

HARVEST TIME



3 SEEDS NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 14 [S E P T - D E C] 3SEEDS.ORG

YOUR NETWORK DETERMINES YOUR NET WORTH!

We are expanding our network! Our Upward Bound students got the opportunity to meet a variety of different professionals to help gauge their career trajectory. They were able to meet professionals who work in fields anywhere from nursing, health care management, mental health, engineering, transportation management, Police officers, and Entrepreneurs forging meaningful connections and an opportunity of a lifetime. This event was held for all of our students who wanted to explore their career possibilities before making a decision and committing to a college or university that offers that major. Our Upward bound students brought their interesting questions to ask the career professionals. We created a speed chat activity where students asked questions to each professional for about 7 minutes and rotated to the next professional. The students were so engaged and left feeling inspired and motivated to take the next step in their academic journey.



GROUP PHOTO WITH OUR PROFESSIONALS AND OUR UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS!

OUR EARLY GRADUATE WINS BIG!

OUR 2023 EARLY GRADUATE, ANAYIA SKILLOM AT HER GRADUATION CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 15, 2023!



Anayia Skillom is an early graduate of the class of 2024. She wrote a paper about why she thought she deserved to win an HP ProBook Laptop. In short, Anayia's paper talked about how she was inspired to be an Obstetrician and Gynecologist because of the experiences her mom had while having her siblings. She talked about how beneficial the laptop would be away at school and how convenient it would be should she need to use it on the go. Congratulations to you again Anayia and we wish you well in the future!

TOUCHDOWNS AND TRIUMPHS

MANEUVERING THROUGHOUT THE ULTIMATE FIFTH QUARTER EXPERIENCE



This year we partnered with the Hillcrest Football Team to take them on a college trip to meet several different representatives from the Quincy University football program. The team toured the football program facilities, learned about the requirements to be enrolled as a student at Quincy University, and spoke with current/former student athletes about their experience. In addition throughout the summer, we took the team on two field trips to the Chicago Sports Museum & a Chicago Bears Football game.



ROADMAPS TO SUCCESS: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF COLLEGES TO DISCOVER THEIR DESTINY

You may ask, what is the benefit of attending a college fair? College fairs play a crucial role in connecting aspiring students with facilitating informed decision-making and fostering a supportive community around the pursuit of higher education. This past fall we took our participants on 3 college fair field trips (Windy City Classic & NACAC Fair, & 100 Black Men College Fair). Students were able to network with schools across the country such as: public, private, community, HBCU & PWIs. Although each college fair had the same consensus or goal, each one provided a unique experience to our students. For example: the Windy City Classic comal. As the students debated the case passionate-

ly, differing opinions bined their college fair with the ability for the students to attend a college football game. The NACAC Fair that was held at the McCormick Place. This college fair was so large our attendees were encouraged to visit the booth of their top 3-5 schools. If time was allotted, the students could visit other schools that interested them and network with the representatives of the different booths. The 100 BMC college fair at the UIC forum offered seminar workshops with speakers to discuss financial aid, scholarships, academia curricula, etc..

THE 2023 SPELLING BEE CHAMP

OUR FIRST PLACE WINNER AT THE SHOE STORE AFTER THE EVENT



On December 12, 2023, our intense spelling competition brings together our students who watch to showcase their spelling proficiencies in an exciting event. Our Bees for Jays winner not only earns a brand-new pair of shoes but also a life-changing scholarship, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and sponsors. This year's spelling bee champion is Deion Boyce! Congratulations Deion, we are so very proud of you.

TRIVIA SHOWDOWN

SOUTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE EXCITED AND ENGAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN CROWDPURR TRIVIA DURING THEIR LUNCH



3 Seeds hosted a virtual academic bowl for the middle schoolers. At every grade level's lunch, the students were welcomed by the 3 Seeds Team. The students were given instructions on how to participate with their grade level trivia. At the end of each grade level trivia, we acknowledged the top 10 winners. The top 10 players were entered into a raffle and the top 3 winners of the raffle will win a prize.



GAME NIGHT FINALIST!

BUILDING BONDS, LEARNING, AND GROWING THROUGH GAME NIGHT.

Each month, 3 Seeds Mentoring Group hosts Game Night, a fun and educational event that brings our students together for academic trivia, team-building activities, and engaging games. These nights encourage students to step outside their comfort zones, fostering bonds with their peers while learning about college, careers, and pop culture. Our goal is to create a supportive and dynamic environment where students not only have fun but also grow in confidence and leadership. This month's Game Night was a huge success, with students eagerly participating and leading by example. We're incredibly proud of our finalists and winners, who demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the evening. At 3 Seeds, we believe in exposing our students to experiences that inspire them to pursue academic goals beyond a high school diploma. These game nights do more than build camaraderie—they equip our students with the skills and motivation needed for success. We love seeing them thrive, and we look forward to watching them continue to grow and lead!

