



# **NEXT STEP SPRING 2018 COLLEGE PREPARATORY END OF PROGRAM REPORT**

*"Education is for improving the lives of others and  
for leaving your community and world better than  
you found it."*

- Marian Wright Edelman

## NEXT STEP EDUCATION

Next Step Education is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing innovative and practical services that will assist students with college acceptance.

As a recipient of The United Way of Greater Atlanta's Local County Pool Grant, Next Step Education was expected to make an impact in the Clayton County community.

This spring, we offered a multi-faceted program in which we conducted several college readiness activities for students in Clayton County.

This End of Program Report is designed to inform the United Way and other stakeholders about the activities the Next Step Education team conducted this semester.



"We are excited to provide these students with access and information that will assist them through their college preparatory journey."

## OUR COMMITMENT

Next Step Education is committed to filling in the gaps and standing as a consistent resource to families in Clayton County. I, and many of our board members, graduated from Clayton County Public Schools. Because of this, we are uniquely invested in the success of the students we serve in the county.

Throughout our activities this spring semester, we were amazed at the talented youth that call this county home. We are excited to provide these students with the access and information

that will assist them through their college preparatory journey.

This year, I am most proud of the fact that we were able to provide our first scholarship to a deserving Clayton County senior.

We look forward to a continued relationship with our partnering organizations, which allows us to make a lasting impact on local families.

Please take a look at what the Next Step Education team was able to accomplish this spring.

- Brannon Jones  
Executive Director



*"I must say, Atua, from the Georgia Student Finance Commission, was very knowledgeable and took her time explaining important concepts to the foster care professionals who attended. We're already planning a time to host a workshop this fall when the FAFSA application opens."*

- Dhakiyya Lewis  
Program Manager



On January 19, the Next Step Education team partnered with the Georgia Student Finance Commission to host a Foster Care Financial Aid Train the Trainer. The workshop was designed to educate foster care professionals in how to assist their students with tools to fund a college education.



# Annual Black College Expo



On February 2, the Next Step Education team took two bus loads of students to the Annual Black College Expo at the Cobb Galleria Center. This particular fair highlights Historically Black Colleges & Universities and exposes them to the experience they can receive at these vital institutions of higher education.

We had a lot of fun witnessing the students explore the fair. Multiple students were accepted into colleges on the spot, and a few received scholarships as well.

Pictured to the left is Teanna Neville. She is graduating senior at Forest Park High School. Teanna was accepted into Norfolk State University at the Black College Expo, and plans to attend in the fall. Below, is a letter she wrote to the Next Step team:



*"The Black College Expo is a great event for us to transport students to. While traveling to the fair, we conducted a workshop on "How To Make This College Fair Effective" so that they would be prepared to navigate the event. Several students were accepted and/or received scholarships on the spot. It was a success and we plan to attend each year."*

*- Andrea Powers  
Board Chairman*



We would like to thank the leadership from the Queens Mentoring Group at Charles Drew High School, and the Clayton County Communities in Schools team for allowing us to expose their students to this great experience. There is an intrinsic value that we receive when we see the students get accepted into some of their top college choices.

## SPRING 2018 COLLEGE READINESS BOOT CAMP

*"I was very excited to see just how much fun the students and parents had at the Spring 2018 College Readiness Boot Camp."*

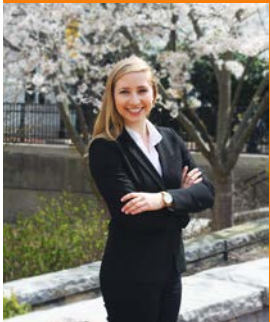
- Danielle Kreger  
Emory University  
Spring 2018 Intern



On March 3, the Next Step Education team partnered with ACCEPT Atlanta, Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory, and Clayton County Parks & Recreation to host our Spring Spring 2018 College Readiness Boot Camp.

Instead of conducting college preparatory workshops on multiple weekends throughout the semester, we decided to host a day of mini workshops for students and parents to gather important information that will assist them through their journey.

Workshops included College-Bound, Financial Aid & Funding, Scholarships 101, SAT vs. ACT, NCAA Compliance, S.T.E.M. 101, and the important Social Media 101. Of course, we had a lot of fun in the process.



