

# What is the HUB for Community Innovation?

The **HUB for Community Innovation (HUB)**, is a collaborative space designed to empower and support local communities by providing resources, programs, and services that address key social challenges. Located between the Laney-Walker and Harrisburg neighborhoods, the HUB is a result of partnerships between local organizations, foundations, and businesses aimed at fostering economic development, improving health outcomes, and promoting educational success.

## Features and Objectives:

- **Community-Centered Collaboration:** The HUB brings together nonprofits, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to work collaboratively under one roof. This shared space encourages innovation and resource-sharing to amplify community impact.
- **Education and Workforce Development:** The HUB supports programs aimed at improving educational outcomes for children and adults, offering training opportunities, literacy programs, and resources to help individuals develop skills for employment.
- **Health and Wellness:** Addressing health disparities is a central focus of the HUB. It provides access to healthcare resources, wellness programs, and initiatives to promote healthier living among underserved populations.
- **Economic Empowerment:** The HUB fosters entrepreneurship and job creation through small business support, financial literacy workshops, and connections to economic resources.
- **Convenient Location and Accessibility:** Situated in historically underserved areas, the HUB ensures that vital services are accessible to the communities that need them most, bridging gaps in support.

## Partner Organizations:

The HUB houses multiple nonprofits that work together to provide comprehensive services to the community. These partnerships allow for a multifaceted approach to addressing poverty, health inequities, and educational challenges. Currently those organizations are:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Augusta  
Harrisburg Family Healthcare Clinic  
Augusta Locally Grown  
RISE Augusta  
Harris Literacy Center at Augusta University

Apply Here



# THE HUB AUGUSTA COLLABORATIVE

PRESENTS THE



## Youth Leadership Academy

Developing leadership potential through skill development, community engagement, and leadership experiences.

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## INTRODUCING THE HUB YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The **HUB Youth Leadership Academy** is a two-year program designed to foster leadership and community development among select high school students. Participants will complete a foundational first-year curriculum (**Academy Explorers**) focused on skill development, community engagement, and leadership; and a second-year, advanced “alumni” curriculum (**Academy Eagles**) emphasizing workforce development and advanced leadership training.

The inaugural Academy Explorers will launch in June 2025, accepting sophomores, juniors and select seniors using the first-year curriculum.

The launch of the Academy Eagles Alumni program in July 2026 will include partnerships with educational institutions, corporate and business community and local governments and will enhance training, workforce readiness, and lead students in career exploration.

Program management and administration is facilitated and led by a Chairman and an Advisory Committee, with oversight from the HUB President/CEO and the HUB Augusta Collaborative’s Board of Directors.

Key activities include leadership retreats, workshops on communication, technology, healthcare, and community service, and immersive experiences such as college visits and poverty simulations. The program also features hands-on projects that dive into hunger and poverty and culminates in sessions on financial literacy, goal setting, and a graduation ceremony.

To create an account and apply, visit:  
<https://youthleadershipacademy.softtr.app>



## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Step One

#### Create an Account

To begin your journey with the Youth Leadership Academy, you must first create an account at <https://youthleadershipacademy.soft9r.app> or the QR Code on the previous page. This will give you access to the application form, program schedule, and other important materials.

### Step Two

#### Complete and Submit Your Application

After completing your application, an automated email will be sent to the two references whose contact information you were asked to provide during your application process, as well as your Principal and Counselor. These forms must be submitted for your application to be considered complete.

- **Track Your Application Status:** You can monitor the progress of your application here. Your status will change from "In progress" to "Complete" once all required materials have been submitted.
- **Important:** You are responsible for following up with your references, Counselor, and Principal to ensure they submit their respective forms on time. Applications with missing forms will not be considered for the program.

### Information Needed

Before beginning the application please make sure you review the following:

- **Collect Emails:** Principal, Counselor, Two References and Parent email
- **Prepare Headshot:** You will be asked to upload an image of yourself at the end of the application. (Please no pictures with hats)
- **Review Schedule:** Please review the schedule for the year to ensure the program aligns with your school and personal commitments, as attendance is required.

