


The CORE Newsletter - December Edition



From

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Welcome back to *The Core*, your monthly CYC newsletter! We proudly share our latest news, stories, and events showcasing how our CYC Fellows, staff, volunteers, and supporters embody our core values.



Happy Holidays From CYC

The greatest gift this holiday season is witnessing our Fellows achieve their dreams. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to Caleb Joel for earning a full-ride to Stanford University through the QuestBridge National Match Scholarship and to Gerald Aguilera Morales for earning the Presidential Scholarship at Queens University. Caleb, who joined CYC in 9th grade, is now the 11th CYC Fellow to earn this prestigious scholarship.

We are immensely proud of Caleb, Gerald, and all of our Class of 2025 for the hard work they are putting in to make their dreams a reality!





Carolina Youth Coalition Hosts ALUMNight Panel on the Power of Social Capital

As part of CYC's ALUMNight series, our Alumni Fellows had the opportunity to host an impactful panel discussion on social capital, aimed at inspiring current junior and senior Fellows.

Drawing from their experiences as former CYC Fellows, each panelist shared valuable insights on their previous and current college and career journeys. The panelists also emphasized the critical need to build social capital, foster strong networks, and build meaningful connections inside and outside of the CYC community. They underscored that such efforts can lead to new opportunities and open doors for success.

A special shoutout and heartfelt thanks to CYC Alumni [Hazel Whyte](#), [Ali Baylay](#), [Praises Amponsah](#), [Ngoc Le](#), and [Ashlyn Osborne](#), with [Jaela Agee](#) serving as host!



Fellows at CYC's Southwest campus showing off their signed footballs from the Carolina Panthers' Ikey Ekwonu as a reward for participating in the Futureshaper Innovation Challenge.

Honeywell Futureshaper Innovation Challenge Semi-Finals

This Fall, 70 sophomore Fellows had the opportunity to showcase their innovation and creativity by participating in this year's Futureshaper Innovation Challenge in partnership with Honeywell and the Carolina Panthers. This year's contest challenged Fellows to generate ideas focused on enhancing stadium safety, improving energy efficiency, and integrating smart technology to elevate the fan experience at Bank of America Stadium. During the semi-final round held at both CYC campuses, each team showcased a variety of innovative ideas. These concepts ranged from eco-friendly glass roofs designed to withstand unpredictable weather to bamboo gutters intended for collecting reusable rainwater.

Congratulations to our final six teams (Teams 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10) whose innovative ideas were chosen to be pitched at this year's finals hosted at Bank of America Stadium! A special shoutout to all Honeywell employees and CYC volunteers who served as judges, lending their expertise to evaluate each team's ideas, providing invaluable feedback and making the semi-finals a success.

Thank you to WBTV and Dedrick Russell for their multi-part coverage of the program! [Watch a recap of the Semi-Finals here!](#)

Look out for more exciting news about the Honeywell Futureshaper Innovation Challenge Finals!



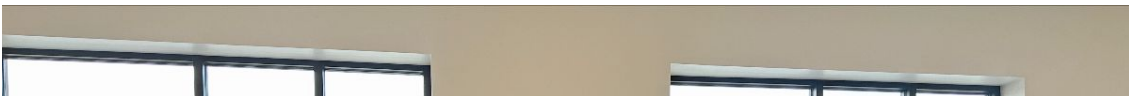
2024 Jordan Wings Design Program

Sixteen Fellows completed the 2024 Jordan Wings Design Program, marking the end of a transformative journey. In collaboration with Jordan Brand, Triple Threat, and their dedicated mentors, this four-week immersive design lab equipped Fellows with invaluable skills and opportunities. This year's participants were tasked with creating shirt designs that will be showcased at the 2024 Jumpman Invitational!

Throughout various design lab sessions, Fellows delved into the creative process, refining their skills and learning to craft compelling narratives through their work. From exploring color theory to embracing imperfections and enhancing storytelling, each session encouraged Fellows to push their creative boundaries while further developing their design abilities.

Thank you Jordan Brand for leading this transformative program and special thanks to the Charlotte Sports Foundation and Truist for their partnership in ensuring the success of the Jumpman Invitational! A special shoutout to Social Status for hosting the workshops in their inspiring Be Social event space, providing the perfect environment for creative growth.

We are incredibly proud of our Fellows' progress and the skills they've developed throughout the program. We can't wait to see their unique designs come to life.





CYC's Career Club Visits Carolina Foods: A Sweet Success

Carolina Youth Coalition's Career Club had the exciting opportunity to tour Carolina Foods Incorporated, thanks to the support of Falfurrias Capital Partners. Known for its production of desserts, including donuts and honeybuns, Carolina Foods is one of Falfurrias' newest investments.

During their visit, our Fellows gained firsthand insights into the private equity process, learning how firms like Falfurrias assess companies and make strategic investment decisions. This hands-on opportunity offered our Fellows with an invaluable glimpse into the world of finance and business strategy in action.

A special thank you to CYC Board Member and Vice President of Falfurrias Management Partners, Katie-Rose Austin, for organizing this unforgettable day!



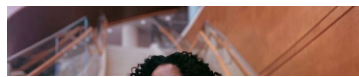
Torch Fellow Spotlight: Vance Johnson (Class of '25)

Vance Johnson, a senior Fellow at CYC and a member of East Mecklenburg High School's Class of 2025, will be awarded the Queen City Black Excellence Youth Award. He is one of three honorees at the 2025 Truist Pride Awards, a major event in Charlotte recognizing outstanding contributions to the community. Click on the picture to connect with Vance and learn more!



College Fellow Spotlight: Mazeon Jones (Class of '24)

Mazeon Jones, a freshman at North Carolina A&T State University, accepted an internship with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond for the upcoming summer! He will be joining their Enterprise Data Services team, where he looks forward to expanding his skills in data analytics. Click on the picture to connect with Mazeon and learn more!



Alumni Fellow Spotlight: Rute Ayalew (Class of '22)



'20)

Rute Ayalew, a Wake Forest University graduate with a BA in Computer Science and a minor in African Studies, is wrapping up her first fall semester in the Master of Science in Management (MSM) program at Wake Forest School of Business. Click on the picture to connect with Rute and learn more!



CYC's **100 Heroes Campaign to recruit 100 mentors in 100 Days is underway** to support our rising high school senior class - the Class of 2026 - and we could use your help to spread the word!

Here's How You Can Help:

1. **Become a Mentor** – Support one senior starting this spring.
2. **Refer a Friend** – Forward this email to a friend or coworker / Follow us on LinkedIn and share our [100 Heroes in 100 Days Campaign](#) post.
3. **Donate** - Help us fund mentorship programs.

Who We're Looking For:

- College grads in or near Charlotte (remote opportunities available)
- No experience required—*Training is provided!*
- Passionate community members ready to share their resources, social capital, and knowledge with our Fellows.

Timeline:

March 12th - 100 Heroes Campaign ends

February 2025 - April 2025 - Onboarding & Training - Session 1

May 2025 - 1:1 Mentoring begins

Click [here](#) to discover more information about becoming a CYC EmpowerMentor or CAPS Mentor!

MENTOR WITH CYC

DONATE

Jaela Agee '20/'24

Editor-in-Chief



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