



### 2020-21 EOC Program Highlights

The word to describe the 2020-21 Program Year would have to be *Adapt!* The Pandemic of 2020 threw us all many curveballs; however, thanks to the resilience of our educational systems-we prevailed!

#### Virtual Programming Highlights

- Provided daily **workshops** to our EOC Participants:
  - Over 400 Virtual workshops provided!
  - Developed new and exciting interactive workshops including Career focused sessions as well as Resume, Interviewing & Matching Your Skills to Today's Workforce
  - Offered Workshops specifically for high school seniors including Financial Aid, Common Application, and College Essay Writing
- Virtual Field trips to: Employers and colleges
- Distributed over 50 **GED Test Vouchers**
- **SAT Boot Camp** Classes offered in the Fall, Spring & Summer
  - Record Number of students took advantage of our Prep Program!
  - This project was a bit of a hybrid. All registered students received a Packet delivered to their homes with a full paper practice test, a test success bag, and prizes for participation.
  - The Summer class was offered in person and on Zoom with over 45 students participating in this hybrid session at our partner site: For The Cause Teen Center in Berwick
- **Medical Mentorship Virtual Program:** In June, participants signed up to participate in this amazing medical program presented by Javonda Quinn of the I'm Essential Group. Students received a copy of her book as well as a complete list of medical schools and their entrance requirements.

#### Innovative Hybrid Programming

- **Surgery Live!!** In April, students logged on to watch a live Gallbladder surgery performed at the Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center. The surgery team is micro phoned and our students asked questions live to the doctors.
- **Cow Eye Dissection Activity:** students registered for this program and received the dissection kit at their home with 4 opportunities to log onto a Zoom class led by our fantastic Medical Resident Tutor: Amelia Mackaray.
- **Diversity & Inclusion through Food:** In June, students signed up to receive their Japanese Snack box that tied to a lesson provided by our friends in the Social Work Department at Marywood University. Food, fun, and learning about other cultures!



## Field Trips

When the world started to open up for in person activities, EOC hit the ground running!

- **Railriders Game** on June 17<sup>th</sup>-Educational Opportunity Centers of PA was fortunate to be the community organization of the game with an information table at the entrance. We wanted to celebrate this night with our students and their families-and ended up with 17 of our EOC Participants and their family members joining us for a great night of baseball and learned about careers in the Sports Management arena.
- **Syracuse, NY** on June 22<sup>nd</sup>: participants attended this fantastic trip! This 14-hour day was jam packed with lots of education and fun! **Syracuse University** allowed us to do a self-guided tour-some of the highlights included their amazing Dick Clark Media Center and their cool Student Center with a Dunkin Donuts! After lunch at the famous **Dinosaur BBQ** we were treated to a full tour of **Onondaga Community College**-what an amazing college! That has housing for over 700 students. We also were introduced to our fellow TRIO Programs that are housed on their campus!



- **Lehigh Valley Photography Trip**-on July 17<sup>th</sup>, students learned about photography from our special guest, Joan Dooley and visited Lehigh Carbon Community College before lunch. During lunch at the Thunderhead Lodge on the Appalachian Trail, the students learned about the importance of lighting and career opportunities in communications. After lunch, the students used their new photography skills to conduct a scavenger hunt on the Appalachian Trail and Bear Junction fun park.



- **Philadelphia Overnight Trip**: on August 9 & 10<sup>th</sup>, students traveled to the Philly area and enjoyed a jam packed 2-day trip! The First stop was The Franklin Institute-the students loved the exhibits on the Brain & the Heart as well as the Sports Physics exhibit where we learned a lot about momentum! After a night of swimming, games &

food at our hotel, Cheyney University taught us about the history of this first HBCU (Historically Black college/university) as well as the financial aid, admissions and the amazing majors at this wonderful school located not far from us! Our stop at Alvernia University was delayed-but we will plan to visit them soon!

- **Indraloka Animal Sanctuary Trip**: On August 16<sup>th</sup>, students visited this amazing Animal Sanctuary in Dalton, PA to meet with a wide range of animals that have been saved and rehabilitated. This trip taught us about careers in the veterinary sciences including how to bandage a chicken's infected foot. Students were also treated to a lesson on sustainability and cow air-conditioning.
- **Airport Trip**: On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Lehigh Valley Airport allowed us to bring a small group of students for a full tour and meet with airline pilots. This trip provided an



overview of how an airport works, all of the careers that are available at an airport, and what it takes to be a pilot.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Stand Down for our Homeless Veterans and civilians at 2 locations. Our EOC Participants and their families were invited to assist EOC and Valor Clinic Foundation with clothing, food, hygiene products & more.
  - Wilkes-Barre location on July 4<sup>th</sup> & the Hazleton location on August 1<sup>st</sup>



### **2020-21 EOC Participant Scholarships Awarded:**

- Kayla Perrong
- Alyssa Miller
- Corianne Holzman
- Keirsten Whitmire
- Tyler Freedman
- Jessica Kehl
- Sarah Hernandez
- Archi Gandhi
- Linze Barbaras-Henry
- Hope Reams
- Misha Kazmierski
- Nicholas Rossi

### **Summer Scholarship Winners:**

- Brittany Marcinkevich
- Star Long

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### **EOC Program Participants:**

- Target audience: 19 years and older or high school seniors from non-Talent Search School Districts (Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Scranton, Shenandoah Valley, & Wilkes-Barre Area)
- Are in need of the following services:
  - Career Guidance
  - Strengths Assessment
  - College Planning including applying to post-secondary
  - Financial Aid Assistance
  - Scholarship Search Assistance
  - Tutoring for entrance to post-secondary or careers & to be successful in post-secondary
  - Assistance with course selection
  - Assistance with GED Testing-agency can provide up to two Test Vouchers per person
- Veterans and Military receive preference & assistance with career planning, college assistance, financial aid and field trips
- Services provided in 11 counties: Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming

**Call (570) 331-6755 to make an appointment in one of our offices or at a referral partner near you!**

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