

📣 Big Choices, Bright Futures – National Decision Day Is Here! 🎓



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CAROLINA YOUTH COALITION

National College Decision Day

Our Senior Fellows just made it official!



West Charlotte High School senior and CAPS Scholarship recipient Bobby Forrest announces he's headed to Aggie Land!

Last Sunday, Carolina Youth Coalition hosted our annual College Signing Day—a celebration recognizing our Senior Fellows as they officially announce their 2025 college decisions!

The evening was filled with cheers, music, and joyful smiles as families, friends, and mentors gathered to celebrate this proud milestone. Along with sharing their chosen colleges and universities, our Fellows were honored as scholarship recipients by several generous organizations and corporate partners, including Brighthouse Financial, Equitable Foundation, Fidelity, Goodwin Meissner Family Foundation, and Merancas Foundation (CAPS).

Additionally, our Fellows earned full-ride scholarships from Carolina Covenant, The Gates Scholarship, Jordan Wings, QuestBridge, and many other incredible supporters.

Take a look at some fun facts about our Senior Fellows below!



Twin sisters Caren and Melida Andrade Andino are both CAPS Scholarship recipients! Caren is known for her independence and great advice, while Melida has a passion for acting and cooking. Stay tuned to see where they'll be attending in the fall!



Abel Acheampong, a Brighthouse Financial Scholarship recipient and future UNCG Spartan, spends his free time breaking records on the track. Beyond athletics, Abel is passionate about finding ways to give back and uplift his community!



Jessica Akonga, a Fidelity Scholarship recipient and future Phoenix at Elon University, is fluent in French, Lingala, and English. Jessica has a deep love for reading and travel, and she's ready to turn her big dreams into reality!



Joseph Bessada, a Goodwin Meissner Last Dollar Scholarship recipient and incoming freshman at Wake Forest University, is a culinary enthusiast with big plans to double major in Cybersecurity and Economics. Go Deacs!



Adding to the excitement, each Fellow received a **FREE** Chromebook generously gifted by [Jane's Fund](#), ensuring they are well-equipped for their next chapter. The celebration wrapped up with sweet treats, fun photo moments, and plenty of memories made!

2025 COLLEGE PICKS:



Charlotte Engineering Early College senior and Gates Scholarship recipient Kebron Teshome is headed to Yale University!

With over 40 college decisions made, our Senior Fellows are headed to some incredible schools this fall! Check out just a few of the amazing campuses they'll be calling home:

- Central Piedmont Community College
- Dartmouth College*
- Elon University
- Fayetteville State University
- Howard University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina State University
- North Carolina Central University
- Queens University
- Stanford University*
- UNC Chapel Hill
- UNC Charlotte
- UNC Greensboro
- University of Virginia*
- Wake Forest University
- Wofford College
- Yale University

**The first time a CYC Fellow has attended this institution!*

THANK YOU!



CYC extends our heartfelt thanks to Wells Fargo for serving as our annual College Signing Day sponsor and for continuously investing in the education and opportunities of our Fellows.

A special thank you to this year's unforgettable host, [Frenchie Brown](#), for bringing fun energy and making this year's event memorable!

Huge thanks to [RedefineU](#) for capturing the special moments through photos and video, and to [Project 658](#) for providing the perfect space to host this celebration.

We truly appreciate our CYC families, community members, and dedicated volunteers for your unwavering support, which continues to empower our Fellows and make a lasting impact on their futures.

To the Class of 2025—we are incredibly proud of all you've accomplished. The journey

to the Class of 2020 – we are incredibly proud of all you've accomplished. The journey ahead is bright, and we can't wait to see how you'll grow, lead, and make a lasting impact.

Follow CYC on all social media platforms and stay tuned for some fun College Signing Day photos dropping next week!

#EVERYDREAMNEEDSATEAM



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