BEARS PARTNERSHIP ENTERS ITS 2ND YEAR

EMPOWERING STUDENT-ATHLETES TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, AND LIFE.

This summer, 3 Seeds Mentoring Group partnered with the Chicago Bears to offer our students a unique opportunity that combines education and football. As part of this collaboration, our student-athletes completed a tutoring bootcamp, followed by an academic assessment. To keep their grades on track throughout the semester, they also received access to virtual tutoring. The reward? Tickets donated by the Bears to attend a home game, an incentive that inspires them to excel both on the field and in the classroom. This year, our students were thrilled to watch the Bears and their new quarterback, Justin Fields, take on the Buffalo Bills. This experience isn't just about football; it's about helping our students realize that they can succeed in every area of life. They see firsthand the importance of balancing academics with athletics and are motivated to reach beyond a high school diploma. At 3 Seeds, we're dedicated to providing experiences that foster growth, resilience, and ambition. We're incredibly proud of our students, and we can't wait to see where their journey takes them next!



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EXPLORING CAMPUSES, FORGING LASTING BONDS

This year's spring break tour was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students. Together, they traveled to Kentucky State, Alabama A&M, Wilberforce University, Central State University, Fisk University, and Vanderbilt University, each stop offering its own unique charm and lessons. Long hours on the bus brought students closer to one another and to alumni from 3Seeds, fostering deep connections and shared memories. Students embraced the occasion by dressing in their finest for a formal dinner, savoring local dishes, and showcasing their talents during our annual talent show. Staying in cozy cabin lodges added an extra layer of adventure, creating a home-away-from-home atmosphere. Most importantly, this trip provided our 2024 seniors with a beautiful send-off, filled with laughter, learning, and the promise of future possibilities. The bonds formed, the schools visited, and the experiences shared will remain with them for years to come, as they carry these memories into the next chapter of their lives.



CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP, GROWTH, AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES ON OUR JOURNEY!

AUTO SHOW ADVENTURE

"STUDENTS EXPLORE THE AUTO INDUSTRY, BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH HANDS-ON INTERVIEWS AND CHALLENGES."



Our trip to the auto show at McCormick Place was an exciting and meaningful experience for the students. Stepping out of their comfort zones, they interviewed industry speakers and learned about the featured cars in a hands-on way. The challenge boosted their confidence and deepened their understanding of the automotive world. To top it off, one student earned bragging rights and a gift card as the winner. It was a fun and inspiring day for everyone involved!

INSPIRING FUTURE INNOVATORS

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INNOVATION IN STEM EDUCATION



Our students eagerly participated in ComEd's annual STEM event during Black History Month, marking our third year of involvement. This experience allowed them to engage with professionals from various STEM fields, offering hands-on learning opportunities and valuable insights into diverse career paths. The event fostered positive connections and encouraged students to further explore their passion for science, technology, engineering, and math. We are grateful for ComEd's continued support in empowering the next generation.



CELEBRATING SENIORS: HONORING DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS

The Senior & Alumni Banquet was truly a night to cherish and remember. It was an evening dedicated to celebrating our graduating seniors as they prepared for their next exciting chapters. We are profoundly grateful to our generous sponsors and community members, whose support made this event exceptionally special. Every single item awarded was donated, which not only enhanced the experience but also highlighted the deep-rooted community spirit that surrounds our students. This year's event was particularly meaningful as we took the opportunity to honor not only our graduating seniors but also alumni who have completed their college journeys after being part of our program. Their achievements serve as a powerful testament to the

lasting impact of our community's support and the transformative power of education. We were also delighted to recognize one of our major donors, along with our dedicated board members and 3 Seeds staff. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in shaping and supporting the dreams of our students. The banquet was filled with warmth, laughter, and genuine excitement, creating a backdrop of cherished memories for everyone present. As we bid farewell to our seniors and celebrate their accomplishments, we also celebrate the incredible community that made this event possible. Here's to new beginnings, fulfilling dreams, and the collective spirit that drives us all forward on this remarkable journey together!

EXPLORING COLLEGE DREAMS EARLY

EXPERIENCING COLLEGE, ENVISIONING BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD.



Our middle school students had an opportunity to visit the University of Illinois at Chicago. This trip was designed to inspire and motivate our young learners by giving them a glimpse of college life and the boundless opportunities that higher education can offer. Our students explored campus and visited key landmarks, including the student resource center and a lecture hall. This firsthand experience gave them a feel of the vibrant college environment.

