

*Clayton County  
Youth Services*



*Georgia*

Annual Report

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

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## STAFF

Nicole Horne, *Administrator*

Janée Morris, *Program Coordinator*

Kymberly Bradley, *Administrative Secretary*

## MISSION

Our mission is to offer and promote program service opportunities to the youth of Clayton County designed to create positive learning experiences that will give rise to promising, contributing members of our community.

## WE ARE...

...a vessel of support for Clayton County's youth age 14-24.

The office provides and extends available leadership opportunities, creativity, independence, and workforce readiness. Our youth will have access to resources that will help them achieve personal and career goals.

We look forward to serving the youth of Clayton County through enriching programs to produce model citizens ready to be the change they want to see.

**#ClaytonStrong**

**GOAL I: SERVE AS THE FUNCTIONING BODY IN DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS IN THE AREAS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR YOUTH RELATED ISSUES.**

**CLAYTON COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION**

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners recognized the importance of obtaining the perspective of the Clayton County youth regarding issues they face within the community. As a result, on March 3, 2015, the Clayton County Youth Commission was established by the Board of Commissioners as a mechanism for youth to interface with government officials, expand their knowledge as it pertains to the interworking of government and policy development and serve as advocates for their peers.

*Mission*

The mission of the Clayton County Youth Commissioners is to strive for

**S**uccess with excellent

**W**ork ethics and

**I**nnovation to

**T**ransform the

**C**ommunity with distinguished

**H**onor.



*"Switch Up...Together We Are Clayton Strong!"*



On May 10, 2018, the Youth Commission held interviews for new members. Sixteen (16) candidates were welcomed into the Clayton County Youth Commission bringing a grand total to twenty- one (21) Youth Commissioners, a slight increase from the 2017-2018 Youth Commission enrollment. All Youth Commissioners and candidates completed junior deputy registrar training administered by the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration Department. This will enable them to conduct voter registration drives in their respective communities and schools.

On August 21, 2018, fourteen candidates and five returning Youth Commissioners were sworn in as Clayton County's 2018-19 Youth Commission. Youth Commissioners began to attend Board of Commissioners' regular business meetings and e-mail Commissioners questions regarding agenda items as a means to begin to interface with government officials and expand their knowledge as it pertains to the interworking of government and policy development. They were also provided the opportunity to interact with Ramona Bivins, Chief Financial Officer, Jason Brookins, Director of Information and Technology and Carl Rogers, Director of Central Services, to learn the nuances of County operations during their Youth Commission meetings.

As a part of the policy analysis process, the Youth Commission in collaboration with the Community Development Department revised *Article III of the Clayton County Code of Ordinances* for the Board of Commissioners consideration.

## YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The purpose of this three-day learning opportunity is to bring the workings of the Georgia state government alive to students in grades 9 - 12. Students are given an opportunity to discuss current state issues with state administrators, elected officials, and students from high schools throughout the state.

Each conference is led by teens elected to office by their fellow delegates. Held annually at the State Capitol in Atlanta, volunteers from various state departments act as resources for the students while they debate the issues. These volunteers, along with State YMCA staff, help guide the students through mock committee meetings and procedures. Students debate and vote on the bills that their fellow delegates have written and presented. Bills that pass in committee are then taken to the floor of the House or Senate for full debate and vote.



Youth hold the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. Participants also engage in campaigns and elections for officers who will serve during the following year.

Youth Commissioners Jai Shy and Fatime Niane served on the Judicial Team. Together they won Best Judicial Team. Youth Commissioner Shy won Best Orator and will serve as Chief Justice for the November 2019 Oglethorpe Conference. Youth Commissioners Jahmal Borden and Joshua Henry served on the Lobbyist Team. Youth Commissioners Aleya Lyons and Seth Tyus served on the Media Team. Youth Commissioner Jhanai Gates served as a Representative and Youth Commissioner Peyton Holston served as a Senator for the Legislative Program.

## GEORGIA UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

In early March, the Youth Commission represented Clayton County at the Georgia United Nations Assembly (GUNA). GUNA is a model UN program where students from across the state take on the role as nation ambassadors. Participants research a country, investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and then develop solutions to a world problem respective of their nation selection.



*Pictured from left to right: Youth Commissioners:  
Aleya Lyons, Gabrielle Welch-Dulaney, Sonalis Muhammad, Fatime Niane, Jhanai Gates, Nia Lankford, Amaya Mitchell, Jai Shy,  
and Peyton Holston*

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The Clayton County Youth Commission took home 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Region 13 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row!

