



LOCAL PROGRAM PREPARES AREA YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER

What began in 1989 as a youth volunteer program with two students in the Museum of Natural History & Science at the Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) has blossomed into a youth development initiative.

CMC's Youth Programs, designed to prepare participants for success in high school, college and beyond, enhances the creativity, confidence and success of its members. With a focus to enhance the creativity, confidence and success of its members, over 1,500 participants from across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky have benefitted in personal development and community engagement while contributing over 200,000 hours to the Museum Center since the inception of Youth Programs.

In the 2014-2015 year, Youth Programs provided valuable mentorship and the unique opportunity to work in all facets of a museum to over 110 youth. At the program's annual Awards and Recognition Banquet, Youth Programs celebrated 22 graduating seniors – of which seven have been members of Youth Programs for four years and eight have been in the program for five years, starting even before high school - and welcomed 63 new youth.

"It's bittersweet to say goodbye to these graduating seniors who have done so much for Cincinnati Museum



Center and have had such an impact on the community," said Calvin Harper, Director of Youth Programs at Cincinnati Museum Center. "... I'm excited to see them continue toward success that will enrich those around them."

Academic success is a cornerstone of the program, with 100 percent of participants graduating from high school. Empowered through workshops, college visits, volunteerism and skill development to seek higher education, which is uncharted territory for many in the program who are first generation college students, 99 percent of participants go on to enroll in a 4-year college, with 80

percent receiving scholarships or financial aid.

"The Youth Programs is such a wonderful and unique program that offers area high school students an opportunity to work alongside museum professional while also engaging the community," said Elizabeth Pierce, President & CEO of Cincinnati Museum Center. "Their dedication and the results of the program are truly inspiring and have had a tremendous impact on their futures, which shine brighter than ever."

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