### DEADLINES

**Application Window: March 1st - March 14th, 2025**

**References and Acknowledgements: March 21st, 2025**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How do I apply to the Youth Leadership Academy?

You must create an account on our platform to access the application form, schedule, and other materials. Once registered, you can complete and submit your application.

### Who should I ask to be my references?

Your references should be individuals who can speak to your leadership skills, character, or achievements. These can include teachers, mentors, supervisors, or community leaders.

### How do I know if my references have submitted their recommendations?

You can track the status of your application, including whether your recommendations have been received, by logging into your account and viewing the "Application Status" page.

### What happens after I submit my application?

Once your application and recommendations are submitted, your application status will update from "In progress" to "Completed." If selected, you'll be invited for an interview.

### How will I be notified if I am selected for an interview?

You will receive an email with interview details if you are shortlisted for the next stage of the application process.

### What should I expect during the interview?

The interview is an opportunity to share more about yourself, your goals, and why you want to join the program. Be prepared to discuss your application and show us your unique personality and strengths.

### When will I find out if I've been accepted?

Acceptance emails will be sent after all interviews have been conducted. Keep an eye on your email for updates.

### What happens if my application is incomplete?

Incomplete applications (e.g., missing recommendations or other required materials) will not be considered for the program. Please ensure all materials are submitted by the deadline.



## SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMMING

**June 22nd - June 24th (Sunday - Tuesday overnight)**

### **Principles in Leadership**

The "Principles in Leadership" retreat creates for students a foundational understanding of what it means to lead with integrity, vision, and accountability. Students will explore core leadership principles such as effective communication, collaboration, public speaking and more. The session will encourage self-awareness, inspire confidence, and foster a mindset of responsibility, enabling participants to recognize their potential as leaders in their schools, communities, and future careers. Full orientation of the expectations for HUBYLA will be provided.

**August 19th (Tuesday)**

### **Effective Communication**

Empower high school students with the skills necessary for effective interpersonal and professional communication. Through interactive activities, students will learn to articulate their thoughts clearly, actively listen, and adapt their communication style to different audiences and contexts. The session will emphasize the importance of non-verbal cues, emotional intelligence, and respectful dialogue in fostering strong relationships and resolving conflicts. Students will have enhanced their confidence in public speaking, teamwork, and one-on-one interactions, equipping them to communicate with purpose and impact in their academic, personal, and future professional lives.

**September 9th (Tuesday)**

### **Technology**

Inspire high school students to explore the evolving world of technology and its impact on everyday life, education, and career opportunities. Students will gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge tools and software, learn about the ethical implications of technological advancements, and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will build awareness of the potential for technology to shape the future and how they can contribute as informed and innovative individuals.

## SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMMING

**October 21st (Tuesday)**

### **Healthcare**

Introduce students to the vast and diverse world of healthcare professions, fostering an understanding of the critical role healthcare plays in society. Students will gain insights into various career paths, such as medicine, nursing, public health, allied health professions, and healthcare technology. This immersive day will highlight the importance of compassion, innovation, and teamwork in the field while emphasizing the educational and professional steps needed to succeed in healthcare careers. Additionally, students will explore how personal health and wellness intersect with professional responsibilities, empowering them to make informed choices for their futures.

**November 13th (Thursday)**

### **Community Service**

Inspire high school students to recognize the importance of giving back to their communities through hands-on involvement. This day will foster a sense of responsibility, empathy, and teamwork by connecting students with meaningful service projects that address real community needs. Students will develop leadership skills, enhance their problem-solving abilities, and experience the fulfillment that comes from making a positive impact on others.

