

MISSION STATEMENT

Urban Youth Action, Inc., empowers young people to develop positive life and leadership skills by connecting learning to the world of work and the pursuit of postsecondary education.

VISION STATEMENT

To develop a community of adults and young people who share many values, goals and responsibilities. Dedicated to the development of the whole person into a confident, courageous, self-disciplined and responsible individual.

UYA is a youth education and development program. We emphasize the importance of education, employment readiness, community service and leadership development. UYA was founded in March 1966 in Pittsburgh by the late Mr. Bernard H. Jones Sr. to help young people develop their potential.

SERVING YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE 1966

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Urban Youth Action, Inc.



Empowering young people to become: work ready, life prepared, community minded

UYA Summer Program Educates and Employs Youth



Interning at CVS Pharmacy

Urban Youth Action offered a program during the summer. The program branches out into three different fields. Each component provided career guidance and information and experience based on the grade level and needs of the student. The summer program serves students in grades 9-12 and provides opportunities for them to explore or choose a career path.

The first component of the summer program is employment. Current 10th-12th grade students are given the opportunity to participate in summer internships. They are assigned to a worksite based on their career interests.

Summer programming also serves rising 9th grade students. Students participate in sessions that focused on different aspects of career, social and life skills. The program encourages students to use their intelligence to succeed, and helps them deal with real-world issues.

Another component of summer programming served students from Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh (HACP) public housing communities. With a focus on workforce development training, the program enables students to explore their interests and career possibilities. Their summer experience included speakers who shared details of their careers.

This year, summer program students completed career plans, explored music production, went on college field trips and did a variety of other activities that made participation in the UYA summer program educational, income generating and fun.



Receiving An Achievement Award

Students Visit Allegheny College

Students accompanied by two chaperones had a three-night visit at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. The youths in grades 9-12 were hosted by Terrance Mitchell, assistant to the president for institutional diversity. The college experience included attending an environmental

class and identifying living organisms from creek water samples. To work on improving their writing skills, students had a class on writing for college that involved them reading a book. They also received a college admissions presentation and toured the campus.



In the biology lab at Allegheny College

Contributors

UYA would like to thank the following foundations and corporations for helping to make the UYA Summer Career Exploration and Internship Programs a success:

- Birmingham Foundation
- Buhl Foundation
- Federated Department Stores
- Highmark Corporation
- Richard King Mellon Foundation
- United Way of Allegheny County
- Youth Services Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation

This service is financed in part by a grant provided by the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Allegheny County, Department of Human Services, City of Pittsburgh.

In addition, UYA would like to thank the following corporations for providing support to youths through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program:

- Bank of New York Mellon
- Equitable Resources
- Highmark Corporation
- PNC Bank
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- Verizon

Summer 2008 Employment Worksites and Supervisors

UYA students are *prepared* for being employees via a World of Work curriculum. The curriculum covers key topics that teach a youth how to find and keep a job. The job-seeking curriculum includes topics such as: Applications, Resumes and Cover Letters, Methods of Seeking Employment, and Interview Skills. Students also participate in mock interviews conducted by volunteers. Job-keeping preparation includes topics such as Employee Responsibilities and Demands, Problem Solving in the Workplace, Following Directions, and Accepting Constructive Criticism.

To be eligible for the job placement program, a student has to meet program attendance criteria. They then must be interviewed and selected by the potential employer. Some of the worksites and supervisors were:

- Bank of New York Mellon – Ms. Brandice Thomas
- UPMC Presbyterian – Ms. Carol Ranallo
- UPMC Shadyside – Ms. Laura Mullen
- CVS Pharmacy Fellowship Program – Mr. Justin Portis
- Astorino – Mr. Leonard Hoyle
- Allegheny County Law Department (Family Division) – Ms. Carol Owens
- The New Pittsburgh Courier – Ms. Denise Johnson
- Wilksburg Boys & Girls Club – Ms. Beatrice Webb
- A Second Glance Spa & Salon – Ms. Stephanie Todd



UYA student working at the law firm of Leech Tishman Fuscaldo and Lampl, LLC

Students Attend Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Program (STEM) at Penn State Greater Allegheny

Students attended a program at Penn State Greater Allegheny in McKeesport that showed how math plays a part in many career choices. Participating students learned about different levels and variations of math such as fractions, decimals, division and especially geometry. Many topics such as the Enron scandal were also introduced in the classroom to show students that math is not always used in good measure.



After the review and learning sessions of math applications were completed, it was time to put all of the information to good use! The students went on field trips to Fallingwater, Heinz Field, Mt. Washington and Molly's Trolleys to be able to see how math plays an important role on an everyday basis.

During the three-week program, students not only refreshed and learned math skills, but they were also able to apply them by creating their own business plans.



Once students finished the program at Penn State Greater Allegheny, they were able to better understand not only math, but how to apply math to the potential careers they will be successful in during their adult lives.

UYA Places Students in Internships from the Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education (FAME)

Through a partnership between Urban Youth Action and the Fund for Advancement of Minorities through Education, UYA provided job readiness training and internships for eight students. FAME students had the opportunity to work alongside UYA students and be placed in summer internships that were geared toward their career choices.

The students gained knowledge on how the workplace of their choice runs on a daily basis as well as what is to be expected of them day to day. Students were placed at UPMC Shadyside, the FAME office, Allegheny County Law Department-Family Division, The New Pittsburgh Courier and WQED.