


Welcome to The CORE!



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Welcome to *The Core*, your monthly CYC newsletter! Each edition offers an exclusive glimpse into the latest highlights, stories, and events, showcasing how our CYC Fellows, staff, volunteers, and supporters are living out our core values of growth, openness, excellence, empowerment, and community.

Together, we're building a brighter future, grounded in our shared commitment to these guiding principles!



FALL ORIENTATION 2024

We had an amazing time welcoming 250 new and returning Fellows to our East campus at our Fall Orientation! This year's event was a fun and engaging start to the 2024-2025 academic year, packed with informative sessions to help everyone get ready for success. Attendees got a sneak peek into CYC's exciting plans this year, including academic and professional development workshops, seasonal college tours, exclusive scholarship opportunities, and much more! Fellows and their families also enjoyed personalized interactions through one-on-one chats with their program directors, providing tailored insights and support to kick off the year.

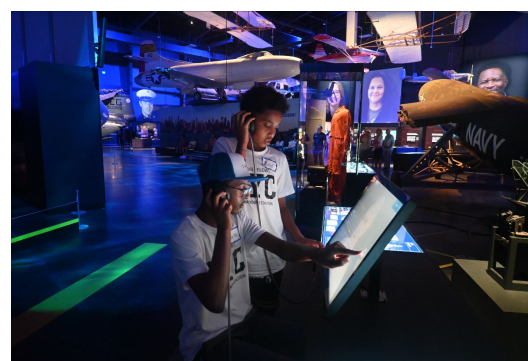
A special thank you to our friends at C.R.E.A.M. Coffee Company for their delicious refreshments, which added an extra touch of enjoyment to the day.

We look forward to a year full of growth and achievement together!



FUTURE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Over the summer, we proudly launched our Future Fellows program, tailored for our newly admitted 9th grade Fellows. This dynamic three-week initiative seamlessly blended academic enrichment with career exploration. Throughout the program, Fellows participated in intensive English and Math workshops, honing their critical thinking, reading, writing, and problem-solving skills, which will provide a strong foundation for their high school journey ahead.



Beyond the classroom, our Future Fellows explored various career paths through visits to organizations and companies in the Charlotte area. The program was divided into three engaging phases: Creative Cultivation, focusing on arts and humanities; Digital Discovery, emphasizing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and Mogul Mindset, covering personal branding, business, and entrepreneurship. A huge shout out to our Director of Academic Success, Katie Weisman, and our Associate Director of STEM, Mariah Alexander, for executing this program and providing an incredible experience for our Fellows. We're excited to witness the remarkable achievements these Fellows will accomplish in their first year of high school.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the following organizations for their incredible support: Sweet Spot Studio, Blumenthal Theater, Mint Museum Uptown, WSOC TV, Albemarle Foundation, NASCAR Hall of Fame, Microsoft Charlotte, Sullenberger Aviation Museum, and Do Greater Charlotte. Your generosity and commitment have played a vital role in enriching the experiences of our Future Fellows and we are truly grateful to each of you for your partnership!

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MENTOR MATCH

This year's Mentor Match event was truly unforgettable! CYC successfully paired over 50 senior Fellows with mentors from both our CYC network and the greater Charlotte community. The event kicked off with a series of engaging games and thought-provoking questionnaires, which helped everyone break the ice and ignite some exciting and new connections!



Throughout the year, CYC mentors will work closely with their mentees, offering valuable guidance and support. They will assist with essay writing, exploring future career options, and navigating the college application process, ensuring that their mentees have the tools and confidence to succeed. We can't wait to see these connections grow and flourish in the months ahead!

[Interested in volunteering with CYC?](#)



