



Samantha Glatstein
Youth Empowerment Project
Tel: 504-214-8418
www.youthempowermentproject.org
sglatstein@youthempowermentproject.org

MEDIA ADVISORY: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT CELEBRATES HiSET EARNERS AT MAHALIA JACKSON

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is celebrating the hard work of our 50 High School Equivalency graduates on June 27th and 29th. On Thursday, June 27th from 11am-1pm, our graduates will gather for a celebratory brunch at our Adult Learning Center (139 S. Broad St.). On Saturday at 10am, our graduates will walk across the Mahalia Jackson Theater stage alongside all other 2019 HiSET earners from Delgado, Urban League, YMCA and more, to receive their official diplomas.

Our young people have been working towards this goal for several months and are excited for the future. Vernell Kelly, 26, feels inspired by his diploma. “I was homeless, living on the street until I was 8...No child is supposed to go through that. Now, I achieved my GED, so I feel like I could achieve anything,” he says. “I just want everybody out there to know you can be anything.”

Tasia Brooks, 18, earned her diploma while balancing a job and a having a son. Reflecting on her final exams, she says, “When I first got it, it was before I did my last test, and I was crying. I knew I was going to get it because I’d been studying really hard, and it was finally happening. I was finally done. I was so happy.”

YEP Educates offers educational support for young adults in New Orleans, including high school equivalency preparation and post-secondary transition services. As an official provider of adult education services to over 700 young people each year, we believe it’s never too late to go back to school.

Photo/Media Opportunity: On Thursday, June 27th from 11am-1pm, our graduates will be celebrating their success with brunch. They will share stories from the year with friends and loved ones as they prepare to receive their diplomas on Saturday. At Mahalia Jackson on Saturday at 10am, the graduates will walk across the stage in a cap and gown as part of an official graduation celebration. Graduates will be available for photos and interviews at both events.

ABOUT YEP

Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a community-based nonprofit organization engaging underserved young people through free mentoring, education, employment readiness and enrichment services. In 2018, YEP served 1,262 young people through a total of 11 programs at six sites. To learn more visit: www.youthempowermentproject.org or follow YEP on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@YEPNOLA).