(Pictured from left to right: COO Detrick Stanford, Commissioner DeMont Davis- District 4, Dr. Morcease Beasley, CEO and Superintendent Clayton County Public Schools, Commissioner Felicia Franklin-Warner-District 3, Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Welch-Dulaney, Youth Commissioner Aaryn Anderson, Youth Commissioner Peyton Holston, Youth Commissioner Aleya Lyons, Youth Commissioner Jai Shy, Youth Commissioner Joshua Henry, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, Commissioner Gail Hambrick-District 2, Nicole Horne- Administrator- Office of Youth Services, and Chairman Jeffery E. Turner)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019!

Nia Lankford, Madame Chair, will be attending Kennesaw State in Fall 2019.

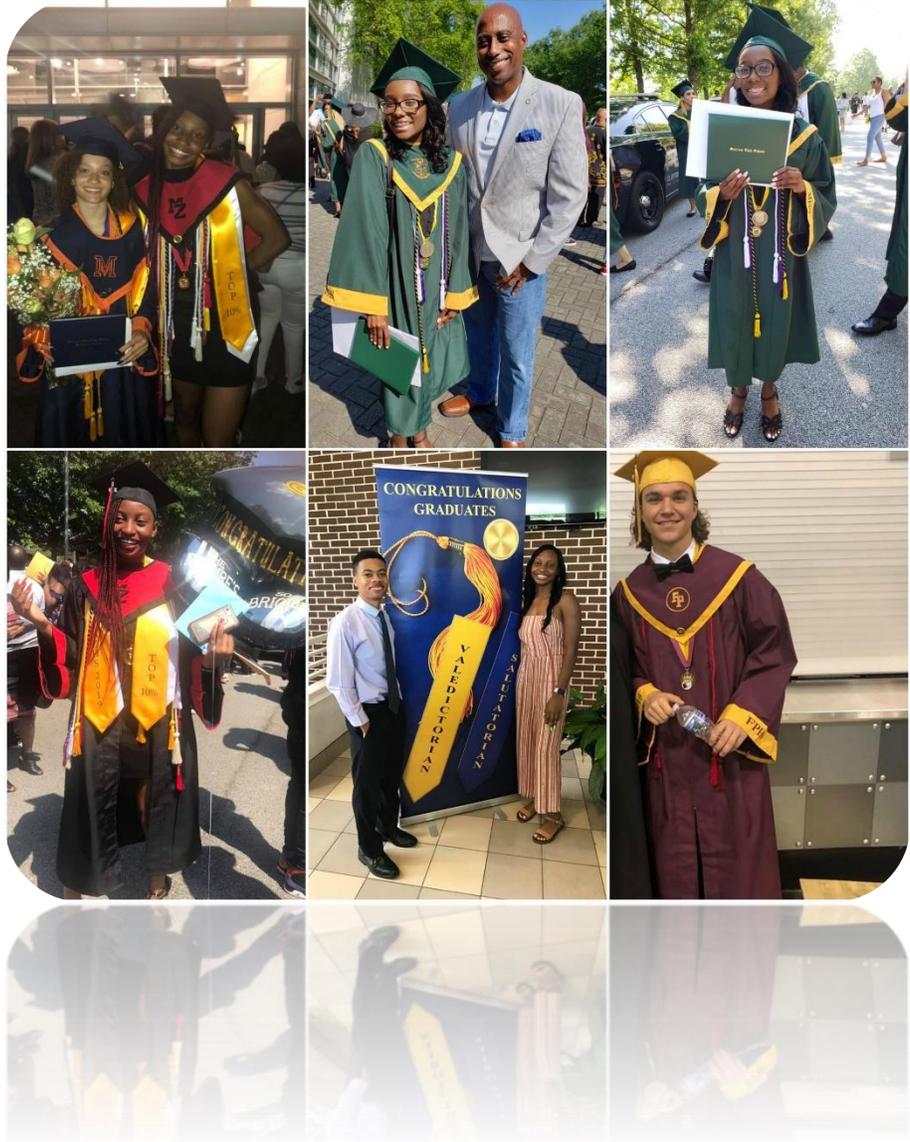
Aaryn Anderson, Parliamentarian, will be attending Bethune-Cookman University in Fall 2019.

Joshua Henry will be attending Bethune-Cookman University in Fall 2019.

Peyton Holston will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology in Fall 2019.

Hannah Johnson will be attending Middle Georgia State University in Fall 2019.

Amaya Mitchell will be attending Middle Georgia State University in Fall 2019.



