

A Major MLK Day Honor and more!

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CAROLINA YOUTH COALITION

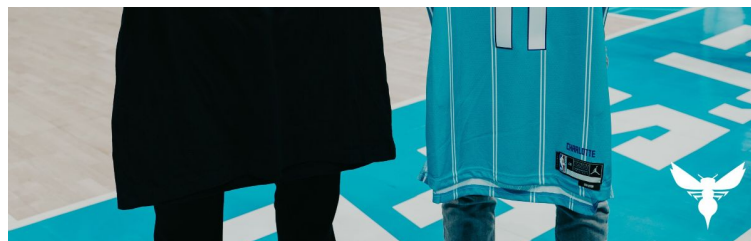
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CHARLOTTE HORNETS HONOR CYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE POWER FORWARD AWARD



Fred Whitfield (left), President, Vice Chairman, and minority owner of the Charlotte Hornets, and Betsy Mack Rinke (right), Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility and Executive Director of the Charlotte Hornets Foundation joined CYC Executive Director Aaron Randolph for an on-court recognition.





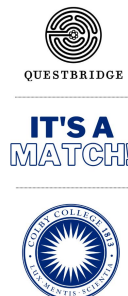
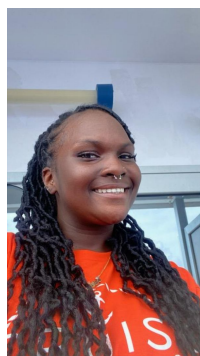
Pre-game "jersey swap" with Hornets shooting guard Cody Martin!

Yesterday, the Charlotte Hornets honored Aaron Randolph, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Carolina Youth Coalition, as part of the season-long Social Justice Power Forward Program, an initiative launched this season by Hornets Sports & Entertainment. Randolph is the second of five individuals to be recognized this season for making a difference in the realm of social justice issues, powering through obstacles, and pushing forward a positive impact.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition by the Hornets, especially on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He left such an incredible legacy of working toward justice, equality, and opportunity for all and there isn't a better time than now to continue that legacy. Thank you to the Hornets for this award and their continued partnership, as well as to all of our staff, Board members, and volunteers whose hard work has been integral to our success over the last five years," Randolph says.

[Read Full Press Release](#)

FOUR CYC FELLOWS EARN FULL-RIDES THROUGH QUESTBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP



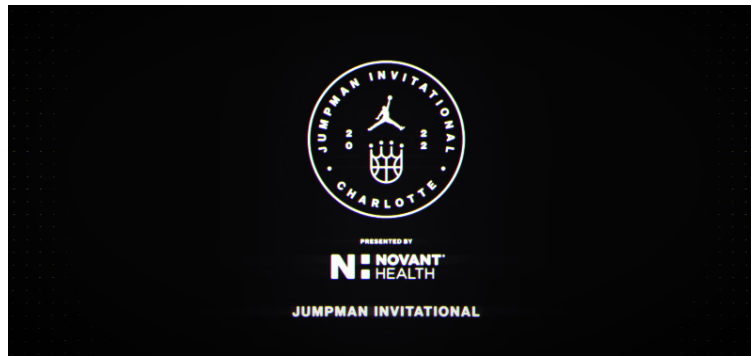
Congratulations to four CYC seniors who have been awarded full-ride scholarships through the prestigious Questbridge National College Match program, which grants early admission to some of the nation's top colleges. The award, a 4-year scholarship worth over \$200,000 covers all tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses. Scholarship award winners were selected from a pool of 5,613 finalists.

The four scholarship winners will attend:

1. **Aron (Mallard Creek High School) - Duke University**
2. **Tori (Sugar Creek Charter School) - Colby College**
3. **Juan (East Meck High School) - Emory University**
4. **Edwin (Hopewell High School) - Davidson College**

Aron, a CYC Fellow since 10th grade, said of the scholarship and how CYC has helped him over the last three years, "The Questbridge scholarship helps me pursue my future academic and career goals without having the burden of finances, thus, allowing me to have a strong focus on my future. CYC has helped with the college process by allowing me to be more marketable, independent, confident, and connected."

