

JCG SWEO Program in Full Swing



Jobs for Cincinnati Grads (JCG) resumed in-person work experiences this year as well as offered virtual and blended experiences, as needed. Thirty JCG students are currently participating in JCG's eight-week paid Summer Work Experience Opportunity (SWEO). SWEO

provides the opportunity for the students to gain first-hand exposure in their career field of interest, understand essential skills, receive training, and learn the transferrable skills necessary for success, as well as the opportunity to network with professionals in their fields of interest. This experience will increase career awareness and position the youth to make better career choices.

JCG welcomed back returning site partners: The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati Cooks, Cincinnati State, G.C.M.I. (Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiatives), Habitat Cincinnati, Kable Academy, Hoxworth Blood Center, High Achievers Aim Health and are happy to welcome new site partners: The Kroger Co., Abundance University, Davis Cookies, Gunnels Realty, Healthy Visions, Music Resource Center Cincinnati, Soul Palette, Support Management Solutions, Strive Together, Aiken New Tech High School, Western Hills University and World Affairs Council.



Angela Corkhill, Senior HR Leader at Kroger said, *"This is our first experience with SWEO, and it has gone great. We look forward to continuing our partnership with this program. The program is important, as it allows students to see different options for a career path. It is real world experience in the career path that they might be interested in, prior to students attending higher education."*

Manufacturing is not something that is showcased frequently but is a very important industry. Allowing students to see that higher

education doesn't always mean sitting behind a desk in a cube all day. It also allows them to see different aspects of the career choice.

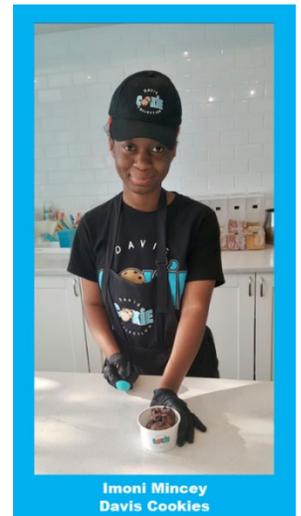
Virgil is doing an excellent job here at State Avenue, and we hope he has received an amazing experience to help make the decision of what he wants to do with his career.

We do look forward to helping more students receive this same experience."

A "Special Thank You" to all of JCG's new and returning SWEO partners for the role they play in ensuring both a positive and productive summer for JCG youth. Also "A Big Thank You" to the SWORWIB, Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services, Citi Foundation and Jobs for Ohio's Graduates for funding that makes this opportunity possible!



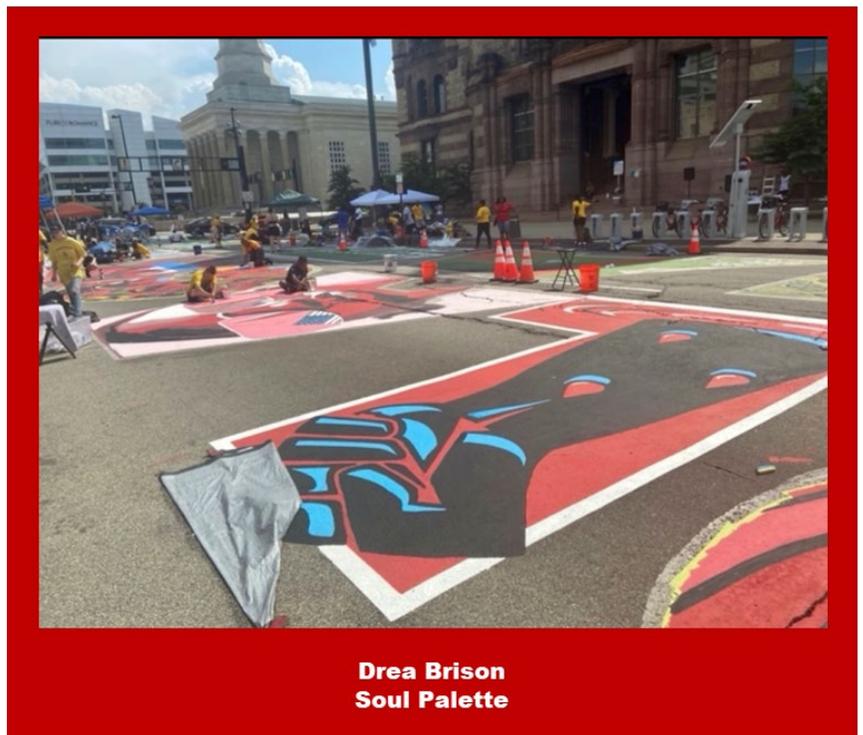
Arivana Blunt
Kable Academy



Imoni Mincey
Davis Cookies



Christopher Stewart & Lovelle Anderson
SWEO - Habitat Cincinnati



Drea Brison
Soul Palette

Overcoming Roadblocks!



Frances Smith wanted to go back to Cincinnati State to continue her dream of obtaining a college degree, but she had outstanding fees that kept her from registering. Frances sought help from Equus Workforce Solutions, where she met Michael Johnson, a Talent Development Specialist, and they discussed the assistance she needed and the resources that Equus could provide. Yet, however a challenge presented itself on the day of their meeting, Frances had to rush her son to the hospital for a medical emergency.

Frances did not let this roadblock keep her from moving forward. She set up a payment plan that showed she was consistently paying the fees and was able to start back at Cincinnati State in 2021. During this time, she also started working for St. William's School as a teacher's assistant, working 27.5 hours a week, while making \$13.25 an hour.

During this time, Frances began experiencing some medical issues of her own. She was pregnant, and her doctor thought it best that she start maternity leave early. When it was time to return to work, the COVID-19 pandemic had things shut down, so Frances remained off work. Always looking to move forward, Frances didn't stop her progress and was able to achieve her goal of graduating from Cincinnati State during the pandemic.

After delivering a healthy baby and now possessing a college degree, Frances received a promotion from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. She is now the Assistant Director of High School programming for all the catholic high schools in Cincinnati.





2021 Graduation Story

One of the most important goals for our participants is the pursuit of higher education. With that goal in mind, we offer a comprehensive, in house, GED program where folks can earn their GED without cost to them. Santa Maria Community Services also offers free High School Equivalency preparation and test registration services to low-income individuals, age 16 and over, in an effort to develop a community which empowers individuals to improve their lives and neighborhoods through education, while inspiring them to work, learn, and grow.

On Thursday, July 29th, Santa Maria Community Services will host our annual GED graduation ceremony. Graduates include previous success story subjects Sierra Page and Cassandra Hursey, among many others. The ceremony will feature graduates from this year, as well as the previous year when we were unable to hold a ceremony due to the pandemic.

We are especially excited to host graduation on campus at our Literacy Center West building in Price Hill. Briana Blanchard, our Education Coordinator, has worked tirelessly to put together what we are sure will be a wonderful ceremony and reception worthy of the graduates we will be honoring.

