

Young Man with a Plan Update May 15, 2019



The COSEBOC (Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color) conference in Detroit May 8 - 10 was excellent and rejuvenating. Detroit, while evidently poor and in recovery, is a diverse and welcoming city and the COSEBOC conference has an authentic vibe and opportunity to convene with people doing similar work to us and to attend relevant workshops. We spent some time connecting with Boston people from BAM, Burke, METCO.

Young Man with a Plan's reputation is positive and growing.

We attended workshops on Combatting Adverse Childhood Experiences; Creating a Culture of CARE; Love and War: Beyond the Restorative Circle; and Transformational Leadership from the Inside Out. Dr. Michael Lindsay, Executive Director of McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at NYU was a featured speaker who spoke about mental illness among students of color and noted that in the under 13 age-group, the suicide rate among Black children is twice that of white children. Sobering.

YMWAP

Groups are going great, with really strong attendance. Our roster is at 84. We have been to your schools regularly to see your students in their own environment. On Tuesday we tried out the mindfulness techniques introduced in the COSEBOC Transformational Leadership Inside Out workshop and our students loved it.

All students have summer employment. Durrell Queen, the PIC specialist at New Mission has been especially helpful in making sure YMWAP students from NM and BCLA are informed of opportunities.

We will continue weekly meetings in the summer. We are also having a June BBQ for all our kids, along with alumni from our first class. YMWAP is closed the last two weeks of August.

Thank you for your support—Jaykyri & Des