



Young Man with a Plan Newsletter

September 30, 2022

"Young Man with A Plan has given me a place where I feel like I can communicate with men who really care about my future."

Introducing YMWAP's New Staff Members



Lenward Gatison II joins the Young Man with a Plan program staff as Assistant Director after serving the organization in a mentoring capacity for over five years. His previous employment includes roles as Dean of Students at Uncommon Schools and Wellness Director at Codman Academy. Lenward is also a certified personal trainer and brings his extensive experience as a Property Manager in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to YMWAP. Lenward earned a B.A. in Psychology from UMass Boston, where he played varsity ice hockey for the Beacons.

"I began working with YMWAP as Codman Academy's school-based mentor and stayed connected with the young men and the program even after leaving Codman for another job. I've realized that uplifting young men and helping them onto a positive path is just part of who I am. Young men today have so many choices and decisions to make. We now know that the traditional four-year college experience does not work for everyone. Our young men need individualized guidance in figuring out what they're best

at and in making a plan to get from point A to B. I'm bringing the perspective of someone raised in the suburbs of Philly who played ice hockey in college. I've been a dean and am a property manager with expertise in real estate and financial literacy who can offer young men insight into different lanes to travel to successful futures."

Ailson Lopes Carvahlo joins YMWAP in the role of Program Manager. A native of Dorchester, Ailson brings to Young Man with a Plan a deep dedication to serving youth. Prior to joining YMWAP, Ailson was an English/Science Instructor and College Readiness Advisor at College Bound Dorchester, as well as a youth services intern at ABCD and an Access Counselor intern at Bottom Line. He also serves as Defensive Coordinator for the Brookline H.S. Football team, where he attended high school. Ailson received his B.S. in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Bridgewater State University.

"Giving back to my community has always been important to me. Youth today face many difficulties—disruptions from Covid, a country filled with political conflicts, negative influences from their neighborhoods and social media, increases in gun violence and drug use. Despite these challenges, youth are accomplishing great things.

I've worked with so many young people who are intelligent, ambitious and creative. It's crucial that positive role models from the community continue to support the youth and their future ambitions. I know from my own experience that having mentors can be very impactful."



Lenward and Ailson join myself, our Director of Program Operations Des Kennard, and Director of Development Marcia Felth. Thank you for your support. Respectfully, Jaykyri Simpson, Ed.D.