

August 2017



For us here at Improve Your Tomorrow, looking back at the 2016-2017 school year, and all of its first milestones, make us proud. We expanded into 3 schools, grew in staff size, and developed new resources. Today, we currently serve over 450 students at seven middle and high schools in Sacramento, in addition to more than two dozen college students across California.

With the 2017-2018 school year right around the corner, we are excited to continue our mission: **increase the number of young men of color to attend and graduate from colleges and universities.**



**IYT Graduates 42 Seniors!**





On June 17, IYT graduated 42 Seniors from Valley High School, Luther Burbank High School and Discovery High School. Each graduating Senior received a certificate of achievement and their own laptop! These laptops were made possible because of your support back in our May fundraiser: Big Day of Giving. Our goal was to raise \$5,000, but we surpassed that goal by a long shot raising over \$9,500!



Our graduating Seniors will embark on a new and exciting journey in college. They will also join more than two dozen college students as part of our college cohort. With continued support, our college students will achieve the ultimate goal of graduating from college.

Get readers excited about your newsletter with a quick introduction that highlights your main topic, and let the rest of the email cover the details.

[Visit our Website](#)

## IYT Summer Highlights

### Capitol Internship

This summer, twenty IYT rising seniors participated in a 9-week paid internship at the California State Capitol. Students interned in the California State Assembly, State Senate, executive offices, lobbying firms and participated in the BLOOM training program for junior community organizers.

“The internship program opened my eyes to the legislative process and how big decisions are made for our state. It helped me feel more confident in a professional setting” said Jashuni Jones, IYT Valley Senior and summer intern for Assembly member Shirley Weber.

The internship was generously supported by the California Endowment, Sierra Health Foundation, Point West Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Sacramento.



## Camping Trips

### Camping Trips:

We had close to 140 students attend our 4th Annual Summer Camping Trip at Collins Lake. Students from Valley, Natomas, and Luther Burbank High School participated in multiple team building activities, amazing tournament competition, swimming, fishing and many more fun activities. Big thank you to Closing the Gap for sponsoring the trip!



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## I Am Me

The "I Am Me" classes provide students with tools to buffer against the effects of chronic stress and teach them coping mechanisms to positively cope with difficult life circumstances. IYT students from Valley High School, Burbank High School and Natomas High School went through the "I Am Me" classes and have already started to implement the tools in their everyday lives.



"It is amazing to hear about the different situations that students have begun to practice mindfulness and nonviolent communication. As many feel stress and anxiety on a normal basis, they are beginning to understand the value in using tools like meditation and effective communication. Students have finally begun to understand the negative effects of hyper-masculinity and how it harms our communities. Most of the students are now aware that they have the power to change the narrative of boys and men of color", said Diego Estrada, Program Director at Burbank High School and co-director of the "I Am Me" classes.

The classes were generously supported by a grant from the City of Sacramento's Gang Intervention Tasks Force.

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## 916 Ink

Over the past eight weeks, more than a dozen IYT students participated in the 916 Ink "Find Your Voice" literacy program. [916 Ink](#) is non-profit literacy organization that transforms everyday kids into published authors. They are dedicated to promoting literacy by empowering youth to engage in literary arts. Our IYT scholars chose 1-2 pieces of creative writing to have published in a book of student work. The book release party is scheduled for September 14 from 6pm-8pm at Valley High School.

Email [alina@improveyourtomorrow.org](mailto:alina@improveyourtomorrow.org) to RSVP.

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## Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (EOT) STEM Program is a one week workshop designed to inform and inspire young aspiring entrepreneurs in the field of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) by tapping into their creativity. Students in the IYT program at Samuel Jackman Middle School worked with the CSUS Dean of Engineering, Dr. Lorenzo Smith, on developing a STEM based idea into a successful business. Students received an introduction to engineering and the field of business, while developing their own technology. With their fully developed inventions and business model in hand, students pitched their business plan to a panel of venture capitalist and negotiated loans and shares of their company, shark tank style!



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## CAPS Institute

This past July over 60 IYT students in the Capitol Area Promise Scholars (CAPS) Institute. The Capital Area Promise (CAP) Scholars program aims to increase college completion rates among local students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education by pairing public financial awards with private scholarships and wraparound services that promote college attainment and completion. Students spent two days at Sacramento state for the 2nd Annual CAPS Summer Institute where they engaged in workshops that provided them with tools to succeed in college. The initiative is led by the Sacramento Regional Community Foundation with IYT being one of three community partners.



Improve Your Tomorrow has an 87% 4-year college acceptance rate, which far surpasses the rates for college enrollment for both Black and Hispanics. According to the Pew Research Center, 33% Black and 35% Hispanic of 18-24-year old males enrolled for college.

**College Acceptance List:**

Jalen Adams (Sacramento State)  
Alex Aguilar (UC Merced)  
Alex Alvarez (Sacramento State)  
Cameron Banks (Consumes River College)  
Dalius Beck (Sacramento State)  
Manderrick Beck (Sacramento State)  
Jonar Bocalbos (San Jose State)  
Isaiah Broadway (American River College)  
Keshawn Bruner (CSU East Bay)  
Diego Bucio (Consumes River College)  
Christian Cha (Sacramento State)  
Hanym Chau (Sacramento State)  
Devonte Colbert (Texas Southern)  
Marcus Coleman (San Jose State)  
Chris Cruz Sanchez (Sacramento State)  
Igo Del Carmen (Sacramento State)  
Diego Duarte (Sacramento State)  
Rodrigo Elizarraraz (UC Merced)  
Peter Fang (Sacramento State)  
Alvaro Galindo (Sonoma State)  
Juan Garcia (UC Merced)  
Immanuel Hargrave (UC Merced)  
McKennan Johnson (Sierra College)  
TreVounn Johnson (American River College)  
Jermaine Kirk (American River College)  
Jensen Lascina (Sacramento State)  
Nujchi Lee (Sacramento State)  
Ismael Lepe (Sacramento State)  
Juan Leon Orozco (Consumes River College)  
Anthony Marcos (Consumes River College)  
Adrian Marquez-Jimenez (Sacramento State)  
Lamont Miller (American River College)  
Francisco Navarro (Sacramento State)  
Muzamal Navir (American River College)  
Kevin Olivares (Sacramento State)  
Abraham Puentes (Consumes River College)  
Zontrel Rayford (Sierra College)  
Elias Sanders (Consumes River College)  
Daryl Sheperd (Sierra College)  
Boon Thao (Sacramento State)  
Daniel Trejo (Sacramento State)  
Junior Vang (San Jose State)

