



2019 July-August Highlights

Students Devote Summer Months to Sharpen Academic Skills

The summer slide is the tendency for students lose about a month of learning during the summer [[Link to Source](#)]. The impact of the summer slide causes a wide achievement gap in students. Studies also show that the older the student, the more learning they lose over the summer break [[Link to Source](#)]. So how did Urban League make the summer resourceful for students? We hosted programs Girls STEAM Academy, Credit Recovery, and STEP-UP! Omaha to keep students engaged and prepared for matriculation to the next grade and college.



Girls STEAM Academy Mixes Medicine, Engineering, and Science

The STEAM Academy is a six-week summer program where 14-18 year-old girls gain knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and the Arts, and Mathematics.

This program is perfect for girls interested in the STEAM fields that want to acquire more experience in those said fields. Gender disparities in the STEM field appear during high school. Moreover, only 29% of women in the college-educated workforce are in the science/engineering field [[Link to Source](#)]. It is even lower and more underrepresented when the racial disparity is included. With the Girls STEAM Academy, we are exposing girls to science fields, showing them that they too can conquer the field like their male peers.

This year, the girls in the STEAM Academy participated in various types of projects and field trips that showed them what it is like to work in civil engineering, how to trade stocks, how the 2020 Census will work, and even how to mix medicine. They also heard from women of color who have established a career in the STEAM fields. The girls, in the end, were motivated to do more science-related activities.

16 girls graduated from the STEAM Academy this year, all with different career goals and dreams they want to pursue. After the summer program was over, many exclaimed that they are thinking of a career in the STEAM fields. They said that the STEAM Academy

opened their eyes to new opportunities as well.

Students on Track to Graduate Summer Credit Recovery

Nationwide, over half a million students continue to drop out of high school each year because they are either not receiving credits or failing courses [[Link to Source](#)].

Summer Credit Recovery Program addresses credits that students have failed to receive before the end of the school year. The program provides students with an opportunity to recover credits that were not attained during the academic year. This program is designed to provide a pathway for students who have a history of course failure and assist them in avoiding falling further behind their peers.

We pinpointed the reasons why students in Omaha are not receiving their required credits. We found that students mainly lose credits due to distractions in the class and an unsupportive environment. With the Urban League's Credit Recovery program, students had the chance to be in a supportive environment, where they can study and retrieve those lost credits.

Students Take the First Step in Their Career Development through STEP-UP! Omaha

STEP-UP! Omaha continues to build on a student's career exploration and job training. The program prepares 14-18 year olds for college and full-time employment. For many of the students, this was their first exposure to the work field. During the program, they are immersed in career experiences that include health, arts and culture, IT/STEM, government, sports, business and much more. Moreover, students received workplace conduct and ethics training. Mack'Kya, one of the STEP-UP! participants, remarked that her career goal is to become a neurosurgeon and because of her STEP-UP Coach and Urban League staff member, she is working at UNMC gaining experiences by training on the job.

Ready, Set, GO! Urban League Gears Up for School-Year Academic Programs

As summer break closes, the Urban League of Nebraska (ULN) is transitioning to its school-year programs. A number of priorities will replace the "summer slide" as focal points of our programming. Those priorities include: afterschool enrichment, violence prevention, college prep, and truancy/absenteeism. These programs are offered at all stages of a student's academic career, from kindergarten afterschool enrichment to college preparation. This allows the ULN to, over the course of a student's educational journey, build their resilience and ensure their academic success. Specific information about these individual programs are outlined below.

Afterschool Enrichment Programs (AEP)

Research conducted by the United States Department of Education found that Afterschool programs bolster students' academic performance and reduces risk for bad behavior. The Urban League of Nebraska (ULN)'s Afterschool Enrichment Program serves students to this end.



Top: From Left to Right

Kimberly Bradford, AEP Program Director
MarQuita Seastrong, Site Director, *Franklin Elem.*
Lashira Lemons, Site Director, *King Science Elem.*

Bottom: From Left to Right

Kali Amos, Assistant Site Director, *Monroe Middle*
Darchel Amos, Site Director, *Monroe Middle*

The ULN Afterschool programs are supervised academic and enrichment activities for elementary and middle-school students during the school year and summer. Students participate in a wide variety of classes, workshops and other activities that help develop academic and personal skills, such as positive work habits and accountability.

In 2018, 75% of Afterschool program participants demonstrated an increase in their awareness of STEM fields.

School sites for our Afterschool programs include:

- Franklin Elementary School
- King Science Elementary
- Monroe Middle School

Our Afterschool Programs staff members are listed on the left. For more information about the program including contact details, go [HERE!](#)

Violence Prevention - Community Coaches

The ULN Community Coach Program is a violence prevention, intervention and youthful offender re-entry program within Omaha Public Schools that helps middle school and high school students in the juvenile system excel in school, meet their probation terms, and avoid the juvenile justice system. We recruit at-risk and high-risk, in and out-of-school youth and young adults who face barriers to staying in school or finding employment.

In 2018, Community Coaches helped 245 youth in the juvenile system excel in school, meet their probation terms, and avoid confinement, shifting the trajectory of their lives towards success.

