

October 2017



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IYT U at Sac State!



SACRAMENTO
STATE



Part of the process to officially become an IYT U member is to complete a “Rites of Passage Hike”. This past month we had 15 IYT U students go on an early hike at Black Hole of Calcutta Falls located in Auburn. We went on a short one-mile hike until we reached a waterfall and set aside time for activities.

Our first activity included a group blind walk across a bridge which symbolized their collective journey to work together as brothers going through college. Then, each student had a few minutes independently around the waterfall for personal reflection of their personal journey and how they got to their current moment in life. Several students shared personal experiences but also powerful moments that they learned from their life. To end the day we had a group breakfast

IYT is Growing!

We are excited to announce that we have opened two new IYT sites at Will Rogers Middle School and Del Campo High School in the San Juan Unified Schools District. With that being said, we are also excited to announce that Jairon Jackson will be the Program Director to lead the San Juan sites as well as Renatto Guerra who will take the lead at Sacramento State for the IYT U program. As of this fall, IYT now serves 700 students across 10 sites in Sacramento through three programs.

1) IYT College Academy 2) IYT Continue to Dream Academy 3) IYT U.

Program descriptions are below:

The IYT College Academy serves

students at traditional middle and high schools in addition to college students across California.

The program is currently at Valley High School, Florin High School, Luther Burbank High School, Natomas High School, Del Campo High School, Samuel Jackman Middle School, Natomas Gateway Middle School and Will Rogers Middle School.



IYT U serves to increase the number of men of color at Sacramento State to graduate and to prepare to enter the workforce. The program is built on 5 pillars: Brotherhood, Scholarship, Community, Mentorship, and Career.



The IYT Continue to Dream Academy serves high school students at continuation schools. The program is currently at Discovery High School in Sacramento.

If you know of a school that can benefit from IYT, please contact michael@improveyourtomorrow.org

IYT in the News!

IYT on "KCRA 3"

On Saturday October 14th, IYT was featured during KCRA 3 "Common Ground" segment. Keishaun Turner, IYT Senior at Valley High School, and Greg Ortiz, counselor at Valley, were interviewed on their experience with IYT and how much of an impact it has made not only on a personal and academic level



but also on a systemic level. Mr. Ortiz said it best, "We [IYT] have a system set in place and it works. 100% of our students attend college and 89% attend 4-year universities".

IYT in "The Sacramento Bee"



Joseph Marshall Jr. - Courtesy of Omega Boys Club

LOCAL

MacArthur Genius Fellow to share his antidote to 'disease' of youth violence



BY CATHIE ANDERSON
canderson@sacbee.com

OCTOBER 12, 2017 5:00 AM

For 30 years, educator and MacArthur Genius Fellow Joseph Marshall Jr. has been doing out an antidote that he says can cure the disease of youth violence, and he will share what he calls his prescription as part of the 2017 Conversations on Race Scholar Symposia on Friday

[Read More Here](#)

IYT in "Sacramento News & Review"

local stories > 15 minutes

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Michael Lynch, co-founder of Improve Your Tomorrow

By Michael Mott

This article was published on 10.12.17.

People aren't surprised when **Michael Lynch** gives the stat: 68 percent of black men who don't graduate high school go to prison by age 35, according to the Brookings Institution. For whites, it's less than 10 percent. That's evident in Sacramento, where nearly half the felony juvenile arrests in 2014 were of young people of color, according to UC Davis' Center for Regional Change.

Lynch was fortunate. After growing up with a supportive father, he graduated from Valley High School, earned two college degrees and went to work in the state legislature. A few years later, Lynch and his former football teammate, Michael Casper, returned to Valley to help.

Their nonprofit, **Improve Your Tomorrow**, has seen great success: Since 2013, 70 students have graduated from the program, and all have gone to college. The program has grown from the first class of 17 students at Valley four years ago to more than 600 across several high schools. Lynch said work remains. "High school graduation rates have increased. But in comparison to our peers? We're nowhere near equitable," Lynch said.

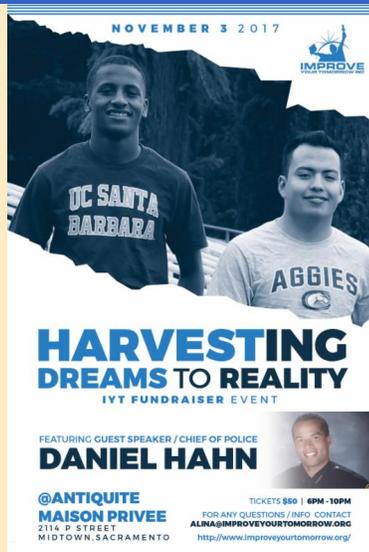
How did **Improve Your Tomorrow** come about?



PHOTO BY LAURAN WORTHY

[Read More Here](#)

Fall Fundraiser: "Harvesting Dreams to Reality"



The fall fundraiser will feature a silent auction, local art sale, complimentary appetizers, no host bar, live performances from local bands, spoken word and our featured guest of the night will be Sacramento Chief of Police Daniel Hahn! Ticket prices for the fundraiser are \$50.

All proceeds go to helping IYT break the school to prison pipeline in Sacramento.

IYT will host its first annual fall fundraiser titled "Harvesting Dreams to Reality" on November 3, 6pm-10pm at Antique Midtown.

IYT Student Profiles

IYT Jackman Middle School: Jose Rodriguez



Since joining IYT, Jose's grades have improved and has put himself in positions to be a leader and helping others around him. "Jose is beginning to understand that he is capable of accomplishing much more than he has expected out of himself in the past, by regularly attending extra tutoring. He is changing the trajectory of his future by taking the initiative to better himself as a student and as an individual" says Mr. Newsome.

According to Keylen Newsome, Program Director at Jackman Middle School, Jose is a "bright individual that has potential to be a true leader in anything he does." Jose's goal is to become a mechanical engineer and either have his own auto shop or become a mechanic in the Air Force. Jose adds, "I like how the mentors help you with homework and any personal issues that you may have, and you can trust them".

IYT U: Hosie Houston



Hosie believes he was recommended by a counselor to join IYT but he definitely remembered the impact that both Michaels made on him when they pitched IYT to a group of potential students in the library. “It looked promising. I saw them [Michaels] and heard them talk about the program and thought if they can make it out Valley and be successful maybe I can too”.

Originally, Hosie didn’t care too much for school nor did he even plan to go to college, but lucky for Hosie, IYT gave him that motivation as well as meeting his “brothers”. “I didn’t really talk to anyone but IYT helped me meet my brothers and new people”.

In his 2nd year at Sac State, Hosie is looking to declare in either Computer Engineering or Computer Science, as his interests are in computer software and technology. Hosie also has some tips for his future IYT brothers, “Take the advice you get and actually use it. The mentors know what they’re saying”.

