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BU Recap

Fiscal year 20-21, marked the second year of implementing the BU program. Despite various trials



LaTasha Rice
Project Director

and oppositions, youth leaders, regional coordinators, and program staff learned how to navigate the program amidst the current pandemic. Mindful of the various uncertainties surrounding school operations, we created a contingency plan to ensure the success of the BU program.

Like many, we were challenged to overcome several obstacles; many include, but are not limited to strictly virtual classrooms, lack of technological access, and several school's inability to establish means of participation. Regardless, the program was successful, and the youth benefitted.

To aid in the success of the program, we created pre-recorded videos of assigned activities and presentations, which allowed virtual participation throughout schools. The implemented strategy was well received, proving to be effective and efficient. With great appreciation, we are extending a special thank you to all our partnering schools, BU regional coordinators, and youth leaders, who have participated and played a vital role in the successful implementation of the BU Tobacco and Vaping Prevention Program.

BU Success Stories

Northern Region

Educating & Advocating

To watch them grow, through our eyes, to hear the words from their lips spoken, as we have the privilege of grooming future leaders.

Javien Jackson is a 16-year-old, who attends Winona Secondary School, in Winona, MS. He is son of Claude and Lisa Jean, who are extremely proud parents. Lisa Jean, who was in tears about her son's participation in the program, briefly shared **First me and now my son** as she recounted her accomplishment, in reference to her winning a first-place prize for her written essay on *Staying Drug Free*, when she was about the same age as Javien. According to Lisa, Javien leadership abilities, and maturity level has greatly improved, in addition to his passionate desire to educate and encourage those around him. Javien actively participates in school related activities and sports. In these capacities, Javien has experienced firsthand trials and adversities surrounding the issue of the vape, which was brought on by peers. Not only was Javien challenged to overcome peer pressure and succeed, but also, he was able to educate and prevail. Javien noted that the BU Program has allowed him to see the world through a different lens. He is ready to continue his

journey by educating youth on the harmful effects of tobacco and vaping. His school officials are behind him 100%. The BU program has inspired him to fight for what is right and help others as well.

- *BU Director, Parent, Javien Jackson*

Central Region

Overcoming

“A lack of knowledge creates fear. Seeking knowledge creates courage.” -Candice Swanepoel

My name is Roderick Mathews Jr. and the thing I have most accomplished with the BU program is being vape free. Prior to joining the BU program, I used to vape mostly every day. It was the different scents and tricks that I could do with the smoke that made me enjoy them, for the most part. I knew that they were harmful, but I just did not know they were as harmful as regular tobacco products. When I first started the program, I felt as if I had to put it down, because it would look bad for me to be a part of this program and still vaped. As I learned more about the harmful effects of vaping, I quickly began to realize that no matter how good it looked or how good it smelled, this was something that I did not want to do anymore. I have not vaped in several months and I plan on keeping that streak alive.

- *Roderick Mathews Jr.*

Southern Region

Representation truly matters.

The BU program allows students to be ambassadors and advocates of their own health, which is continuously making a difference in their lives and the lives of others. Below, we hear from Alysia Moore.

My name is Alysia Moore. About the time we were getting ready to wrap up our BU presentations a girl that is in my grade asked me about the program. She said that she never knew all the things that were in tobacco products. She said that the thing that surprised her the most was that tobacco products contain formaldehyde. As we continued to converse, she said that she wanted to spread awareness to the effects of tobacco and that she had already gotten one of her friends to stop vaping.

- *Alysia Moore*

BU Highlights



Jahiem Collins is a graduate of Charleston High School in Charleston, MS, who will be attending the University of Florida in the fall. One of Jahiem's greatest accomplishments is having the highest average out of the entire senior class in the Upward Bound Program.



Keely-Shay Buckley is a graduating senior at Charleston High School in Charleston, MS, who will be attending the Air Force upon graduation. One of her greatest accomplishments is stepping out of her comfort zone and allowing herself to meet new people, do new things, and change her way of thinking.



Shirlencia Smith is a graduating senior at Thomas E. Edwards High School in Ruleville, MS, will be attending Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, MS, with a full scholarship to. One of her greatest accomplishments is attaining her full scholarship with academic and stewardship.



MaKayla Williams, a graduating senior from Thomas E. Edwards High School in Ruleville, MS, will be attending Hinds Community College in the fall. One of her greatest accomplishments is maintaining all A's in school despite the pandemic's

effects.



Christine Wooten is already attending Hinds Community College in Raymond and plans to continue until she receives her associates degree. Her major is Biology. She will also be participating in their sports, theatre program, and Air

Force ROTC.