This program is offered to students in the following middle and high schools:

Middle Schools

- King Science & Technology Magnet School
- McMillan Magnet Center
- Morton Magnet Middle School

High Schools

- North High Magnet School
- Bryan High School

Our Community Coaches are listed on the right. For more information about the program including contact information, go [HERE!](#)



Top: From Left to Right

Ladonna Jones-Dunlap, C. Coach Coordinator
Michael Bonner-Davis, C. Coach, *North High*
Donald Vaughn, C. Coach, *McMillan Middle*

Bottom: From Left to Right

Jasmine Wallace, C. Coach, *King Science & Morton*
Tai'Ler Warren, C. Coach, *Bryan High*

College Prep - Whitney M. Young Jr. Academy



From Left to Right

Jeffrey Williams, WMY Jr. Academy Coordinator
Chandler Hunter, WMY Jr. Academy Advisor

The Whitney M. Young Jr. Academy is a college prep program that provides students in grades 9 through 12 unique opportunities for leadership development, career exploration, financial literacy, and college prep. Whitney M. Young Jr. Academy students have participated in academic and career development conferences, ACT Prep sessions, service projects, and many other activities. These activities and the hard work of the Academy coordinators Jeffrey Williams and Chandler Hunter, pictured on the left, explain the program's staggering results:

In 2018, 100% of Whitney Young Jr. Academy students graduated from high school and 91% of those students enrolled in college.

For more information about the WMY Jr. Academy program including contact information, go [**HERE!**](#)

Truancy Reduction - Youth Attendance Navigators (YANs)

The Urban League of Nebraska knows that students with poor attendance are often poor academic performers and/or are behind academically. These students also tend to be at-risk of entering the juvenile system. Thus, our Youth Attendance Navigator reduces absenteeism within Omaha Public Schools to prevent middle school and high school students from entering the juvenile justice system due to chronic absenteeism. In 2018, 93% of YAN students significantly reduced their school absences.



The program is offered to students in the following schools:

Middle Schools

- King Science & Technology Magnet School
- McMillan Magnet Center
- Monroe Middle School
- Nathan Hale Middle School

High Schools

- North High Magnet School
- Northwest High Magnet School
- Benson High Magnet School

Our YANs are listed on the right. For more information about the program including contact information, go [**HERE!**](#)

Top: From Left to Right

Zackary Bowman, YAN Coordinator, *Northwest High*

Dante Bogard, YAN, *Monroe Middle*
Donald Jones, YAN, *Benson High*

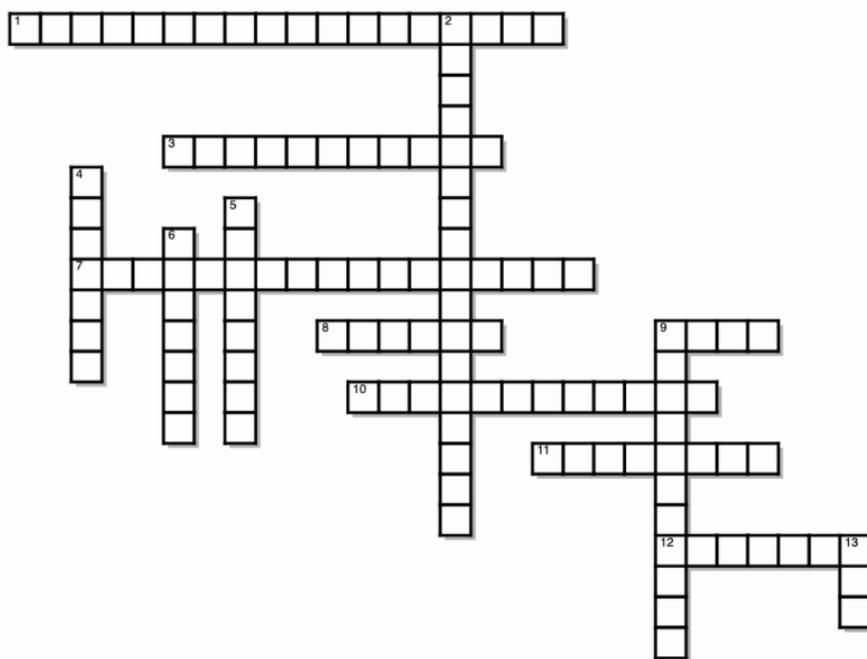
Bottom: From Left to Right

June Martinez, YAN, *McMillan Middle and North High*

Keiante Westbrook, YAN, *King Science Magnet*
Eric Williams, YAN, *Nathan Hale Middle*

Test Your Knowledge!

Think you have a better understanding of the Urban League of Nebraska's programs? Prove it by printing out and completing this crossword puzzle! The PDF version can be found [HERE!](#) Here's a sneak peak of the puzzle below!



ACROSS

- 1 | Main priority of the Community Coaches Program
- 3 | In 2018, the Community Coaches helped 245 students avoid this
- 7 | The WMY Jr. Academy helps students develop this essential skill, among others.
- 8 | The summer program that builds a student's career exploration and job training skills
- 9 | In 2018, 75% of our Afterschool programs students increased their awareness of this field
- 10 | Which one of the following is a summer program: youth attendance navigators, steam academy, and community coaches
- 11 | First name of the Afterschool Enrichment Programs Director
- 12 | First name of Community Coaches Coordinator

DOWN

- 2 | Main priority of the Youth Attendance Navigator Program
- 4 | First Name of Whitney M. Young Jr. Academy Coordinator
- 5 | The Summer Credit _____ Program helps students receive credits they failed to obtain during the regular academic year.
- 6 | First name of the Youth Attendance Navigator Coordinator
- 9 | This term refers to the tendency for students to lose about a month of learning during summer break
- 13 | The WMY Jr. Academy hosts sessions for students to prepare for this standardized test

Urban League of Nebraska Guild Hosts Men Who Cook

On July 21, 2019, the Urban League of Nebraska Guild held their annual Men Who Cook Event. The men who cooked delicious meals included staff members of the Urban League and friends of the Urban League.



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