**December 4th (Thursday)**

### **Our Criminal Justice System**

Provide high school students with an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system, its various components, and the roles played by professionals within the field. Through interactive activities, hands-on simulations, and expert presentations, students will explore key topics such as law enforcement, the court system, corrections, and the importance of justice in maintaining societal order. This day is designed to inspire civic responsibility, foster critical thinking about justice and equity, and highlight career opportunities in criminal justice, law, and public service.

## SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMMING

**January 13th (Tuesday)**

### **The Poverty Problem**

Foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and complexities faced by individuals and families living in poverty through interactive, educational, and reflective activities. Students will develop empathy, critical thinking skills, and a sense of social responsibility as we aim to empower students to become advocates for change by equipping them with knowledge about systemic issues, personal resilience strategies, and community-based solutions to combat poverty. Students will create their Spring project on this topic.

**February 10th (Tuesday)**

### **Choices**

To empower high school students to understand the impact of their decisions on their personal lives, relationships, and future goals. Through engaging activities, discussions, and reflections, students will explore the consequences of their choices, the values that guide their decision-making, and strategies for navigating challenges and peer pressure. This day will help them recognize their agency and responsibility in shaping their paths, fostering critical thinking, self-awareness, and resilience.

**March (TBD)**

### **College Visits**

To introduce students to educational opportunities after high school.

**April 21st (Tuesday)**

### **Arts and Culture**

Inspire high school students to explore and appreciate the richness of artistic expression and cultural diversity. Through a blend of hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and immersive experiences, students will gain a deeper understanding of how art and culture shape identities, communities, and the world at large. This day is designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and empathy, encouraging students to embrace different perspectives and develop an appreciation for the interconnectedness of global traditions and modern innovations.

## SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMMING

**May 7th (Thursday)**

### **Community Engagement**

Students will learn the importance of building strong relationships and partnerships to drive meaningful change. They will explore how collaboration with local organizations, businesses, and leaders can amplify efforts to address community needs. Key topics include effective communication, networking, and the value of shared goals in fostering trust and inclusivity. Students will present their group project during interaction with the community.

**June 4th (Thursday)**

### **Financial Literacy and Goal Setting**

Equip high school students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to manage their finances effectively and set meaningful personal and academic goals, while also learning to set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals that align with their long-term aspirations. This two-part day will foster a sense of responsibility, empower students to make informed decisions about their future and inspire them to take actionable steps toward achieving their dreams.

**June 5th (Friday)**



# PROGRAM TIMELINE

Engagement  
And Program Promotion

Feb. 2025

Student Interviews

Apr. 2025

Pre-Program  
Communication and  
Preparation

Jun. 2025

Student Applications  
Accepted

Mar. 2025

Student Selection  
and Notification

May 2025

Program Year

Jul. 25<sup>th</sup> - June  
26<sup>th</sup>

## PROJECTS

### The Poverty Problem

This project aims to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and complexities faced by individuals and families living in poverty. Through interactive, educational, and reflective activities, students will develop empathy, critical thinking skills, and a sense of social responsibility. The program equips students with knowledge about systemic issues, personal resilience strategies, and community-based solutions to combat poverty, empowering them to become advocates for change.

Key activities include a **Poverty Simulation Experience** a **Panel Discussion**, and a **Community Mapping Exercise** to explore local resources and identify gaps in services.

The project will culminate in May with a formal presentation where students showcase their learnings and solutions to the community, highlighting their journey toward becoming informed advocates for positive change.

### Driving Away Hunger Campaign

The "Driving Away Hunger" campaign is a proposed student-led food drive organized by the HUB Youth Leadership Academy students. The initiative involves collecting donations at the HUB and partnering with a grocer to solicit contributions on-site. Newly formed "Leadership Circles" will oversee tasks such as marketing through TV and radio commercials, social media strategies, and direct grocery store solicitations. Promotional efforts will ramp up in September, with potential billboards or direct mail campaigns in October. Donation drop-off is scheduled for November, with distribution to those in need planned through one of three channels: directly from the HUB, a partner agency like Golden Harvest, or a network of HUB-affiliated churches (AFLC).