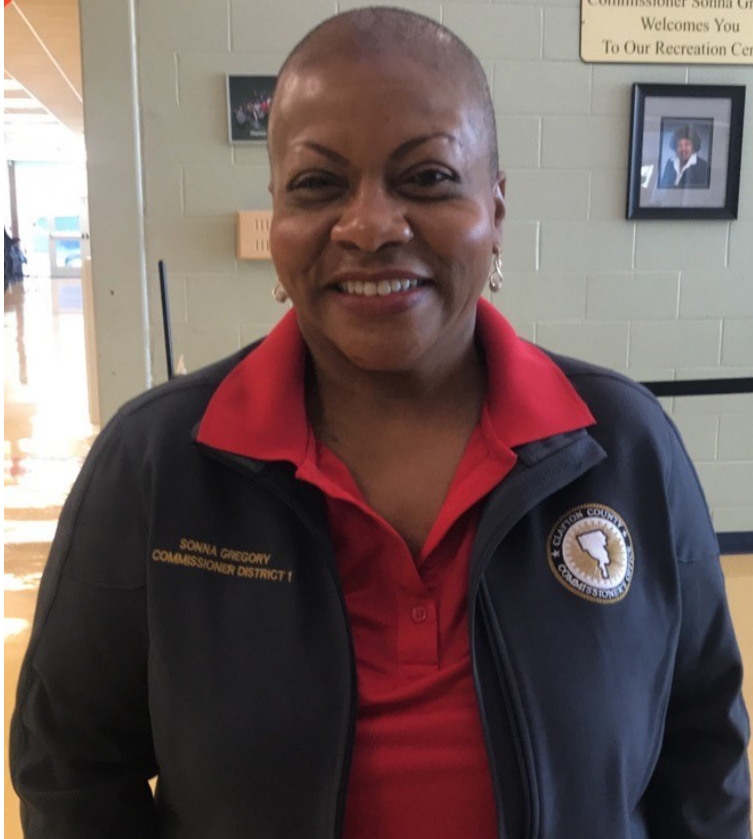
# Interns Having Fun At The Boot Camp





# College Ready!

## Next Step Education



# Thank You!!!

The Next Step team would like to thank Commissioner Sonna Singleton-Gregory for her support of the Next Step Education Spring 2018 College Readiness Boot Camp. We are excited to assist students in her district, as well all around Clayton County.



# Annual NACAC College Fair



On March 25, the Next Step team took a group of students to the Annual NACAC College Fair at the Georgia International Convention Center. The NACAC Fair is the largest national fair in the country. It travels to different cities throughout the year. Students were able to directly connect with over 200 colleges.

Pictured to the left, is TEO sorority member, Jameela Ferguson, reviewing the fair map with Riverdale High School junior, J'Amiah Ellis.

*"During the NACAC College Fair event, I had the opportunity to speak to many different colleges from around the world, which expanded my choices. I'm glad I had this experience and would love to come back."*

*- J'Amiah Ellis*

"As the largest fair, it was a great experience taking students to the NACAC Fair. Along with our interns, and the TEO Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we had a wonderful time. Our students were able to be guided in small groups around the fair with over 200 colleges. This will be a staple activity each spring for the Next Step team."

- Meyuna Shepherd  
Student & Community Liaison



We would like to thank the ladies of the Tau Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for volunteering their time and talents to guide students through the NACAC College Fair. We look forward to a continued partnership with the sorority.





## AUC TOUR

On April 6, the Next Step team transported students to tour Georgia State University and Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College in the Atlanta University Center.

The students gained an understanding of the differences between predominately white institutions and Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

With their new found understanding, some of the students began to engage the Next Step team members and local

college students in conversations about their college experience.

We are excited to expose students to several options for attaining a higher education.

*"I think this was a true eye-opening experience for many of the high school students who traveled with us."*

- Paul Larkin  
Board Treasurer

# College Tours







Mt. Zion High School's, Nevaeh Powell, aspires to be an OBGYN. In her college search, she is looking for a place she can feel accepted because "When people feel accepted, there is positive energy that allows them to learn more about themselves."





## TEST PREP MATERIALS DONATIONS

This spring, the Next Step Education team donated test preparation materials to several Clayton County organizations. This semester, we were happy to make donations to Hearts to Nourish Hope, The Rainbow House, and The Clayton County Department of Family and Children's Services.

We look forward to continuing to partner with local organizations in the county that are assisting students with post-secondary opportunities.





## OUR FIRST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We are very happy to award our first \$1,000 Next Step Education Clayton County Scholarship to graduating North Clayton senior, Jaylen Alicea. Jaylen is an impressive young man who will attend Fort Valley State University this fall.

We look forward to hearing about the success this young man is surely to have in his collegiate career.

*As a Spring 2018 HBCU graduate, I am ecstatic that I can be a part of giving this scholarship to a deserving student. Jaylen, I wish you luck in college."*



- Kaelyn Buggs  
Spelman College  
Spring 2018 Intern



Pictured above, Brannon Jones (Next Step Executive Director), Mrs. Jessie Goree (CCPS Board of Education Members), Dr. Eldrick Horton (North Clayton Principal), and Paul Larkin (Next Step Board Member).

# Spring 2018 Budget

## Program & Activity Expenses

Program Printing & Materials.....	\$1,298.52
Event Bus Transportation.....	\$2,759.25
Event Food & Snacks.....	\$1,988.26
Clayton County Scholarship.....	\$1,000.00
Boot Camp Videography.....	\$200.00
Student Incentives.....	\$180.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$7,426.03</b>



# LIVE UNITED



## United Way of Greater Atlanta

# Thank You!

### **SPRING 2018 PROGRAM PARTNERS**

- ACCEPT Atlanta
- City of Riverdale
- Clayton County Dept. of Children's & Family Services
- Clayton County Parks & Recreation
- Clayton County Public Schools
- Clayton State University
- Collegeboard
- College Prep U
- The Collegiate 100 of Atlanta
- Commissioner Sonnnna Singleton Gregory
- Communities in Schools
- Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Hearts to Nourish Hope
- Queens Mentoring Group
- TEO Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
- The Atlanta S.T.E.M. Foundation
- The Princeton Review
- The Rainbow House
- The United Way of Greater Atlanta

# Coming Fall 2018

*Next Step Education's  
5th Annual*

## COLLEGE, CAREER, & SERVICES FAIR

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 18, 2018**

**Riverdale Town Center  
7210 Church St. Riverdale, GA  
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

- College acceptances & scholarships on the spot
- Bring copies of your transcript and test scores
- Receive financial aid & funding resources
- Get information from local service providers

For more information:  
[www.nextstepeducation.org](http://www.nextstepeducation.org)  
404-666-1323



Next Step Education will host our 5th Annual College, Career & Services Fair on Saturday August 18th at the Riverdale Centre.

We are proud that over the last two years, we have had 75 "On The Spot" acceptances and \$2.3 million in scholarship offers.

We look forward to another successful event this fall!





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