

HARVEST TIME



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EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN AT WOMANISH

CELEBRATING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND FOSTERING CONNECTIONS.

Our young women recently embarked on an inspiring field trip to the Womanish exhibit, a vibrant celebration of Womxn's perspectives. This immersive experience is more than just an art exhibit; it serves as a culturally inclusive space that challenges stereotypes and encourages deep conversations about identity and empowerment.

As they stepped into this dreamland, students were captivated by contemporary art installations and interactive adventures designed to provoke imagination and inspire change. The exhibit not only provided Instagram-worthy moments but also facilitated meaningful discussions about embracing individuality and breaking free from societal constraints.



During their visit, our students had the unique opportunity to engage with the founders and curators of Womanish, gaining insights into the vision behind the movement. They explored the entire facility, absorbing the messages woven into the art. Afterward, the group gathered for a debrief over lunch, reflecting on their experiences and sharing their thoughts about the exhibit's powerful impact. This field trip not only broadened their perspectives but also allowed them to feel a sense of belonging within the inspirational Womanish community. Our students left feeling empowered and ready to embrace their unique identities!

“HER NAME IS JHENE” SHINES BRIGHT

TALITHA'S TALENT GRACES THE MUSEUM WALL



We are incredibly proud of Talitha Allen, whose painting “Her Name is Jhene” was featured in the prestigious Juried Art Exhibition at the Museum of Science and Industry. During our recent field trip, we had the honor of seeing her work displayed among the nation's premier exhibition of African American art. For 50 years, the Griffin Museum has celebrated Black creativity, showcasing more than 100 works from professional and emerging Black artists across the U.S. Talitha's inclusion in this esteemed exhibition is a testament to her talent and hard work.

EXPLORING COLLEGE LIFE AT EIU

STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT FROM ALUMNI HOSTS..



Our students recently visited Eastern Illinois University, where they had the privilege of being guided by two of our Upward Bound alumni. The campus tour was not just about the facilities; it included a candid student panel that discussed the realities of college life. Topics like food, relationships, and roommate dynamics were openly shared, providing valuable insights for our students. We are incredibly grateful for this unique experience, which helped prepare them for their future academic journeys!



EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN MICHIGAN

STUDENTS CONNECT WITH COLLEGES AND CHAMPIONS.

Our recent field trip to Michigan was an eye-opening experience as we visited several colleges, including Grand Valley State University. One of the highlights was meeting B. Donta Truss, the Vice President for Enrollment Development and Educational Outreach at Grand Valley. He warmly welcomed our students and provided invaluable information about the scholarships and opportunities available at the university. Grand Valley is renowned not only for its academic programs but also for its vibrant campus culture. Unlike many lower-division college football programs, Grand Valley boasts a fantastic stadium with a dedicated following, averaging around 12,000 fans per game at Lubbers Stadium. The energetic tailgating scene and the winning

tradition—Grand Valley holds the title for the winningest team in Division II football history—add to the excitement of campus life. Additionally, our students connected with the TRIO Student Support Services program, which offers crucial resources for academic success and personal development. The staff shared how they support students through tutoring, mentoring, and workshops, fostering a strong community.

Overall, this field trip provided our students with a unique glimpse into college life and the many opportunities that await them, leaving them inspired and excited about their future educational journeys. We can't wait to see where their paths lead!

GRIDIRON GOALS: OLIVET EXPERIENCE

STUDENT-ATHLETES DIVE INTO COLLEGIATE LIFE.



Our football team recently visited Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL, as part of our summer enrichment program. Students attended a tutoring session and a study skills workshop to qualify for this valuable trip. During their visit, they had the opportunity to speak with the head coach and current players, gaining insights into what it means to be a student-athlete at the collegiate level. They toured the impressive facilities and learned about the support services available to help them succeed both academically and athletically.

GAME ON: CODING ADVENTURES AWAIT

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF PROGRAMMING!



"The best way to predict the future is to create it." This mantra resonated with our middle school students during their recent visit to Code Ninjas. Here, they immersed themselves in the exciting world of coding, learning essential skills like creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking in a fun and safe environment. The students created items for Minecraft, enhancing their coding abilities while enjoying hands-on experiences. This engaging trip left our students inspired and eager to learn more about programming!

YOUR WORDS HAVE POWER

STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR VOICE AT THE WRITERS MUSEUM.

On a recent field trip to the American Writers Museum, our students explored the power of words and learned how their voices can inspire real change. As the only museum dedicated to American writers, AWM celebrates the rich and diverse influence of writing on American history, identity, and culture. The museum showcases works spanning over five centuries, from poetry and fiction to speeches and journalism, offering students a unique opportunity to connect with the literary giants who have shaped our nation.

After touring the museum and completing engaging worksheets on various exhibits, students participated in a dynamic poetry workshop led by Chicago's renowned spoken word artist, K Love. The workshop challenged them to step out of their comfort zones, reflect on their personal experiences, and express themselves in new and creative ways through poetry. This trip was more than just an educational experience—it was a journey of self-discovery. By learning the power of storytelling, our students left feeling empowered, inspired, and ready to use their voices to make a difference.

EXPLORING COLLEGE LIFE ON THE ROAD

STUDENTS VISIT MULTIPLE UNIVERSITIES ON THEIR WAY TO SIUE.

Our recent field trip to St. Louis was an incredible journey of exploration and learning, filled with unforgettable stops at several universities along the way. On our way to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for their open house, we made visits to schools like the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Springfield, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

At Urbana-Champaign, we were greeted by some of our alumni, who joined us for lunch and shared their personal college experiences. Hearing from former students about life on campus gave our students a deeper understanding of what to expect in their future college journeys.

We spent the night in St. Louis, where students participated in fun activities and games, building stronger bonds and creating memories that will last a lifetime. The trip was not only informative, but also full of laughter and camaraderie, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

