

GEAR UP Summer Program Provides Opportunities for Area Students

In partnership with the Youth Programs Division of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, the Center for Educational Outreach and Engagement facilitated the summer programming arm of GEAR UP Birmingham City Schools. This program provides students with opportunities to participate in curriculum and activities designed to pique their interests in preparation for college and career. After a successful summer 2015, CEOE continued to expand its summer camp offerings by adding four new camps for 2016. To bring a focus on the arts, MOSAIC Theatre, Tiger Beats Music Production and Perfect Pitch Too Voice Camp provided an opportunity for students to expand their skills in these arts. For those with an entrepreneurial spirit, the Tiger Cage Entrepreneur Camp taught valuable business skills.

Mosaic Theatre Camp allowed participants to explore and express current issues of diversity through the stories of their communities expressed through on-stage performances. Students were trained in acting techniques using dramatization of events relevant to them and their peer group. The camp ended with a group stage performance before a live audience.

The Tiger Beats Music Production camp allowed campers to show their skills and develop new ones as they learned to make electronic beats, loops, samples and songs, showcasing music that included hip-hop, electronic, gospel, pop, indie rock and experimental. This camp gave aspiring producers, beat makers, songwriters, and musicians the basic tools they needed to make their own music. Led by professional musicians and producers, they learned the technology behind audio recording and production using the latest and best software in a dedicated “tech music studio” on the Auburn University campus.

Promising teen singers were given lessons on pitch, tone, musicianship and performance skills. With vocal instruction led by international performing artist

and voice instructor Professor Previn Moore (Vienna Conservatory Private University, Vienna, Austria), students had a fun and unique experience developing their personal vocal skills while gaining confidence in their ability to perform. This extraordinary opportunity culminated with a performance before an audience at the end of the week.

Tiger Cage Entrepreneurship Camp allowed students with a business concept or idea for a product



to work directly with professors, business leaders and entrepreneurs to further develop their ideas into reality. The camp included classroom instruction, interactive activities, computer lab, and field trips to local businesses and a hands-on learning experience designed to guide program participants toward becoming the owner of an actual small business. Campers were exposed to practicing real world business skills: team building, leadership development, financial management, verbal communication, and business etiquette through interactive lessons and exercises. Campers learned to successfully negotiate for business materials, set goals, and recognize real business opportunities. Tiger Cage students also learned about the various college majors and business careers that support entrepreneurship (accounting, finance, marketing etc.) from Harbert College of Business professors.