

Operations Staff Spotlight

Operations Staff Spotlight: Ellis Manning

February's Featured Operations Staff is Ellis Manning, YMWIC's current Accountant. Ellis joined YMWIC in November of 2024; and though he joined us to help with bookkeeping, his contributions have since grown to include various vital operations such as analyzing financial data and supporting grant reporting.



A native of Washington, DC, Ellis pursued Philosophy and History in his college education. He went on to develop a rigorous career as a Restauranteur for a number of years, and his interest in the accounting side of restaurant management inspired him to pursue a second degree in Accounting. From there, he worked for an insurance company for 24 years before retiring in mid-2024. As luck would have it, a mutual friend connected Ellis and our Founder, Rick Roberts. Ellis, embracing YMWIC's mission, has been with us ever since.

We asked Ellis what he appreciates about YMWIC:

"The thing that attracted me initially is the mission and what the Foundation is trying to do—namely offering mentorships, tutoring, and resources that are woefully inadequate in underserved areas. I like the STEM and STEAM focus and that the Foundation helps students who have an interest to further develop their skills. YMWIC offers additional support once a high school graduate who has been part of the Foundation goes on to the next phase of their life. I like that the Foundation doesn't limit its focus to four-year institutions, but also community college and trade schools. They want Scholars to educate and enhance their skills, to not only improve their subject of study but also themselves."

For families considering enrolling their students in YWMIC's programs, Ellis has this advice:

"Honestly, I think the Foundation provides a very well-organized, well-conceived program that certainly holds its participants to high standards but also provides the relevant and adequate resources to help develop Scholars to excel in STEAM fields."