

CYC Fellows Take Flight!



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CYC FELLOWS TAKE FLIGHT WITH HONEYWELL



What's happening at CYC this Fall? College applications, ACT prep, tutoring, and LOTS more...

Last month, CYC Fellows had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL! Thanks to CYC's partnership with Honeywell, 10 Fellows were able to participate in the week-long camp previously only open to children of Honeywell employees. Throughout the week, Fellows engaged in invaluable hands-on STEM learning, leadership development, and problem-solving opportunities amongst peers from 25 different countries across the globe!

THANK YOU to Honeywell for providing this incredible experience. We can't wait for next year!



Above: The space exploration program encourages campers to develop leadership strengths and apply computer science and digital skills to real-world and out-of-this-world challenges.





"As someone interested in Aerospace Engineering, being able to attend HCLA was an honor. The simulated missions were very intense and exciting. HCLA gives you the opportunity to meet people from all around the world which is what I found most fascinating." - Morgan '24



"My favorite part of the HCLA trip was getting to fly a plane. No joke, I had a suit and everything!" - Chris '25



"What I enjoyed most about the program was the diversity - from the people to the culture, and to even the language. The program forces you to get out of your comfort zone and teaches you that bringing different perspectives, experiences, and ideas could change the world." - Mario '24



"Allowing Fellows interested in STEM to participate in activities like HLCA is invaluable and could be the key to unlocking a world of possibilities. Exposing them to a diverse range of STEM careers while having them interact with industry experts at such a young age is, in my opinion, the best way to help them discover career fields that align with their passions." - Mariah Alexander, CYC Associate Director of STEM

CHAMPIONS FOR EDUCATION



THANK YOU to the Wells Fargo Championship for their generous investment in CYC and for all they do to support education throughout the Charlotte community. This year, the tournament's *Champions for Education* initiative donated a record of nearly \$2.5 million to the local community and we are honored to be chosen as one of the recipients. With this generous donation, we look forward to expanding and deepening the services of our high school Torch Fellows Program!

Hear more about Champions for Education and the amazing work they are supporting [here!](#)

EXCELLENCE WITH EQUITABLE



Last month's Mid-Atlantic College Tour was a blast! Thanks to Equitable Foundation, 25 CYC Fellows had the opportunity to visit several universities in Washington DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia including Howard University, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, Swarthmore College, Drexel University, and Villanova University.

These college tours have an incredible impact on Fellows as they get an opportunity to broaden their horizons and college lists, while experiencing new cities and sites as well. The MAC Tour included several stops at local landmarks and sites including the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.



And if that wasn't enough, we got a chance to see and be led around campus by a few familiar faces. Shout out to CYC College Fellows for stepping in and stepping up to lead some of the tours!

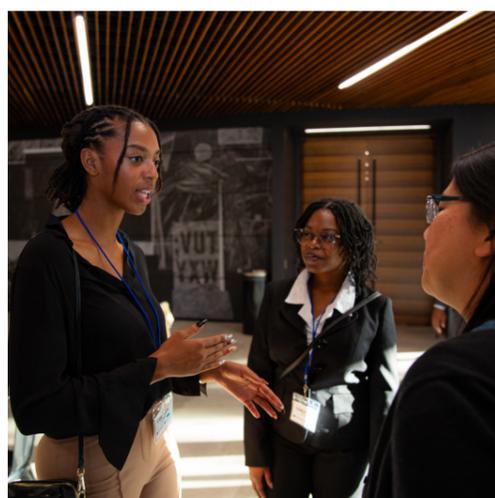


While CYC seniors were busy sharpening their college essays and applications in October, they were also sharpening their networking and etiquette skills with the help of Equitable employees!

First, Ann Tenwater and CYC VP Board Member Chelsey Sanderson of *The Perfect Method*, taught senior

First, Ann Farwater and CTC TF Board member Chelsey Sanderson of *The Perfect Method*, taught senior Fellows the ins and outs of business etiquette including everything from pre-event preparation to formal dining decorum and email protocol.

The following week, 55 seniors Fellows then had a chance to put those skills to the test during a networking session and seated dinner with 25 Equitable employee volunteers at Equitable's Charlotte campus! Fellows also had a chance to hear about the company's flagship scholarship program, Equitable Excellence®.



