importance of networking, identified individuals within their network, and brainstormed ways to network at their age. The key role networking plays in successful careers was highlighted.

## YOUTH SAID...

"An important highlight was first impressions. It's interesting how quickly impressions are formed and the consequences of giving off a bad impression."

-Melvin

"I learned that knowing **how to manage money** and how banks work is very important."

-Marie

-  Healthy Relationships
-  Team Building
-  O'Net Career Profiler
-  SEL Activity: Rocks & Stones

# WEEK 4: PUBLIC SPEAKING

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## SPEECHES

After receiving coaching and information on public speaking from Robin Muhammad, each participant prepared a speech of their own and delivered it in front of their peers. They then received feedback from Robin and program staff. The speeches were impressive and everyone was well prepared.

## MOCK INTERVIEWS

Volunteers from the community and program funders provided 20-minute mock interviews for youth. The youth found this helpful, as most had not experienced an interview previously. They reported feeling more prepared for the process of interviewing for jobs next summer.



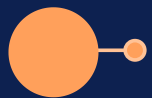
## MENTAL WELLNESS

Shanika Dixon Glaze, MSW, conducted a session on mental wellness. Youth shared their knowledge and experiences as well as how they practice self-care. They worked in teams to create word clouds on mental wellness. Stigma around mental health was a key part of the discussion.

## YOUTH SAID...

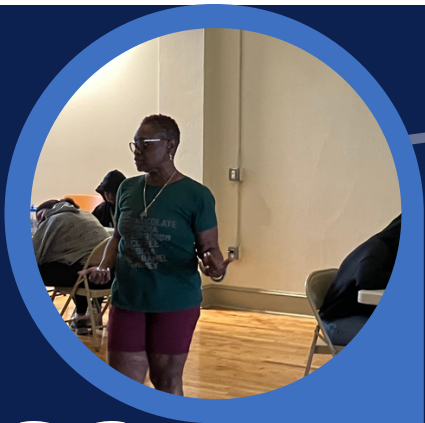
"I loved my mock interview. That Interviewer was really kind and made me feel at ease. The questions would totally be in a real interview."  
-Assetou

"The Mock Interview was helpful because now I have a grasp of the different questions that an interviewer might ask and I am more prepared to answer."  
-Marie



# GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest Speakers are professionals who provided participants with a window into an important current event/topic. Youth learned more about issues impacting their community and the world.



Coach Moe (Monequa Clark) discussed the importance of **mindfulness** and led the group through a **meditation and journaling exercise**.



Stacy Heading of Isles, Inc. discussed **how to positively impact yourself and your community**.

Luis Gasca and Simon Lopez discussed their **experience at TCHS and transitioning to college**.



Julie Samples shared her **unique career journey** working in marketing, transitioning to own a yoga studio, and finally finding her passion as a teacher.





## WEEK ONE GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

"I enjoyed the different varieties of sculptures and **getting to see how people express themselves** with materials other than clay"  
-Faith



## WEEK THREE HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX

"I enjoyed **meeting the Attorney General**, the Assistant Attorneys General, the state troopers, and the detectives."  
-Isaiah M.



## WEEK TWO THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

"I loved the trip to TCNJ. It got me thinking about what I **want to look for in a college.**"  
-Katherine



## WEEK FOUR WATERSHED INSTITUTE

"I really liked **seeing and learning** about the **animals**. What I liked the most was going to the **butterfly farm.**"  
-Silvana

