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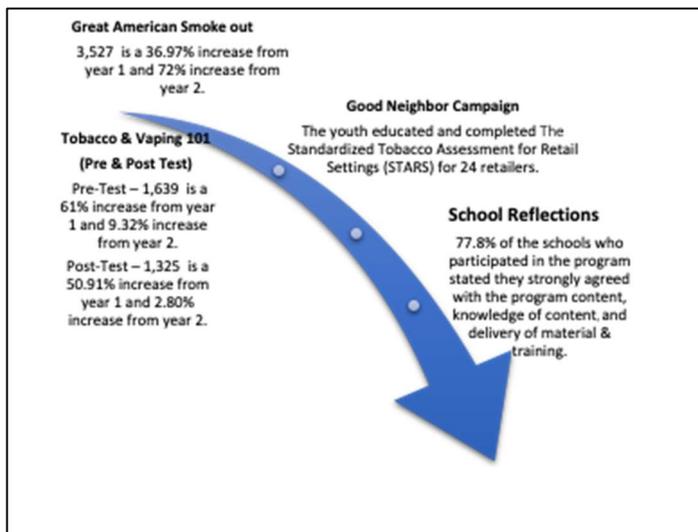
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- Very helpful and informative program.
- BU is an awesome program that makes the student's peers aware of the harmful effects of tobacco and tobacco prevention.
- The program was awesome and had excellent timing. The use of teen vaping was on the rise and has decreased since the education and awareness of the BU program.

## Year 3, It's a Wrap!

This was an awesome year! We had eleven returning Youth Leaders eager to forge a new path with the program. They became mentors to the incoming Youth Leaders and an asset to the staff. The BU Youth Leaders are truly our diamonds in the rough. This year, we were able to see the fruits of our labor. So, let us look at year 3.



Additional comments for the participating schools stated:

- This is a great program to educate students on the hazards of smoking. Our students and staff really enjoyed the program this year. The videos were very insightful.

## Success Stories

### NORTHERN REGION SUCCESS STORY

A “breath of fresh air” is one way Shania Reed would describe the BU Tobacco and Vaping Prevention Program. Shania is an eleven-grader attending West Tallahatchie High School, where her classmates Aakyiah Young and Karlton Love are second-year youth leaders for the BU Program. During the youth leaders’ presentation day, I met Shania in the Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG) class. Shania stood out as she was so intrigued by the information being presented. Shania explained how many of her peers are using drugs of different sorts, mainly vaping. This bothers her as she has a personal attachment to why that is. Her older cousin, who was her and her siblings’ primary babysitter, went off to college and in her second year, she started using drugs and vaping. This caused a major effect on how her cousin started to live her life from then on. She explained how her family has tried every solution to help her cousin, but she continues to seek the use of these dangerous products.

Finally, she went on to proclaim how she desires to help her peers and the youth. Shania has been hoping for a program to speak about not just tobacco but vaping as well. Her goal is to become a youth leader and educate her peers in school, in her community, and in her family on the harmful effects of smoking tobacco and vaping. Shania also mentioned how she

took information that she learned from the BU program back to her family, especially her cousins, to help them. Shania Reed is ready to empower those around her to quit and just Be You!

– *Submitted by Sharde' McClure, Northern Region Coordinator*

## CENTRAL REGION SUCCESS STORY

“When I started vaping, I was in middle school. Chantity has been my friend since then. She would try to get me to stop and I would for a while. But I would start back. It got worst growing up because I was dealing with a lot of things. Our senior year is when it got serious. I did not know how to control it. Chantity was hard on me in the beginning of the year, but I was not listening to her cause I felt like she did not understand me. Once she got into the program, she had a base to help me stop. So, I say thank you for choosing her so she can help me. Now I do not vape anymore and I feel great.”

– *Submitted by an Anonymous Student*

## SOUTHERN REGION SUCCESS STORY

This year with the BU Tobacco & Vape Prevention Program was another great year full of accomplishments. We accomplished many tasks, and got the job done as we always do. This year was a little different from my first year. We were given more tasks than our previous year, but it helped us to be more successful than last year. One of our tasks for this year was to have a meeting with elected officials and inform them about our program and our goals for the program. After meeting with Mayor Lockley, the mayor of the city McComb, we were asked to attend one of the upcoming board meetings to inform the city board members about our program. This was a tremendous success for us, and we are more than grateful for the opportunities granted to us.

– *Submitted by Edward Clark, Southern Region Coordinator*

## What About our BU Youth Leaders

BU wishes to offer our congratulations to our youth leaders on their great accomplishments and graduating high school. These youth leaders have done a phenomenal job in representing their high school and the BU Youth Tobacco & Vaping Prevention Program and we are extremely proud of them. We wish them the absolute best on all their future endeavors.



Elizabeth Willard  
Valedictorian  
GPA 3.8  
University of Mississippi



Sedrick Smith Jr.  
Salutatorian  
GPA 3.6  
Northwest Mississippi Community College



Aakyiah Young  
GPA 3.2  
University of Mississippi



Karlton Love  
GPA 3.4  
University of Southern Mississippi



Jackelcey Fuller  
Valedictorian  
Mississippi State University



Alysia Moore  
GPA of 4.19. 2022  
Magnolia State Champion in poetry  
interpretation  
Mississippi State University



Tyler Gholar  
GPA of 3.2



Caylan Goodman  
Alcorn State University



Princess Greer.  
University of Southern Mississippi



Alisha Williams  
Alcorn State University



Chantity Braddock  
Mississippi State University



## 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.

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