## 2018-19 CCYC SURVEY MONKEY RESULTS

### Youth Commission's Responses

1. What did you like most about the Clayton County Youth Commission?
  - a. I like the activities and the advisors
  - b. The exposure to various facets of the world

- c. I really enjoyed making new friends and meeting all kinds of new people from the college fairs and different youth commission sponsored events. I liked being able to attend these events and help others have fun and learn different skills and things.
  - d. Through the Youth Commission, I had the wonderful opportunity to connect with others in my community, and by helping others. Volunteering was something that I liked most about the Clayton County Youth Commission. 😊
  - e. My favorite activity that we did on the Youth Commission was all of the programs that involved other youth organizations. (Ex: YMCA, GUNA, Student Ambassadors Program)
  - f. GUNA
2. What did you like least about the Clayton County Youth Commission?
    - a. The lack of commitment of others
    - b. The prescribed nature of the commission. The Youth commissioners have limited decision making power.
    - c. I really felt that there was not enough engaging with one another, but that was mainly on the side of the students.
    - d. In the CCYC, I wish that my peers and I connected a little more
    - e. Probably how low the turnout was for some of the programs. It would always put a damper on the day after all the hard work we put into things.
    - f. Not winning the Student Ambassadors Program
  3. Did the Clayton County Youth Commission meet your expectations?
    - a. 100% said yes
  4. If no, then why not?
    - a. N/A
  5. Were there enough activities?
    - a. 100% said yes
  6. What would you suggest for improvement in the future?
    - a. More team building activities in hopes of uniting everyone
    - b. More decision making by the youth commissioners, and less executive orders by the coordinators
    - c. More sponsored college fairs and involvement outside of Clayton County
    - d. In the future, I would suggest that the students try to get to know each other a little better and connect more. I would also suggest that the students be more successful in inviting their peers to different events held.
    - e. Probably more community centered activities like clean-ups, workshops, etc. And less programs that have been constantly unsuccessful so our time and energy goes towards only certain things.
  7. Would you recommend the Clayton County Youth Commission to your peers?
    - a. 100% said yes

## Parent's Responses

1. What did you like most about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?
  - a. I enjoyed watching my child develop her leadership skills, community service engagement and critical thinking abilities as a youth commissioner.
  - b. I was very proud of the show of teamwork and knowledge that she gained from participating in all the activities throughout the county. She has accomplished and reached a high level of leadership confidence and was able to showcase her abilities this year. The friendships she made with the group leaders and advisors as well as her fellow students has made me very proud of her accomplishments this year. Looking forward to the next year.
  - c. Opportunities to learn about the community and participate in civic engagement
2. What did you like least about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?
  - a. My child enjoyed her opportunity as a youth commissioner and looking forward to next year. Great program being led by great leadership. Thank you for all you guys do for our next generation leaders.
  - b. I was very pleased with everything that was presented to us this year
3. Would you recommend the Clayton County Youth Commission to other parents?
  - a. 100% said yes
4. Please provide suggestions for improvement.
  - a. Continued financial support from the board to ensure our future leaders are equipped with resources and tools to succeed in the global marketplace
  - b. Just keep up the good work. Thank you for keeping the youth involved.

**GOAL II: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO HAVE ACCESS TO AND COMPLETE A POST-SECONDARY PATHWAY AND OBTAIN A JOB.**

**WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

On February 6, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved a partnership between the Office of Youth Services and Eckerd Connects to provide a Work Experience Program (WEP) for Clayton County Youth ages 18-24. The program is designed to expose the participants to a practical side of the world of work, career exploration with emphasis on the importance of education, life skills training and provide hands-on work experience. The program is a structured and well supervised work-based training allowing the youth to gain employability skills: working and completing assignments as directed, showing up for work regularly, on time and with a positive attitude, working as a team member, demonstrating sound reasoning abilities and independent judgement. The program is fully funded by Eckerd Connects.



This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> year working with Eckerd Connects to provide the Work Experience program, where we help place young adults within County departments as interns. FY18 we were able to place five young adults in the program. This year we placed two young adults in the program in the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and Board of Elections and Registration respectively. A decrease in participation from the previous year.

In an effort to expand the program and serve more youth in the community. In May of 2019, the Board of Commissioners approved additional partnerships with the Bridge Academy and Hearts to Nourish Hope Inc. We look forward to working with the new agencies.

## SEASONAL JOB FAIR

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter started with our Office hosting a Seasonal Job Fair on October 6, 2018, at Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center. We



We collaborated with Clayton County's Human Resources Department to provide those in attendance with a pre-employment/interview training. Ryan Shaw, Human Resources Trainer and Researcher, demonstrated hiring techniques with his "Gearing Up for Job Success" PowerPoint. Special thanks to DHL Supply Chain, Waffle House, Publix Grocery Store, Burlington Coat Factory, Sprint, Clayton County's Police Department, Honidu's Caring Foundation, and the Johnson Foundation for attending.