Karlton Love is a junior transitioning to his senior year at West Tallahatchie High School in Webb, MS and most proud of his grade outcomes and his efforts with the BU Program.



Princess Greer is a senior at Provine High School. She participates in the National Junior Honor Society, Cheer & the BU Program. She also has a GPA average of 3.5! Her plan for after high school is to attend The University of Southern Mississippi & major in Childhood

Development or Business.



Aakyiah Young is a junior transitioning into her senior year at West Tallahatchie High School in Webb, MS and is most proud of her achievements at school and maintaining all A's this school year despite her personal and academic battles.



Heaven Thomas plans to attend Alcorn State University and major in Pre-Med/Nursing.



Javien Jackson is ninth grader transitioning into his sophomore year at Winona Secondary School in Winona, MS and is most proud of his academics this year. He has strived to maintain great

grades.



Jayla Edwards plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and major in Mathematics.



Kierah Harper is a sophomore transitioning into her junior year at Winona Secondary School in Winona, MS and is most proud of her academics and juggling extra-curricular activities and the BU program successfully.



Roderick Mathews Jr. plans to attend Mississippi Delta community college and will get a technical degree in HVAC.



Tyler Gholar extracurricular activities are JROTC Drill Team, JROTC Cadet Challenge, Civil Air Patrol, Band, Baseball, BU Tobacco & Vaping Prevention Program, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and Upward Bound. He plans to attend Boys State, ICN Summer Institute and JMAA Air Force for summer camps this summer.



Brianna Moss is a senior at Hattiesburg High School. Her goal in life is to spread joy through volunteerism; she remains deeply passionate in her efforts to help all animals. In the upcoming future, she plans to major in Biological Sciences/Zoology at Mississippi State University. This is where she will get a jump start in her career field of becoming a Zoologist and/or Veterinarian.



Caylan Goodman is a senior at Newton High School. She is a member of the Beta, Drama, FCCLA, & Ed Rising Clubs. She will be on the variety cheer, softball, and volleyball teams in the upcoming school year.



Natallee McCauley is a senior at Laurel High School and enjoys working, spending time with her family and friends, and practicing sign language. She will be majoring in nursing at The Mississippi University for Women with plans to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.



Ja'Leah Hickmon will be attending Thee I Love Jackson State University on a basketball scholarship.



Isabella Clark is a sophomore at McComb High School. She is a manager for the football & basketball team & she is a part of the schools BETA Club & Superintendent's Excel Club. She enjoys singing, dancing, helping others & speaking at public functions.



Corianna Lyons is a senior at McComb High School. She will be attending Tougaloo College in the fall of 2021 and will major in Biological Sciences/Pre-Vet.



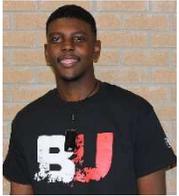
Marissa Moody is a graduate of Hattiesburg High School with honors. She will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi as a Nursing major.



Alysia Moore is a junior at Petal High School. She enjoys Speech and Debate and being involved around her school. Alysia will be a senior next year and plans to return to the Be You Program.



Raburn Paris is a graduate of Petal High School with honors and was recognized as a Mississippi STAR Student. He will be attending Baylor University as a University Scholars major in the Honors Program.



Jaymar Jackson II is the 2021 Valedictorian of Laurel High School. Aside from his academic achievements, he is active in student council, choir, band, golf, and a host of other clubs and activities. In the fall, he will attend

Mississippi State University on a full-ride scholarship where he will be a part of the Lucky Day Program, Honors College, and MSU's renowned Men of State Choral Ensemble. While at MSU, he plans to major in architecture with a minor in music.

interested in knowing what is happening via the BU Program, please follow us on all of our social media platforms.

Contact Us

Contact us with your questions, concerns or testimonies. For additional updates on the Youth Tobacco & Vaping Prevention Program, follow us on social media.

Caffee, Caffee & Associates Public Health Foundation, Inc.

-  601-336-7212
-  www.ccaphf.org
-  B U Tobacco Free
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What's New with BU

It is with great anticipation and excitement that we begin our third year of the BU program on July 1, 2021. Beginning August 2021, we will have selected 15 new youth leaders, who will begin advocating for policy change throughout the state of Mississippi.

BU youth leaders will grow to be advocates of their own health, as well as political activists against tobacco and vaping, with hopes of initiating a tobacco free youth. In addition to various tobacco and vape prevention efforts, we will actively engage via social media platforms. STAY IN THE KNOW! If you are

