



# NEWS SOURCE

Volume 8 Issue 5

2015-2016

**Molding  
Thinkers  
Innovators  
And  
Builders  
For A  
Brighter  
Tomorrow**

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## 'STEM'ERS—GOING PLACES

### Ar'Manni Competes in Electric Vehicle Grand Prix

2015 was very special for some of our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program participants, and volunteers. They delved into activities that showcased their many talents, leadership skills, and future potentials.

**Ar'Manni Pretlow**, a long serving CAC, after-school youth volunteer, and high school junior at McKinley Tech participated in the 2015 Washington D.C. Electric Vehicle Grand Prix on May 16 at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium.

The Washington D.C.

Electric Vehicle Grand Prix is a hands-on educational program for high school students in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia that teaches students not only how to work as a team, but prepares them for careers in science or engineering. The electric vehicles are single person, light-weight and high efficiency. The cars are equipped with three batteries and three wheels.

The objective of the race is for each team to drive their electric powered vehicle for one hour as far as they can using only the energy from the batteries. The team with the

longest distance in the hour wins the D.C. EV Grand Prix.

A first year competitor, Ar'Manni and the McKinley Tech team gained 9th place with a total of 31 laps and were awarded for Best Graphic Design and Good Sportsmanship. Great job Ar'Manni! Better Luck in 2016.

Three more high school seniors, Nijah Young, Miyah Scott, and Nykko Payton also had success and great experiences in 2015.

Read their stories on page 3.



# A SUMMER OF ENGAGEMENT AND FUN

During 2015, CAC youth immersed themselves in a variety of STEM-related activities ranging from robotics to farming that kept 120 youth in our summer programs engaged and active from June to August.

◆ **STEM Activities:**

—Youth beta tested a Coding program and created virtual houses as part of the District of Columbia, District of Learning Project.

—Youth worked with scientists and junior engineers from Carnegie Mellon, Spellman, Loyola, UMD College Park, and Marshall Universities to learn basics of engineering and robotics. They competed for the best built bridges, rockets, trucks and robots.

◆ **Field Trips:**

—Youth visited Delcarlia

Water Treatment Facility and learned how water is tested, treated, stored and distributed to residents. They viewed videos, participated in lectures and toured the treatment complex under the supervision of scientists and engineers from the Army Corps of Engineers.

—The University of the District of Columbia (UDC), a community partner welcomed our students at the Muirkirk Research Farm in Beltsville, MD. Students heard about civic engagement and social entrepreneurship; sustainable and organic agricultural techniques and how to apply them to an urban setting. Youth participated in lectures about the importance of food research and gardening. They harvested vegetables and fruits and enjoyed freshly made

mint ice cream.

◆ **Money Matters:**

— Junior Money Managers from Bank On DC did a Financial Literacy and Money Management segment. They explained to youth the importance of budgeting, setting up accounts and saving for the future and spoke about credit and debit cards and the impact of credit scores on people's ability to get loans.

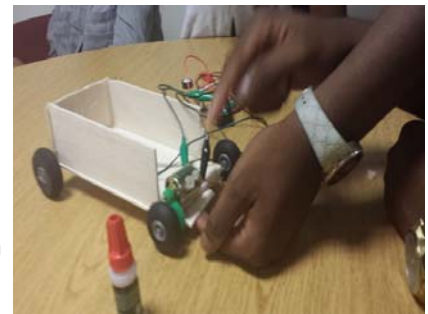
◆ **Arts and Craft:**

— Older youth fine-tuned their Culinary skills by preparing simple and healthy meals, bread and pastries and practicing proper dining etiquette.

— Others explored hair care and cosmetology from onsite experts and at local salons.



Students at Muirkirk Farm



Student testing mechanical project

**“ We are thankful for partnerships and collaborations with local schools, businesses, and community organizations.”**

**Student Performance Outcomes!**

90% - received improved test scores.

85% - enrolled in Honors Math and Reading.

96% - showed greater self-confidence.

99% - made new friends.

## YEAR ROUND ENRICHMENT

Our year round in-school and out-of-school programs are working to inspire over 200 DCPS, DCPCS and private school students in Washington DC to succeed.