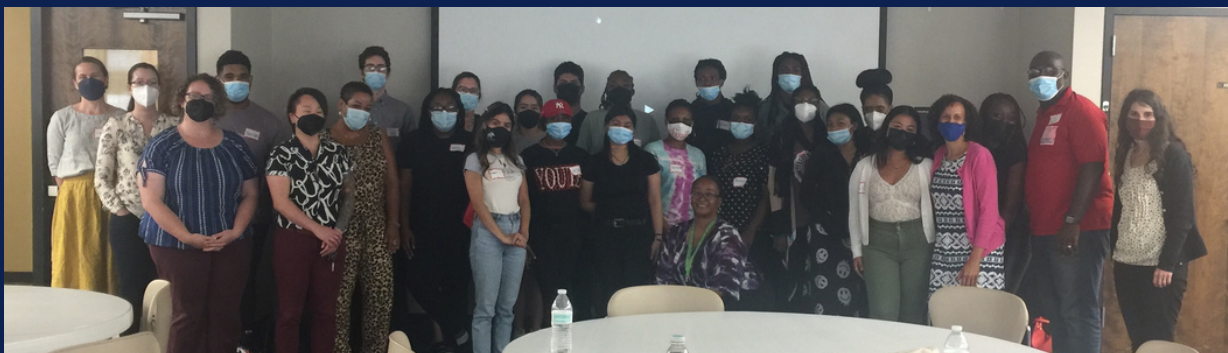
# EMPLOYMENT TRACK

15 youth were placed with 11 non-profit organizations in and around Trenton for an in person work experience. On August 5th they presented highlights of their projects to each other and their supervisors at a Lunch & Learn.

## EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS



## YOUTH AND SUPERVISORS AT THE LUNCH & LEARN



"My internship has taught me new ways to better manage my time and tasks in a fashion that suits my needs and my teams." -Stephen

"I am incredibly thankful for this experience. Although it has only been six weeks since I started working, I can already see noticeable growth whether that be my approach to things, my problem solving-skills, and work ethics." -Evelyn

# WORKPLACE SKILLS

## WEEK ONE KNOWING YOURSELF

"I loved the vision boards because it let me see my goals in life and helped me narrow down the choices of what I want to do when I get older."  
-Faith

## WEEK TWO TEAMWORK

"My favorite part was all of the hands-on activities. I enjoyed the way the tasks were presented to us."  
-Marie

## WEEK THREE WORKPLACE PROFESSIONALISM

"This week I loved learning about workplace professionalism because I feel like I can use this information to be more ready for a job."  
-Atiya

## WEEK FOUR PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I realized that public speaking is all about connecting with a audience."  
-Nevaeh

# 100%

of youth reported that they **learned about themselves and others** in the program through structured activities.

# 91%

of youth reported they **learned about the importance of teamwork** and improved on their skills working as a team.

# 91%

of youth felt that they learned about what professionalism is and **how to conduct themselves in a workplace**.

# 100%

of youth felt they gained new **skills in the area of public speaking that they will continue to use**.

# YOUTH FEEDBACK ON OVERALL PROGRAM

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Youth who participated in the program had an opportunity to give us overall feedback on the the program.

100%

of youth expressed feeling more confident in their ability to perform well in the workforce.

100%

of youth reported feeling more confident in their ability to do well in school.

91%

said the activities, speakers, and trips were purposeful and engaging.

We asked program participants ...

# WHAT DID YOU LEARN THIS SUMMER?

# AND HOW WILL IT HELP YOU IN SCHOOL AND/OR YOUR FUTURE CAREER?

"This summer I learned how to stand in front of an audience and **speak clearly with more confidence**. It was a big help and definitely prepared me more for the future."

-Nina

"I learned many things, like how to **express myself better**, that I have to strive for what I want to achieve, **how to lead in different situations**, time management, and teamwork."

-Silvana

"I'll be able to **network more easily**, and when in the workplace I will be able to be more efficient."

-Malaysia

## SYEP HAS HELPED ME TO...

articulate myself  
develop workplace skills  
be more confident  
realize my potential  
communicate better  
learn a lot about working  
express myself  
become more outgoing  
improve my work ethic  
grow  
learn about jobs  
talk to strangers  
speak up more  
manage my time  
make new friends  
improve public speaking



We asked program participants ...

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OTHER YOUTH ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

"The program is really helpful with preparing you for a job in the future and just something really fun to do during the summer."

-Janyla

"It is a very good program that helps with teamwork, public speaking, how to express yourself, give your opinion, your time management, the process of making connections and building relationships (networking), etc. "

-Silvana

"This program helps build character and also gives you something to do in the summer if you don't have anything else to do."

-Isaiah C.

"You should definitely do it. It was a very fun experience and helped me become a better person."

-Angie



# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

From Millhill Child and Family Development, we thank you for supporting the success of this program!



**BANK OF AMERICA**