"Something I enjoyed about the experience was interacting with many Equitable members who spoke about their life experiences and backstories. It was nice to see that each of them had different journeys that led them to success. I admire that Equitable pushes their employees to be involved and impactful on Charlotte's community." - Melissa '24

SHOOTING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



THANK YOU to [Marand Builders, Inc.](#) for hosting yet another incredible Clay Shoot Fundraiser for the Marand Builders STEM Scholarship. A remarkable \$246,000 was raised this year to support scholarships for participants of CYC and Latin American Working for Achievement (LAWA). Since 2021, over 30 scholarships have been awarded to CYC Fellows pursuing Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science, and other technical careers.

We are proud and humbled to have advocates and partners like Marand and the Alvarado Family who help to alleviate the financial burden of education for CYC Fellows pursuing STEM careers. We look forward to next year's Clay Shoot!

LEARNING ALL ABOUT PE



There are a lot of things high schoolers could be doing on a day off from school. Spending the day learning about private equity probably isn't one of them for most. However, thanks to Falfurrias Capital Partners, a group of CYC Fellows did just that!

Led by Vice President Katie-Rose Austin, Fellows had the opportunity recently to get firsthand exposure to how private equity works and the various careers within the sector! They enjoyed diving into finance, accounting, and management consulting as members of the Falfurrias team stopped in to share their roles, career journeys, and professional advice.

Other highlights from the day included a surprise visit from Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus Hugh McColl II and a delicious lunch at The King's Kitchen with Falfurrias team members!



COLLABORATION IS KEY





Carolina Youth Coalition is proud to be a member of the newly established Crescent Coalition! The coalition, with start-up support from [Leading on Opportunity](#), connects community-based organizations serving under-resourced students along their journey from middle school through college graduation and successful careers. Partnering organizations include CYC, Friedland Foundation, Gardhouse, Greater Steps Scholars, The Academy of Goal Achievers, Road to Hire, UrbanPromise Charlotte, and Wayfinders.

Thanks to a contribution from the Equitable Foundation, the coalition held a joint Financial Aid Night in October for approximately 200 families to learn about navigating financial aid and paying for postsecondary pathways through speakers from the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC). Leaders from each organization were also sponsored by Equitable to attend the National College Access Network (NCAN) conference in Dallas last month.

Aaron Randolph, CYC's Co-Founder and Executive Director, reflects, "It sends a powerful message to our community, and even the youth we serve, that we can set aside any egos and work together toward the larger goal of increasing opportunities for post-secondary pathways throughout our city."

To learn more, visit the Crescent Coalition [website](#) or check out our recent feature on [WFAE!](#)

WINGS x 23XI RACING



CYC is proud to be a long-time Jordan Wings partner! CYC Fellows, along with students from Charlotte Lab School and Rise2Impact, participated in the Jordan Wings Design Program where they had the opportunity to tap into their creative sides by designing a race car for 23XI driver Tyler Reddick! The program concluded in October with the car design being debuted at the Roval 400 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Participants got to watch Tyler race from behind the scenes through a one-of-a-kind VIP experience. Along with designing the car, participants also created a matching race day t-shirt that was sold at the track on race day!

Thank you to Jordan Wings, 23XI Racing, and Tyler Reddick for this incredible opportunity!

MENTORS MAKE IT HAPPEN



CYC EmpowerMentors play a critical role in our success by ensuring that every single one of our high school seniors has the consistent, individualized support needed to thrive in the college admissions process.

When hardworking Fellows and dedicated mentors are linked together, you get unstoppable pairs like Julian '24 and Pete Keene! Julian and Pete have hit the ground running this year, meeting frequently to ensure that they stay on top of every detail and deadline throughout Julian's college application journey. On top of that, they have a little fun too. The pair recently took in a Carolina Panthers game during one of their meetings!

"Mr. Pete is an amazing mentor. He's exposed me to so many opportunities and he's also a huge factor in my college application process with being one of the first phone calls I can make when it comes to my essays or any questions I may have. Without him, I wouldn't be so far ahead in the college application process," says Julian.

CYC is now recruiting for mentors to be matched with rising high school seniors next spring. **Click below to learn more about getting involved!**

Volunteer with CYC



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