Students are engaged in academic enrichment classes that include homework help and tutoring in mathematics, reading, and language arts.

Students explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM-based) activities that include art and Computer Science. Students learn coding and how to build robots, bridges, trucks and rockets.

To improve social skills students participate in dance, drama, martial arts, fencing, basketball,

spelling bee and clubs.

Our mentorship program provides opportunities for youth to work, guide, and motivate peers and participate in engaging, interactive discussions, critical decision making events, and creative activities.

**Artwork—>>**

After-school

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# 'STEM'ERS-GOING PLACES continued from page 1

## Nijah Meets First Lady, Michelle Obama

July 23, 2015 was a big day for Nijah Young, one of our summer youth participants. She is still on Cloud 9 after being selected as one of 140 college-bound students from across the country to attend first lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative "Beating the Odds Summit" at the White House.

The daylong event focused on sharing tools, strategies and resources the students will be able

to use to successfully transition to college and in the end complete their time there.

Students were able to listen to a panel moderated by E! News host Terrence Jenkins featuring the first lady, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, musician Wale, and Manuel Contreras, a senior at Brown University and founder of the Inter-Ivy, First-Generation College Student Network (1vyG).

Ms. Young reflected on the event and said, "It was a life changing experience and one which I shall never forget. This is not an every day occurrence. I aim to do well at College."

Nijah wishes to share this selfie as a reminder of the day ———>>



## Mikyah Creates Amazing Mural

Duke Ellington, High School Senior **Mikyah Scott** created an impressive Mural as part of her summer STEM experience at CAC. Mikyah has a passion for art, and has participated in numerous art competitions and exhibitions around DC. As a creative youth leader Mikyah chose to depict the many ways that our programs impact the lives of DC youth year-round. Working over a 6-week period she cre-

ated two murals focusing on STEM and Children themes. Mikyah worked tirelessly to design and paint images on two 15ft corridor walls. She had younger children participate by placing hand prints on the design. The murals are very colorful and Mikyah has received many complements for her innovative creation. Mikyah is soon heading off to North Carolina A&T State University to pursue studies

in Engineering.



Youth sits by Mural



Mikyah working on Mural

## Nykko Graduates High School

**Nykko Payton**, a High School Senior at Washington Mathematics Science Technology PCS has worked as a year-round youth assistant with CAC afterschool programs for the past 4 years. He works with younger youth 2nd thru 4th grade teaching them science and technology,

The children enjoy spending time with Nykko. During science explorations like Predators and Prey Nykko plays the role of the prey with students letting them have a fun time trying to catch him. He likes to work with the students on their bubbles, bridges, house and animation projects.

In 2014 Nykko developed an App to assist program administrators during emergencies.

On June 4, 2015 Nykko graduated High School and is heading off to College in Maryland hoping to pursue Music and Drama.

Nykko ———>>





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Children & Charity International (CAC) is a USA registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. **CFC #11144**

## 2016 MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO HAITI JUNE 16 TO JUNE 24, 2016

Join CAC as we team up with the United Methodist Church to host a medical mission team of doctors, dentists, general practitioners and lay people to travel to Haiti in support of Miracia Hospital in Merger, Haiti. The cost is only \$700 per person. If you have time and talent we can use you. Seeking doctors, dentists, teachers, gardeners, construction workers, painters, electricians, high school and college students. French and Creole speakers welcomed.

**Get details and sign up. Spots are filling up.**

Contacts:

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(2) Pastor David Graves: [davidgraves1982@gmail.com](mailto:davidgraves1982@gmail.com)

## DONATIONS AND SUPPORT



Thank you everyone for your donations and continued support that make our many programs and activities possible.

**Volunteer in any of our US or International programs to:**

- Lend your professional skills and expertise as lecturers/trainers.
- Conduct Youth Leadership Workshops and Training.
- Teach English as Second Language
- Work in the hospital (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, etc.).
- Lead/go on short-term missions to Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda.

**All size Donations are welcomed!**



**Several Ways to Donate:**

- Visit our website and make a donation online.
- Donate through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to **CFC #11144**
- Send us a check by mail.