BREAKING ROBOTICS BOUNDARIES

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH INNOVATION AND TEAMWORK



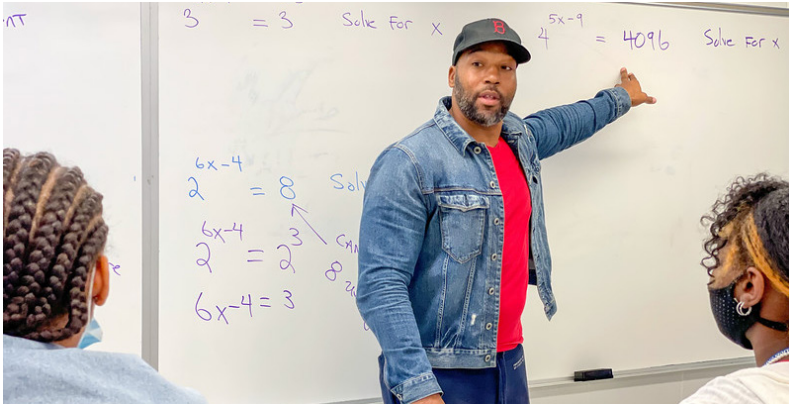
Our students recently participated in their first Southworks Engineering and Robotics Olympics, competing alongside 15 other high schools at South Suburban College. They built a catapult, successfully coded a Sphero robot, and demonstrated an incredible willingness to step outside their comfort zone. Though they didn't place this year, their perseverance, positive attitude, and courage to try something new were inspiring. For many, it was their first experience in engineering, and we couldn't be prouder of their growth!



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH GUIDANCE, TUTORING, AND COMMUNITY.

During our spring semester, we embraced a new format for the second year, creating dedicated spaces for students from our 3 Seeds Universities. This time was chosen intentionally, as our students are often busy with weekly activities, making it the perfect opportunity to focus on college preparation. In this supportive environment, students received personalized math and reading tutoring to enhance their core skills. Our graduating seniors took advantage of this time to finalize their college applications and scholarships, ensuring they felt ready for the next chapter in their educational journeys. More than just academic support, this experience cultivated a sense of family among the students, as they encouraged and uplifted each other in their pursuit of higher education and trade schools. This transformative period was a significant milestone, highlighting not only their hard work but also the bonds they formed. Together, they navigated the challenges of enrollment and explored potential majors, all while receiving the additional support they needed to succeed. It was truly a celebration of growth and community!



EMPOWERING SENIORS, ONE DONATION AT A TIME

STUDENTS RECEIVE MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT FROM SPONSORS AND DONORS FOR THE 3RD YEAR IN A ROW

For the third consecutive year, we have witnessed the incredible generosity of our community coming together to support our hardworking seniors as they transition to college. Thanks to our amazing sponsors and donors, our students were able to receive essential dorm room supplies from their Amazon wish lists, helping to ease the financial burden of moving into their new homes away from home. This year, we were especially blessed by the support of Ada S. McKinley, whose generous contributions have played a crucial role in ensuring our students have what they need to begin their next chapter. Our seniors even created a commercial and landing page to thank donors and showcase their hard work—a true testament to their dedication. With community partners like Ada S. McKinley, we are able to make college more accessible for our students, showing them that their community believes in their potential. We are so grateful to all who participated and donated. Thank you for making a difference!



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GOOGLE CHICAGO INSPIRES FUTURE TECH LEADERS

UPWARD BOUND TAKES ON CHICAGO'S TECH HUB.

Our Upward Bound students had an incredible opportunity this summer to explore Google's Chicago campus, immersing themselves in the dynamic world of technology and innovation. From the moment they stepped into the vibrant workspace, students were captivated by the company's forward-thinking culture. They toured Google's state-of-the-art offices, designed to foster creativity and collaboration, and experienced firsthand the innovative atmosphere that fuels one of the world's leading tech companies. A highlight of the visit was the chance to engage in meaningful discussions with Google professionals. These conversations gave students valuable insights into the wide range of career paths within tech, from software development to marketing, and how skills like problem-solving and adaptability are key in this fast-paced industry.



A special thank you goes to Damian Graham and his team for making this visit possible. Our students not only learned about career opportunities but also Google's commitment to sustainability and innovation. One exciting takeaway: Google's AI-driven cloud solutions are helping businesses worldwide improve efficiency, boost security, and stay ahead of technological trends. This experience truly opened our students' eyes to the diverse and growing opportunities in the tech industry, inspiring them to dream bigger and consider new possibilities for their future careers.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT UNITED CENTER

EXPLORING CAREER PATHS IN ENTERTAINMENT.