## GOAL III: IDENTIFY SERVICE GAPS AND PRIORITIZE COUNTYWIDE RESOURCES FOR EFFICIENT COORDINATION OF SERVICES.

### ACTION COMMUNITY NETWORK

Agencies Collaborating to Increase Opportunities for our Youth Now was formed to bring youth service providers and partners together on a quarterly basis to create strategies to address the service delivery gaps for the youth of Clayton County, share information and create networking opportunities.

On October 27, 2018, we hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Services Provider Fair at Southlake Mall. Sixteen youth services providers shared information with mall attendees. Parents and youth expressed interest in the many services provided.

Post-Survey Response: "What did you like MOST about the Youth Services' Provider Fair?"

**"Being able to interact with people. I spoke with and/or signed up 25 individuals for my program!"** - Nyree Williams, The Attitude to Empower

**"I appreciated the invitation to participate. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with potential customers and promote Jeremiah's Choice services."** - Erica McCulley, Jeremiah's Choice

**“Networking with other providers. I met at least three new providers. As a result, of the Providers’ Fair, Inner Self was invited to be part of a breakfast to discuss becoming part of a providers’ comprehensive service delivery system. Two parents signed their children up for our free handwriting program.”** - Dr. Tawanda Braswell, Inner Self, Corp.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

As a condition of the Lead Agency Grant, youth within Clayton County were to be introduced to financial literacy through a youth directed program during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. In partnership with Mr. Todd Campbell of SmartPath Financial, Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the Parks and Recreation Department, Library Services, Clayton County Police Department, and the Attitude to Empower, the CA\$HFLOW game program was planned. Led by the Youth Commission, the Parks and Recreation Teen Club, youth from Library Services and the Attitude to Empower 89 teens were introduced to financial literacy on January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Morrow Center by playing CA\$HFLOW.



Youth Commissioners and Youth Commission Candidates participated in a financial literacy program facilitated by Toni Fisher. The youth learned the importance of saving, maintaining a high credit score, banking, and so much more! Discussion topics included: the “envelope system,” how to write a check, investing, and budgeting. Fifteen (15) successfully completed the program and are better equipped to achieve financial wealth.

*“High Energy = High Income”*



## STI AWARENESS BLOCK PARTY

GYSO is a Youth Service America coordinated annual event which voluntarily gathers youth around the world in conducting community service activities in their communities. In response to GYSO, the Clayton County Youth Commission (CCYC) hosted a STI Awareness Block Party & Basketball Tournament, recognizing April as STD Awareness Month. The CCYC worked in concert with Clayton County Parks and Recreation, Clayton County Board of Health, Empowerment Resource Center, and the Lotus Family Wellness Clinic. The STI Awareness Block Party offered free HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) screenings. Empowerment Resource Center conducted twenty (20) HIV tests and twelve (12) STI tests.

## TEEN C.E.R.T.

In collaboration with the Fire/EMS Department, we have brought back the 2nd Annual Teen Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) Program! Teen C.E.R.T. is a 5-week program designed to teach students about disaster preparedness, fire safety, first aid, light search & rescues, and terrorism. Facilitated by Deputy Director/Chief Ryan Morrison and Captain Phong Nguyen, fifteen (15) students successfully completed Teen C.E.R.T. That's a 25% increase from last year!



## TEEN SUMMIT – TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

On February 16, 2019, we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teen Summit, focusing on the dangers of teen dating violence. The Youth Commission brought awareness to 85 of their peers through the featured play, “The Color Orange.” Afterwards the audience engaged in a “Let’s Talk” session with subject matter experts about what happens with real life situations surrounding teen dating violence. There was a 43% increase in this year’s Teen Summit attendance!



## GOAL IV: IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES

### PREP

In partnership with the Clayton County Board of Health, we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). GA PREP is a state administered federally funded initiative designed to educate youth between the ages of 11 and 19 on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and promotion of three adulthood preparation education subjects (Healthy Relationships, Healthy Life Skills and Adolescent Development). The goal of PREP is to reduce the occurrence of pregnancy, HIV and STIs among high priority youth. We received a \$2,500 grant from the Board of Health to facilitate this program. Nineteen (19) students completed GA PREP and received brand new tablets as a reward. This is a 23% increase in participation from last year!



## YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA

On August 17, 2018, Youth Service America selected the Clayton County Youth Commission to serve as a 2018-19 Lead Agency receiving \$6,000 in grant money. Monies are to be used to fulfill the following grant requirements:

- Host a program for 9/11 to pay homage to veterans and first responders.
- Host a program for MLK Day to address financial literacy needs in the community.
- Host a program for Global Youth Service Day.
- Activate 1000 youth volunteers at each program.
- Partner with at least 10 organizations for each program.



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