JUMPMAN INVITATIONAL DELIVERS SLAM DUNK EXPERIENCE FOR CYC FELLOWS



Click above for a video recap of the Jumpman Invitational and CYC's engagement with tournament sponsors - Jordan Brand, Novant Health, Truist, and Lowe's - by Charlotte Sports Foundation!

December's Jumpman Invitational, the inaugural Jordan Brand collegiate tournament in Charlotte, NC, featured slam dunks on the court and in the community!

As part of the tournament activities, [CYC was selected as a community partner](#) and the beneficiary of several one-of-a-kind experiences for CYC Fellows with Jordan Brand and tournament sponsors Novant Health, Lowe's, and Truist.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and Charlotte Sports Foundation for their support of CYC and for bringing this awesome event to the Queen City! Read more below...

- JORDAN WINGS DESIGN PROGRAM -



In partnership with Jordan Wings, 23 CYC Fellows participated in an 8-week design program that culminated in the design of the limited edition warm up shirts worn by each university's men's and women's team during the tournament. Fellows in the Jordan Wings Design Program were tasked with researching the history and traditions of each school - UNC-Chapel Hill, University of Florida, University of Michigan, and University of Oklahoma - and creating a shirt that captured the essence of what makes each university unique. Throughout the program, Fellows were mentored by Jordan and Nike designers, [Triple Threat](#), and volunteers from each of the sponsors and Social Status.

The program ended with a bang as Fellows had the opportunity to share the final shirt designs with each of the tournament's teams at the NASCAR Hall of Fame and be recognized on the court during the UNC-Chapel Hill vs. Michigan game!

[View WSOC TV's coverage](#) of the Jordan Wings Design Program.

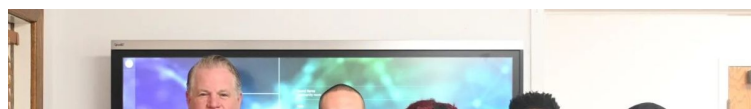


Above: CYC Fellows pictured with the men's and women's teams from the universities they designed shirts for.



"My favorite part was seeing my designs come to life on national television. It felt excellent to present my work to the teams. They loved it, and it made me love the process it took to get the designs more than the outcome, with me talking and explaining our trials and tribulations. The most important thing I learned was to dream big. I never thought I could participate in something so big at 17 years old." - Letrell Grady, CYC Fellow '23

- LOWE'S HOME TEAM -





A BIG holiday gift came early to CYC this year through the Jumpman Invitational and the Lowe's *Home Team*! Our CYC Youth Union is more than just a building. For many Fellows, it is a safe space and a home away from home.

Thanks to Lowe's, along with suppliers GE Lighting and Moen, we are starting 2023 with a newly remodeled Youth Union! We can't wait to share the photos once the final touches are complete!

- NOVANT JUMP COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENT -



Thank you to Novant Health for hosting an awesome JUMP Community Wellness event in November for all CYC Fellows and families!

Attendees got to test their vertical jump against their favorite NBA players, learn CPR, get info on Healthcare internships, and get free health screenings, flu vaccines, and COVID booster shots.

Thank you to the Charlotte Hornets for donating tix to every participant and to American Heart Association for the CPR lessons!

CLT ALLIANCE EBL



Congratulations to Maria Diaz, CYC's Director of Persistence and Evaluation, for being selected to the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance Emerging Business Leaders Cohort #11!

EBL is the CLT Alliance's 7-month immersive leadership and talent-development program for high potential, diverse professionals. The program is designed to enhance leadership capabilities and connect high performing peers from across various sectors in the Charlotte Region. Class 11 will be challenged and motivated to go outside their comfort zone and take their leadership skills to the next level.



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