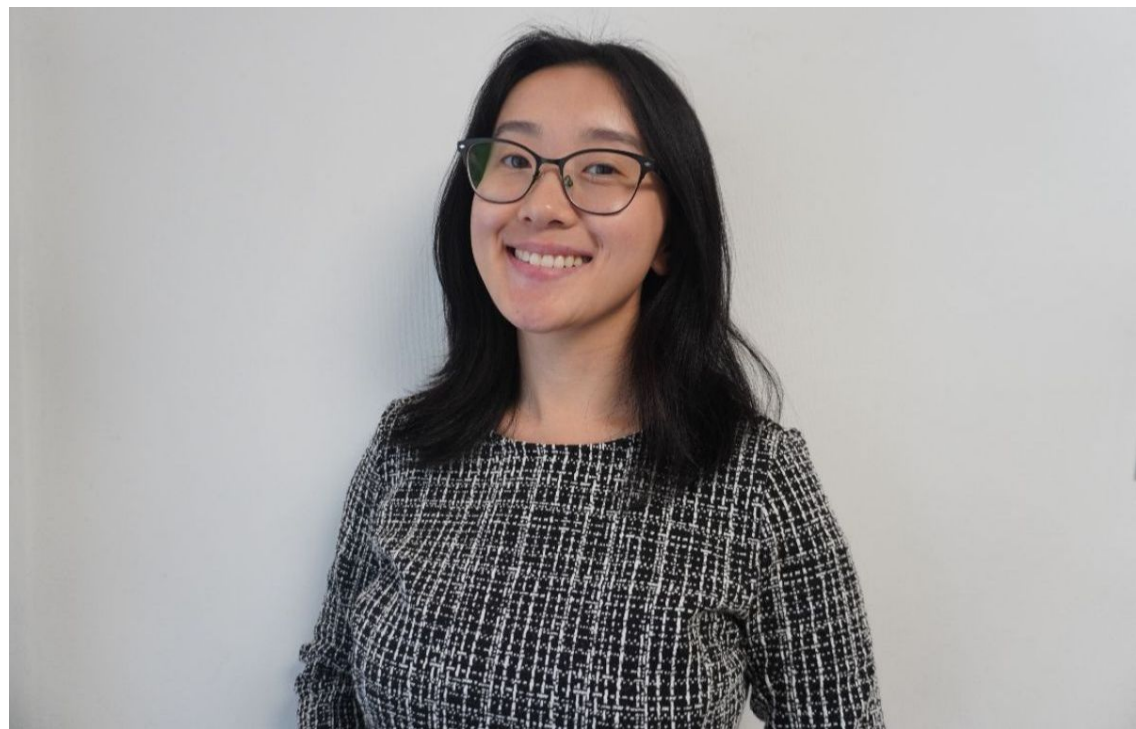


NEW CYC STAFF

Meet Janae Aiken, our new Associate Director of College Access. Janae holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Education and History from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a Master of Arts in Creative Business Leadership from SCAD. With nine years of experience in public education at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, she has held multiple leadership roles that have enabled her to develop skills in curriculum development, fostering student engagement through community service, and promoting college and career success. Janae is passionate about creating impactful experiences for students.



Meet Shekinah Campbell, our new Associate Director of College Access. Shekinah holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Claflin University. With four years of combined teaching experience at Wilson High School and Garinger High School, she has focused on fostering college and career readiness in her students. Shekinah is dedicated to designing programs that equip students with essential skills for academic and life success.



Meet Rebecca Lee, our new Administrative Assistant. Rebecca combines a strong background in hospitality and administrative support, bringing a personalized touch to office management. In addition, she is also a dedicated student currently at CPCC, with plans to pursue a career in Data Science. Her attention to detail, commitment to learning, and passion for excellent customer service ensure efficient operations and support to CYC.



Torch Fellow Spotlight: Chris Romero

This summer, Chris Romero (center) completed a six-week internship with L2L at the Charlotte



Accenture office, where he gained insights and presented on the concept of AI scam detection. Click on the picture to connect with Chris!



College Fellow Spotlight: Jakari McIver

This summer, Jakari McIver (center left) interned with Ally as a finance intern, where she gained valuable experience and insights into the banking industry. Click on the picture to connect with Jakari!



Alumni Fellow Spotlight: Jose Santos Ortiz. After recently graduating debt-free from Berea College, Jose is diving into his new role as a Special Education Teacher with Teach For America in the Chicago region. Click on the picture to connect with Jose!



CYPG

We're excited to share that the Charlotte Young Professionals Group (CYPG) has successfully raised an impressive \$20,000 for CYC through their Silent Auction, Annual Golf Tournament, and Cheers for Charity events!

A huge thank you to CYPG for their dedication and hard work in organizing these fantastic events. Your unwavering commitment to leadership, community, excellence, fellowship, and growth is making a significant impact in the greater Charlotte area. We are incredibly grateful for your support and look forward to continuing this partnership to benefit our community.





NBA FOUNDATION GRANT

In celebration of the NBA Foundation's fourth anniversary, we're excited to announce that CYC has received a grant from their latest funding round, supporting 47 outstanding nonprofits!

Thank you to the NBA Foundation for your continued support of our mission to assist high-achieving, under-resourced students in Charlotte. Your dedication to advancing economic mobility for Black youth is making a significant impact nationwide.

We also appreciate the Charlotte Hornets for their invaluable support and for recommending CYC for a second round of funding!

Jaela Agee '20/'24

Editor-in-Chief



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