Dear AYA Community,

We hope all is well with you and yours!

It was one year ago this month that we were faced with no option but to close our doors due to the global pandemic. We asked ourselves, “what are we going to do?” and “how are we going to do it?” AYA’s after-school programs and two annual college and career conferences had always been conducted in person, welcoming thousands of boys & girls looking to be inspired. The joy of our programs is in the positive, supportive interaction between youth and nurturing adults.

We have learned that where there’s a will, there are more ways to support students and families. Our AYA community of talented and inspiring professionals stepped up to share their knowledge and expertise, as tutors, mentors and workshop presenters via Zoom, proving once again that together we can achieve our goals! We are grateful for the support we have received in providing resources for our students and families who have learned to adapt despite their hardships.

To learn more, visit our website www.adelanteya.org or contact us at adelante@adelanteya.org

PROGRAMS

Life Skills Training Program open to 5th-12th grade youth.

In the spirit of Earth Day (April 22), we invite you to take part in the Nature For All Leadership Academy Project. With social distancing guidelines in place, self-guided walking tours are an interactive and safe way to get outside. Explore the beautiful Arlington Garden and learn about nature and how we can all contribute to fighting climate change. By signing up, you’ll also receive a limited edition nature journal, art supplies, and more, while supplies last. PUSD students and first-time visitors are encouraged to apply!

CONNECT

In a pre-pandemic world, at this time of year, the staff, advisory board, and volunteers of Adelante Youth Alliance would be knee-deep in preparations for our annual College & Career Conferences. We miss the excitement of coming together to empower girls and boys and provide them with resources and connections to professionals with the common value of sharing knowledge and inspiring the next generation.

Many of you may already participate in LinkedIn, and we’d like to take this opportunity to create a group of our own to network and connect. One of the main goals of AYA’s LinkedIn group is to invite graduating high school seniors and college students, who have participated in our programs, into the group to help them build their professional networks. As you may know, one of the advantages non-POC students have is established professional networks they can reach out to as they enter the workforce. We hope you’ll join us on LinkedIn to create a welcoming safe space for students and colleagues to support each other now and in the future. Adelante!

Join us on LinkedIn here: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13932164/
The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief will help income-eligible households pay rent and utilities, for past due and future payments between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. The Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides funding to support the program and tenant (renter) protection laws signed by Governor Newsom.

To check your eligibility to receive financial assistance to pay rent, please visit HousingisKey.com or call 833-430-2122.

SPOTLIGHT

“When you imagine a scientist, what do you see?” This question guided three of AYA's students as they participated in the City of Hope's YES2SUCCESS Program - Youth Enjoying Sciences (YES) Seeking Useful Comprehensive Cancer Educational Strategies for students (SUCCESS) Virtual Cancer Course.

According to the Census, women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) currently make up about 27% of the field. Adelante Youth Alliance's partnership with the City of Hope increases diversity in science and medical research, with students of color.

Emily Martinez, Sara Hernandez, and Katherine Yan attend Pasadena's Marshall Fundamental High School, and learned cancer research simulations and career development, then debated accessibility issues. Their students shared how the research experience impacted their plans for the future in the medical field.

Emily, an 11th-grader, currently participates in Adelante's Career Path Mentor Program, where she meets regularly with her mentor from Southern California Edison.

Sara, an 11th-grader, has served as a mentor in Adelante's Madison Program.

Katherine, a 12th-grader, assisted with a mental health workshop presentation for Madison Elementary students on behalf of Girls Build LA.

The transition from in-person to remote learning shifted how students interact with each other. In the YES2SUCCESS Program, Sara said, “I gained better communication skills among my peers and more courage to open up.” She’s also more aware of the amount of schooling and experience doctors need to advance in their careers.

About the internship’s college and career development workshops, Emily said, “It reminded me of why I joined programs like this, and the same reason I joined Puente. Before these programs, I had no idea about college; my parents didn’t either.” With her new knowledge about the medical field, she feels more determined to become an Emergency Physician.

Katie said, “Learning about cancer research helped open my eyes to the complexities of science. Doing the simulations helped me feel like I was in the lab, even though we couldn’t be there directly.” Additionally, the program motivated her to be more organized and refine her goals as she applied to colleges. She currently waits for college acceptance letters to study Biology.

The girls worked on their elevator speeches, resumes, and their capacity to balance school and their internship. Learning ‘in-person’ versus learning ‘online’ can be difficult, but the program’s simulations were-hands-on, making the girls’ experience more fun. They had each other for support, and they gained a larger support system, which is a determinant of their future successes in STEM fields. We are proud of their effort and accomplishments!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Support AYA today!
Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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