

As participants in the County's 2015 federally funded youth workforce programs totaling a \$223,430 investment - **Stepping off to College Program, Reynoldsburg STEM Program (Career Pathways), Electrical Trades Internship Program** and **Youth Lemonade Day** - the following participants are making strides this year. Here are brief updates on their continual success!



STEPPING OFF TO COLLEGE

**Mahilet
Tarekegn**

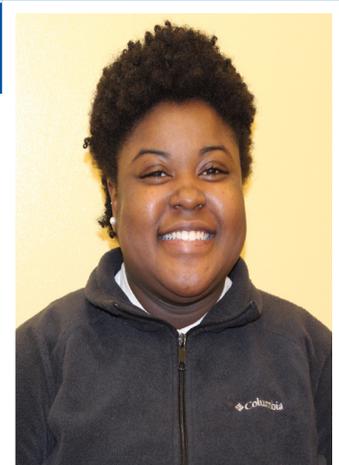
University of Cincinnati
Biochemistry - 3.5 GPA

“Being a biochemistry major is a difficult and competitive task, but the struggles have really pushed me. Genuinely competing with students that went to private schools all their lives is difficult, but having resources such as the laptop and printer is a lot of help. Having experienced [Stepping Off to College] prepared me enough to do this for me, to be the best “me” possible, and the program was a lot more rewarding in their words of wisdom/advice as well.”

STEPPING OFF TO COLLEGE

Eastern Michigan University
Sociology - 3.75 GPA

**Antinisha
Peoples**



“Stepping Off to College has helped me as a first year student in making sure I knew what to expect of my college experience. The workshops that we had gave me enough knowledge of what I needed to do to ensure [that] my college experience was great. Also, I was given the tools that I needed such as a laptop, printer, tablet and much more. This helped me so much because half of the things I was given, I didn't already have myself. I am truly thankful for this program and the success I [have] had my first year.”

STEPPING OFF TO COLLEGE

**Yoana
Gutierrez**

Columbus State Community College
Licensed Practical Nursing Program

“Stepping Off to College has definitely made a great impact on my first year. They always told us that we have one mindset going in[to] our first year and that we would soon realize that it could change, and for me, it did. I changed my major and [now] I'm doing something I love! Time management was another key point we hit on and they stressed how important it was, and it is. Making time to study and give myself breaks has made my first year less stressful. Stepping Off to College has [also] taught me that although obstacles may occur, I can still overcome them and succeed and continue to better my education.”



REYNOLDSBURG STEM

Bowling Green State University
Exercise Science

Diante
Davis-Ferguson



“I took the work (in the transition portfolio) seriously but I didn’t ‘get it.’ The college visits gave me an honest look at what college life could be, but I ‘didn’t get it.’ The applications timelines were frustrating – definitely ‘didn’t get that!’ I am glad that I had the guidance from the Reynoldsburg STEM program to open my eyes to what it really takes to be successful in college and in life in general. Their persistence helped me in the long run to ‘get it!’”

REYNOLDSBURG STEM

Odeajah
Teague

Columbus State Community College
Social and Human Services



“Although I wanted to attend college, I was not sure how to approach the task. The Reynoldsburg STEM program helped me gain confidence about going to college and encouraged me to never settle. The required work in the transition portfolio helped me understand how to get everything I needed for college.”

REYNOLDSBURG STEM

The Ohio State University
Political Science

Imnet
Arega



She was a stellar high school student that carried her hard work ethic over to college and is now successfully on track to graduate early and is participating in research. Imnet is a part of the International Affairs Scholars group, the Ethiopian & Eritrean Student Organization and the Stadium Scholarship Program. She plans to study abroad and take on either a minor or a double major before graduating and looks to go to law school to become an immigration attorney upon completing her undergraduate degree.

REYNOLDSBURG STEM

Aonesti
Williams

Miami University
Pre-med/Biology

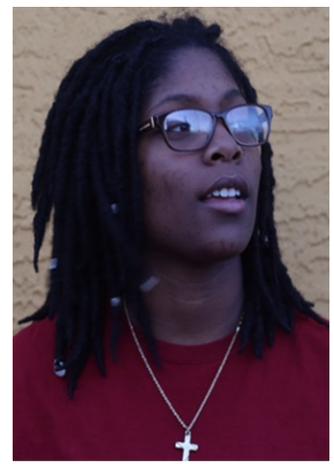
“The Reynoldsburg STEM program helped me get to where I am by giving me opportunities I wouldn’t have received otherwise. I was able to visit Miami University during a college tour and actually speak with medical doctors.”



REYNOLDSBURG STEM

Columbus State Community College
Digital Design & Graphics

**Diamoni
Davis-Ferguson**



“The Reynoldsburg STEM program placed me in an internship that was perfectly designed for me. I had the opportunity to work with an artist that is accomplishing what I was striving for. Through my internship I had the opportunity to not only learn but I got to meet some dynamic people in my field. I am attending college and I am building my portfolio with quality work because of doors my mentor led me to. The Reynoldsburg STEM program helped me become conscious of how making smart decisions each day will pave the way for a successful future.”

ELECTRICAL TRADES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**John
Harris**

The Superior Group
Apprentice Wireman



“Without the Franklin County Electrical Trades Internship Program I would still be making pizza’s trying to figure out how I am going to pay for college. Now, I am a IBEW Local Union 683 member, earning a good wage, receiving benefits, and have completed the first step of my career.”

YOUTH LEMONADE DAY!

Buckeye Middle School
8th Grade

**Khaliyah
Wallace**



Last year, Khaliyah learned what it was like to operate the micro-business “Khaliyah’s Lee’monade Stand,” and stated, “Participating in Franklin County Youth Lemonade Day allowed me to understand what it would be like to have my own business and has motivated me to become an entrepreneur.”



John O’Grady
President



Paula Brooks



Marilyn Brown