Youth Leadership Development and the University

Barbara Ferman
Executive Director, UCCP
Professor of Political Science
Temple University

www.temple.edu/uccp
Youth Work: The Evolution of a Field

Deficit Model → Asset Based → Youth Leadership Development
Why Should Universities Care About Youth Leadership Development?

• Ethical Considerations

• Civic Concerns

• Practical Reasons

• Resources (yup, we have ‘em!)
The University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia (UCCP)

Founded in 1997, the UCCP “prepares and supports youth and young adults to become confident, effective leaders and collaborates with organizations to create cultures that value and integrate the contributions of youth, thereby building stronger communities.”

We carry out this mission through direct programming, training and technical assistance activities, and applied research.
Theory of Change

**INDIVIDUAL LEVEL**
- Providing youth with the knowledge, skills, tools and access to become effective leaders and advocates for social justice in their schools, communities and the larger society

**ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL**
- Changing organizations so they are more receptive to and inclusive of youth voice and input

**SOCIETAL LEVEL**
- Making policies and practices more inclusive of and responsive to youth
Individual Level
PROGRESSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM

UCCP’s youth programming is designed to empower youth to use their voice for positive social change. We aim to build the individual and collective power of youth through the process of education, collaborative research, media production and relationship building with community partners, government agencies and non-profit organizations.

Youth Ages 14 - 18

- Temple Youth VOICES
  After school program combining youth media, youth leadership development and youth organizing activities.

- POWER Internship
  Credit-bearing internship combining exposure to nonprofit work environments with project-based learning.

Youth Ages 16 - 18

- Youth Action Scholar Institute
  8-week summer planning institute for the youth action scholar campaigns with intensive training in political education, community organizing, applied research techniques, and presentation and public speaking skills.

- Youth Action Scholars
  Closely mentored youth-led team engaged in a year-long research-driven campaign on a community issue using outreach, media and peer education.

Youth Ages 18 - 21

- Leadership Development Institute
  8-week intensive training in all aspects of positive youth leadership development, including facilitation, curriculum design, project development and management.

- Leaders Corps
  Part-time staff position, responsible for carrying out UCCP programming, supporting UCCP’s community capacity building initiatives, developing and conducting workshops, and participating in UCCP staff meetings and decision making.

- V-MEDIA
  Peer media literacy and production training team, responsible for conducting workshops for youth and adults in UCCP’s programs and project-based collaborations, and for creating promotional media for UCCP and partner organizations.

Special Ongoing Opportunities

- Field trips, leadership retreats, travel-abroad opportunities, exposure to community organizations and leaders.
- Networking with non-profits and community leaders, Senior Project assistance, resume and college application help, LC mentoring.
- Ongoing professional development workshops, individual staff mentoring, travel and presentation opportunities.
What they Say

“To be completely honest, if it weren’t for the UCCP to guide me along the way, I wouldn’t even consider higher education. It has taught me the skills necessary to succeed”
- former participant, current Leaders Corps member, sophomore at Community College majoring in Education.

“The UCCP changed my outlook on life by giving me another perspective. I literally went from wanting to be a lawyer wanting to incarcerate individuals to wanting to prevent them from getting to that point by engaging them in their community.” – Earl J, Temple University Philosophy Major

“Since the UCCP is housed on a college campus, it inspired me to attend Temple University because I experienced the many opportunities Temple provided such as shows, education, and diversity. As a participant, I learned skill building and did research. I even used one of the projects as my high school senior project.” – Earla J, CCP Criminal Justice and Media student (won scholarship to attend Temple University in 2010)

“The Youth Action Scholars helped me in so many ways including school. It was hard speaking with a speech impediment and an anxiety disorder. But the whole YAS including the Leaders Corps inspired me to be the leader that they knew I could be. Thanks for everything.” YAS participant 2010 and current member of the Leaders Corps

“I have come to value the work of the UCCP with the youth of our city. Their understanding of youth development and youth issues makes them a vital organization in the youth programming landscape in Philadelphia.” - former Executive Director, Philadelphia Youth Commission.

Organizational Level: Project Based Collaborations
Capacity Building = Developing the organization’s ability to work effectively with youth

Youth leadership development is not just about the training youth receive.

Youth leadership development requires the commitment of the organization to support, encourage and create opportunities of true youth leadership within the organization.
Project Based Collaborations
- consulting and coaching

We work with adult staff in areas of:

- “listening” to youth,
- providing environments that encourage and respect youth voice,
- working with youth as co-decision makers.
Project Based Collaborations

We work with organizations across a broad spectrum of categories including:

- youth driven-project ➔ Red Cross
- board development ➔ ENPYSC
- youth led research ➔ DECLS
- youth philanthropy ➔ YOUTHadelphia
- youth driven multi-media ➔ Students Run Philly Style
- youth organizing, networking and coalition building ➔ Starfinder
Societal Level

*Re*-Presenting Youth in the Media

*Re*-Framing Violence

*Re*-Defining Civic Education
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