Voices In Equity: Episode 13 Guide

Podcast Episode Guide: <u>The Lasting Impact of the Aaron Young Scholars Summer</u>
Research Institute

Hosted by: Kennedy Ruff, Program Coordinator for the Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute, and Cook Center Health Equity Research Associate



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Guests:

- Ms. Kennedy Ruff, Program Coordinator for the Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute, and Cook Center Health Equity Research Associate
- Ms. Carissa Dixon, Parent of Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute Graduate

Episode Focus: The development of Aaron Young Scholars both during the program and after their graduation.

Resources to Explore:

 The Hank & Billye Suber Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute: The Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute is a program that provides high school students enrolled in Durham Public Schools (DPS) with training to enhance their writing, research, and presentation skills.

Overview of Topics:

- Engaging high school students with issues of equity and justice.
- Influencing students' educational and career paths.
- The value of representation and mentorship in education.

As You Listen:

- Reflect on the impact that early exposure to equity and social justice topics can have on a young person's development. Think about how programs like the Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute prepare students for academic and professional success.
- Consider the role of parental support: How might encouraging your child to explore unfamiliar but meaningful subjects help them grow?

Engage Further:

- Use your child's learning experiences as conversation starters. Discuss topics like the racial wealth gap or social justice, and explore how these lessons can apply to real-life situations.
- Share this episode of "Voices in Equity" with other parents to raise awareness of the importance of social equity education
- Follow and engage with the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity on social media platforms to stay updated on their initiatives and find more ways to get involved.

Key Discussion Points:

Empowering Students Through Research:

The program allowed Sam to dive into meaningful topics like police brutality and the
wealth gap, developing his ability to research, think critically, and present his findings.
Parents can appreciate how programs like this not only teach academic skills but also
inspire advocacy and purposeful action.

Bringing Lessons Home:

 Ms. Dixon shared how what Sam learned led to meaningful conversations at home about social equity, history, and their family's experiences. Reflect on how these kinds of discussions can deepen a student's understanding and connect their learning to their life.

Long-Lasting Impact and Purpose:

Sam's experience didn't stop when the program ended. It influenced his choice to
combine technology and finance in college, aiming to address financial literacy among
youth. Programs like this can set students on paths to make a real difference, and
parents have a front-row seat to witness and support this journey.

Conclusion:

 Ms. Dixon highlighted the importance of parents being active participants in their child's education, especially in programs that challenge and inspire. Encouraging exploration, supporting growth, and staying engaged can help shape confident, informed, and socially aware young adults.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How can programs like the Aaron Young Scholars Summer Research Institute provide a child with a sense of purpose and direction, and what impact could such a program have on their future decisions?
- 2. What impact do you think having the freedom to choose meaningful research topics, like Sam did, can have on a student's confidence and sense of purpose? How might this influence their future aspirations?
- 3. How can parents support their children in processing complex and sometimes difficult topics, such as the racial wealth gap or police brutality, in a way that empowers them rather than overwhelms them?

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