

My Voice, My Choice

Leadership Camp
for ages 13-16

Newsletter #1
June 1-June 11, 2026

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GOALS & AIMS: Our goal for this year's camp "My Voice, My Choice" is for each child to realize the importance of his/her voice and that choices made can be rewarding and/or consequential. As such, the underpinning aim for us over the last two weeks was to give each child tools to implement and in real time, through different scenarios applicable to their individual journey, in order for them to understand how these tools (when used) can make positive differences in their lives.

APPROACH: We met each child in their unique space and sought and requested access where we could build trust. We demonstrated kindness and patience so they were able to listen and learn.

OUTCOMES: Regardless of how each camp day began, we worked to ensure each child left safely—knowing they mattered, they were heard, and that they should give and expect respect in return. Campers participated throughout the sessions and made commitments on how they would use their voices, remain aware and intentional, and set personal goals.

Activities & Key Topics

Financial Literacy Workshop

Time Management Workshops and
Presentations

Life-Coaching: Awareness,
Intentionality & Disposition

Yoga and Meditation with singing
bowls

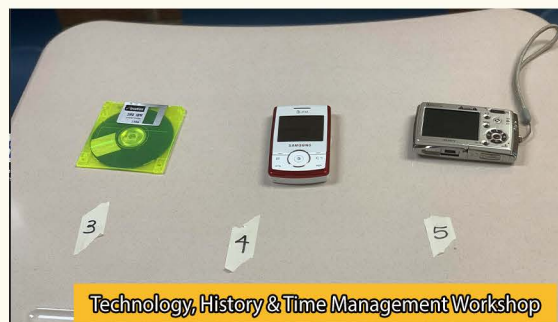
Resume Building and Interview Prep.



Valued Educational Services in
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Richland College



Technology, History & Time Management Workshop

**Campers' No. 1 Favorite:
Financial Literacy Workshop**

STAFF: **Dr. Melissa**, the Founder of VES and Program Developer, who created several activities around Time Management, History and Technology, and developed life-skills techniques for interview preparation.

Ms. Marcia, VES's Certified Life-coach and Camp Manager, who led our Conflict Resolution presentation, Life-Coaching sessions, and our Financial Literacy session that the campers said was their favorite activity.

Ms. Lira led Meditation sessions, playing singing bowls and helping campers leave relaxed at the end of the day.

Ms. Moore, our engaging Yoga instructor, who provided beneficial movement sessions before lunch.

Mr. Gonzalez, who supported our Time Management and Resume sessions.

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Newsletter #2
June 15-June 25, 2026

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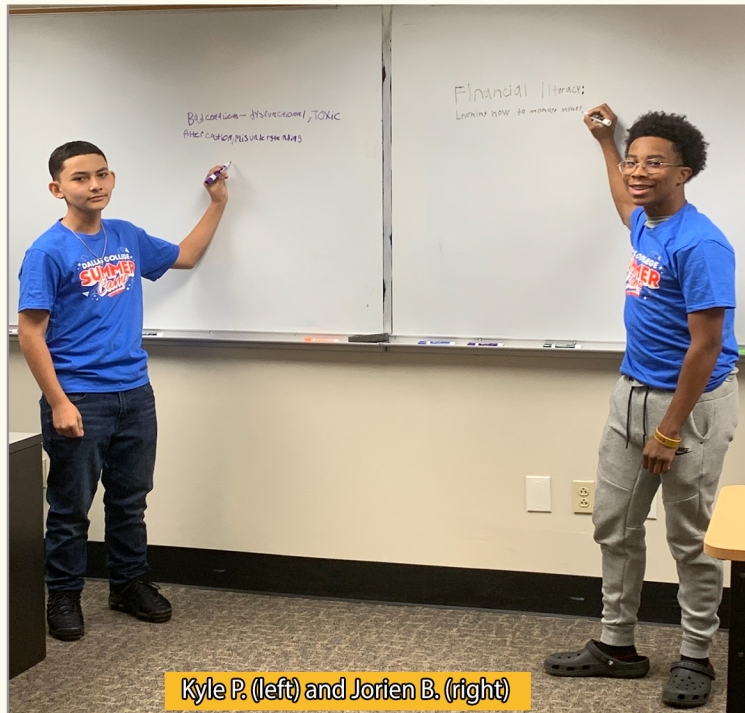
SUCCESS: This last week of camp was truly amazing, welcoming new campers who, after arriving the first morning with a sense of apprehension, soon engaged with ease. Our goal during our last week was to introduce more complex layers to topics from the previous weeks and blend them with new topics. This approach was well received, and we had high participation every day. Our most important goals were that campers: (1) returned safely to their parents, and (2) were able to take away three tools and lessons learned during camp, which they would practice and apply on a regular basis. We are happy to share that there were no incidents and each camper identified lessons and tools they are committed to practicing.

Additionally, the campers left wanting to return to our camp next year, and we would gladly welcome them back!

CAMPERS & STAFF: To all our campers—enjoy the remainder of your summer, stay safe, and we hope to hear positive news about you! To our staff—you helped make this summer a success.

Spotlight Ayden S.

It was a joy to see Ayden return each day ready to build upon the knowledge he had gained previously. Ayden's word to describe himself is "courageous," and indeed he is. Ayden, you have learned and retained so much of what we shared. We could count on you to provide thoughtful answers, examples, and explanations. We are confident that you will apply the tools we shared with you to support your goals.



Kyle P. (left) and Jorien B. (right)



Once Kyle and Jorien realized they were in a space where their voices were valued and mistakes could be viewed as opportunities for growth, they were up to the challenge of learning how to manage their thoughts and feelings in order to make decisions before acting.

Both have decided which professions they want to explore, and it was our delight to share tools, options, and opportunities to support their journeys. They left knowing—the past they can learn from, the future they can plan for, and, importantly, the present they must focus on, giving each day their best.

Problem-Solving

Time Management Strategies Conflict Resolution

Collaborate, Accommodate, Compromise, Direct, Avoid

WORDS AND CONCEPTS LEARNED

Meta-cognition

Gross Salary & Mandatory Taxes

Problem-Solving

Jack Kilby & the integrated circuit chip

Thank You to Dallas College

To the Summer Camp Program Team, Administrators at Richland College Info Central Office and Facilities Departments as well as Campus Police. We enjoyed working with you once again this year.