

# UNITED WE CAN

## SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER



As the Summer of 2019 comes to a close, we here at [United We Can](#) want to share with you all the fun and exciting things that went on during our summer academy! This year 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade students from **Edison Preparatory, East Central Junior high, Monroe, Nathan Hale Junior High, Tulsa Honor Academy, Will Rogers High School,** and other local schools joined us for an enriching and impactful summer; one filled with new friendships and lasting experiences - all while combating the typical [Summer Learning Loss](#).

### Continued Learning

This year's students divided their time with us, spending one half of their day participating in engaging activities that promote prosocial bonding with likeminded peers and the other refining their Math, English and Science skills. Classes were led by Tulsa Public School teachers, some of which teach at the same schools our students attend. Students grew tremendously throughout the summer months. By the end, many students had more confidence in these core subjects and felt more prepared for the upcoming school year.



*“I make new friends and know more about my community every year!” - Valeria 8<sup>th</sup>*



## An Academic Future

The goal of United We Can is to increase the number of Latino and African American students that attend and graduate a higher education institution. For the past few years Tulsa Tech has engaged our students and presented them with an array of opportunities that await them upon graduation. These workshops bring hope to students and assure them that college is an option.

## A College Life

Our most anticipated events of the summer, the college experience, took our students on a three-day journey to [Langston University](#) and [Oklahoma State University-Stillwater](#).

This trip provided the students an authentic look at the college life. During these days, students participated in different college sessions led by university professors, experienced the dorm life and took advantage of the no limit rule on food.

## Community Partners

One of our goals for the summer was to expose students to numerous experiences and career opportunities that are within their community. This summer United We Can was able to partner with the [Tulsa Sheriff's Department](#) to provide students hands- on experience and showed them the many career opportunities within the department.

For a second year [AAON](#) hosted our students, giving them a tour around their facilities and providing information on the numerous ways that they could be a part of their team in the future. We can't wait to return next year and play in their snow machine.

We are grateful for our partners Safari Joes H2O, Tulsa Drillers, Tulsa Zoo, Camp Fire and the Gathering Place for providing a fun-filled and safe environment where our students were able to create everlasting memories with their friends and family that they will talk about for years to come.

A special shout out goes out to Mimi Martinez and [Tulsa Tech](#) for providing us the space to host our classes and providing us a home base for the summer. On behalf of our staff, our students and our families we thank you.



*“I loved learning about the criminal justice dept at Tulsa Tech! It gave me hope that I can achieve my dream of becoming a police officer!”*

*-Grettell, 9<sup>th</sup> grade*

Day 1 took us first to Langston University where we toured the campus and had the chance to visit their renowned goat research center. Students had the opportunity to learn about the work they do there, milk a goat, and taste some delicious goat cheese, ice cream and jerky!

The second and third day of the experience took us to the OSU campus, where students attended courses offered by the departments of Agriculture, Theatre, Media, Geography, Biology, Business, and the list goes on. Of course, the parents couldn't miss out on the fun. Joining us on the second day of the trip, parents experienced a guided tour of the campus and attended a financial aid session where they learned about the various resources, scholarships, and programs available to their students at OSU. Many parents returned excited and confident that their child would attend college in the near future.

Setting a plan and being prepared for the future is what United We Can wants for our families. With student loan debt reaching astronomical levels, we wanted the students to increase their financial awareness and learn valuable skills like saving and budgeting. During **Reality Check**, students were given a predetermined life (single/married, education level, job/career etc.) whereby they had to handle a budget and make decisions that kept them financially secure. Students had to decide what car to buy, house vs rent, how much to spend on groceries etc. The learning that happened during this session was evident to everyone present. Exercises like this and the **Culture, Diversity and Inclusion**

*“United We Can was a great benefit for our three sons. They learned and experienced many new things that they never had before. They will be, without a doubt, a part of this program as long as they can.”*

*-Sanchez Family*



*“It is an honor to work with these students every year and see the fruit of our labor reflected in their improvement as a student and with other relationships in their lives. Being able to serve my community is priceless.”*

*-David, Success Coach*



**Experience** prepare our students for the challenges that lay ahead.

Of course, we have to give a big **THANK YOU** to the more than 30 volunteers from the **Oklahoma Cooperative Extension** who invested their time into the lives of these youth.

Throughout the summer, our students, families, volunteers, and staff worked together to build a foundation for a successful future for our Hispanic and African American students in the Tulsa area. We are thankful for all of our community partners that invested in our vision to equip our Latin American and African American youth with the tools and resources to have the opportunity to accomplish their academic and social goals. Our goal for the next summer is to grow our summer academy participants and work alongside more community partners to aid in the success of our future generations! Let us know if you want to be a part of this exciting and meaningful work. We would love to have you!



## Contact Us:

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