



Youth Job Center

Getting a job. Launching a future.

Fall, here we come

From the Executive Director:

Our High School Program has hit the ground running. As we embrace the anticipation and hope of the new school year, let me take a moment to look back and share. We're now in four high schools in Evanston and Chicago:

- **Evanston Township High School, (ETHS)** our first and long-term partner
- **Sullivan High School**, where we are now in our third year of partnership
- **Gage Park High School**, where we have been for two years
- **Wells Community Academy**, our newest high school addition

This past year, YJC significantly increased the number of high school students served. At ETHS, we provided **40% more students** with ongoing training and support than in the previous year.

- **We helped them get summer jobs.** We expanded the Summer Corps program to provide 136 students with summer jobs as ABC Boosters, tutoring children entering kindergarten and working as teacher assistants, camp counselors, and retail and corporate interns.
- **We got out in front of more youth.** We expanded the number of students served in all high schools by delivering workshops in classrooms alongside teachers and nonprofit partners.
- **We talked about big dreams.** In addition to job-readiness training and placement, we added a component of working with high school students at every grade level on career exploration, post-secondary planning and the transition out of high school.
- **We expanded a successful partnership with Gap, Inc.'s This Way Ahead program.** We went from placing 24 interns in Gap stores in 2014-2015 to 64 interns this past year.

We also experience success in our programs for 18-25 year olds. We put a laser focus on the outcome we're trying to reach: lasting and successful job placements. We tested practices and outcomes to commit to a process that identifies needs, addresses barriers, and helps youth transition into roles in which they can experience success and build upon those successes. We further developed high-quality programs that meet the individual needs of each young person we work with, while sustaining strong and authentic relationships with employer partners.

In the next month, this program will include job clubs, personalized training, a 12-

week Auto Maintenance training program, and a job fair on October 11 in anticipation of seasonal hiring opportunities.

We are honored to serve in this role in our community and look forward to continuing to push ourselves to be the best we can be in the coming school year.

Sincerely,



Karen Tollenaar Demorest
Executive Director

A Quick Look at the Numbers:

September highlights:

- 9 hires this school year at Gage Park High School
 - 2 hiring events at ETHS, one with Trader Joe's and one at Mather Lifeways
 - 1 temporary hire at Evanston Civic Center
 - 25 women came to a Sephora event on workplace makeup
 - Several Out of School Youth clients attended a Macy's hiring event; 1 was hired
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Save the Date:

Make sure to save the date for YJC's Annual Benefit! The Benefit will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Ravenswood Event Center. More information to follow!

Gap Inc. This Way Ahead:

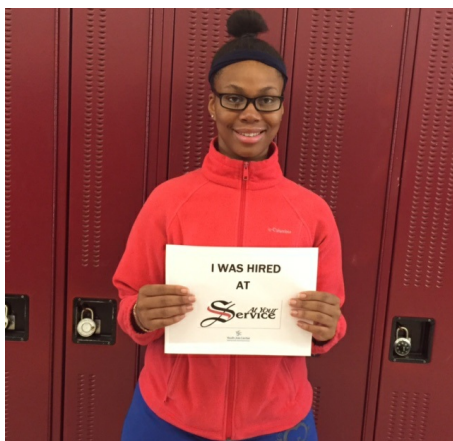
Gap Inc.'s This Way Ahead program wrapped up this month, concluding our most successful year so far with 64 youth placed in internships at Gap, Old Navy, and Banana Republic stores. We're looking forward to continuing this partnerships and expanding more in the coming years!

[Read more](#) about the program in Forbes' profile of This Way Ahead.

[View photos](#) of the program wrap-up celebration on our [Flickr account](#).



High School Programs This Year:



Starting the year strong

Lakeysha Harris was YJC's first hire this year at Gage Park High School! Lakeysha was hired at At Your Service LLC as a guest service representative. Congratulations, Lakeysha!

[Read more...](#)

Success Story

Aaliyah Lane, a senior at Westinghouse College Prep, interned this summer at GapKids as part of the Gap This Way Ahead program.

After her internship was completed, she was offered a permanent position at the store! With the help of her manager and YJC career advisor, Aaliyah has opened her own bank account, both checking and savings. She saves money from each paycheck for prom and homecoming and

is on her way to financial independence.



YJC in the News

From *Forbes*: [Why One Company Is Giving Youth A Leg Up In The World Of Work](#)

From *Evanston Review*: [Youth Job Center releases Summer Institute 2016 video](#)

From Evanston Township High School: [ETHS students invited to apply for local mentorship program](#)

From *Evanston Patch*: ["WE" to Offer Scholarships to Technically Minded Students](#)

From *Evanstonian*: [First Jobs Campaign inspires students](#)