Students had an inspiring visit to the United Center, where Derrick L. Christian II, Director of Marketing & Brand Innovation, shared insights on curating unique gifts for entertainers. He emphasized the importance of thoughtfulness, creativity, and understanding personal interests to make a lasting impact. Christian also highlighted the endless opportunities in the entertainment industry and encouraged students to explore various careers, from marketing to event management. The United Center hosts everything from Bulls and Blackhawks games to major concerts, offering exciting possibilities for future professionals.

HONORING PARENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY A SURPRISE GIFT, AND A GRATEFUL HEART



During the Nicor Gas charity event, a 65-inch TV was generously donated to 3 Seeds Mentoring Group. We chose to gift it to one of our most involved parents on the football team, whose son is enrolled in our mentoring program. She joined us on our podcast, sharing her heartfelt journey as a dedicated sports mom and expressing deep gratitude for the support we've provided over the years. The surprise gift of the TV was an emotional and unforgettable moment for her. Check out the full episode on YouTube to witness this special experience!



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL CAREERS

LEARNING INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

An incredible opportunity unfolded as Upward Bound students visited Malcolm X College, where they explored a variety of exciting career paths in the medical field. From the moment we arrived, we were immersed in a state-of-the-art facility that felt just like a real hospital. The college's simulation labs provided a truly hands-on experience, giving students a firsthand look at what it's like to work in healthcare. Our students were able to engage with lifelike mannequins that moved, talked, and even mimicked real patient scenarios, allowing them to experience everything from surgical techniques to patient care. This dynamic learning environment offered them a unique taste of the real world. The host was fantastic—both insightful and engaging—

providing our students with valuable information about potential internships and the range of programs available. One of the most exciting takeaways for our students was learning about the affordable tuition at Malcolm X College, which opens the door for many to pursue healthcare careers without the financial strain. They explored pathways in nursing, surgical technology, and even mortuary sciences for those interested in the funeral industry. This visit left our students inspired and motivated to pursue careers in healthcare, understanding the wide array of opportunities available. We are thankful for this partnership with Malcolm X College, which is helping shape the future of our aspiring healthcare professionals!

BUILDING SKILLS OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS GROW THROUGH CHALLENGE AND TEAMWORK



What happens when adventure meets learning? At Iron Oaks, our middle schoolers discovered the answer through transformative team-building exercises and social-emotional learning activities that made a lasting impact. Through a variety of challenges, designed to push them out of their comfort zones, they developed essential soft skills like communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. These activities not only built confidence but also strengthened relationships among peers, helping our students grow as individuals and teammates.

FOOTBALL TEAM EARNS BEARS VISIT

ACADEMIC SUCCESS OPENS DOORS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES.



Ever wondered what it's like to train with the pros? Our football team found out firsthand when they had the thrilling opportunity to visit the Chicago Bears training camp as part of their academic bootcamp. Through our partnership with the Bears, students earned this privilege by successfully completing their academic assessments and registering for virtual tutoring. Special thanks to Coach Weaver and Coach Keith for inspiring our student-athletes to prioritize academics while pursuing their athletic dreams. We're grateful for this partnership that motivates our students to excel both on the field and in the classroom.



QUICK THINKERS, BIG DREAMERS

SUMMER IMPROV HELPS STUDENTS DEVELOP KEY SKILLS

This summer, our middle school students embarked on an exhilarating and spontaneous adventure through our improv workshop! They engaged in a series of improv comedy games designed to ignite creativity, quick thinking, and collaboration. With guidance from guest artists, the students learned valuable lessons while enjoying plenty of laughs. A highlight of the workshop was the "Shark Tank" activity, where students pitched their imaginative products to a panel of enthusiastic investors. This fun and fast-paced challenge helped them develop key skills like public speaking, problem-solving, and teamwork—skills that will benefit them both academically and in life.

Through these activities, our students not only built confidence but also practiced important life skills in a supportive and playful environment. It was an unforgettable experience, helping to prepare them for future challenges, including their eventual journey toward college. We're excited to see how these experiences shape their paths!

PODCASTING SPARKS STUDENT CREATIVITY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: THE KEY TO CAREER SUCCESS

This summer, our students explored the world of podcasting by visiting a professional studio up north. Each student took on the challenge of creating a topic, selecting a cohost, and leading captivating discussions. The experience was so impactful that many of them are eager to continue recording this fall. We're excited to share more student stories, interview career professionals, and offer hands-on internships to nurture their growing talents.

What's more, podcasting fosters essential communication skills, like public speaking, active listening, and storytelling, which are critical across a range of careers. According to a recent study, 85% of employers say they prioritize communication skills when hiring graduates. From media and marketing to public relations and business, these skills are in demand more than ever. By continuing with podcasting, our students are not only expressing themselves but also preparing for a successful future in a variety of fields. We can't wait to see what they achieve!

