PODIUM WINTER PROGRAMS UPDATE

BY VICKI YEROIAN, MSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Winter has sure brought a lot of changes to Podium’s program this year! Continuing in a virtual format, Podium added new members to our program team and started a few new initiatives. After a wonderful year of service, Podium said goodbye to Program Lead Chelsea and welcomed back an old friend to the position, Raymond Martin III. Starting off originally as a volunteer and intern, Ray has also served Podium as Co-Chair of our Young Professional Board and is now back running weekly programs. Podium also welcomed back Daeron Bacon as our Alumni Lead. Previously working as a summer 2019 high school intern, Daeron came back to Podium this winter to lead a new peer-mentorship program for Highland Springs High School juniors and seniors. Thank you Ray and Daeron for your long-term commitment to the Podium family! Not only did Podium start a new peer-mentorship program, Podium also began our second year partnering with Metro Richmond Boys & Girls Clubs. Working on their annual Youth of the Year challenge, Podium helps teens craft three essays and a speech to compete to be recognized as the Virginia-State and potentially National Youth of the Year. Winners receive scholarship funding, a laptop, and more! So far this winter, Podium has served 37 youth across five program sites. Curious about what happens every week in virtual programs?

Check out our program recap videos today at: podiumrva.org/virtual-programs
YOU SHOWED YOUR LOVE OF LANGUAGE!

BY AERIN MILLS, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

During the month of February 2021, Podium hosted our first-ever 100% virtual campaign and fundraiser called the Love of Language. The campaign was a success thanks to the support of Podium family and friends! We raised over $3,500 for youth in Richmond and 88% of our overall goal. These numbers are pretty spectacular, and from this momentum, we will only grow our future campaigns.

Without the undying love and support you have shown for Richmond city youth, we would not be where we are today or able to do what we do best. Thank you so much for helping to make this awesome campaign a success, and here’s to an even more successful April!

Mark your calendars!

All April long, Podium celebrates National Poetry Month in another virtual campaign. To share of love of all things poetry, on April 29th, Podium will host a Community and Alumni Poetry Night at 6:30pm. We would love to have you there! To register, please visit www.podiumrva.org/events.

Podium is showing our Love of Language!

$3512

$0

$4000

Thank you to everyone who donated during February!

You have proven there is no shortage of love for RVA youth!

Check us out at podiumrva.org!
SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday June 17th from 5:30 - 7pm, Podium will host our Annual Awesome Adult Spelling Bee a little bit differently! Podium’s Spelling Bee is entirely virtual this year! Join us for an exciting and spelling filled Happy 1.5 Hours in support of RVA youth! Check out the details below and visit www.podiumrva.org/events to reserve your spot today.

**EVENT SCHEDULE:**
- 5:30 – 5:45pm: Welcome by Board & Event Sponsors
- 5:45 – 6pm: Introduction of the game and breakout into groups
- 6 – 6:45pm: Spelling Bee competition: Duo vs. Duo & Trio vs. Trio
- 6:45 – 7pm: Duo & Trio 1st Place Award Announcement

*Winners all receive ribbons and a trophy plaque to share!*

**PLAYER TICKETS:**
*Team and viewer tickets are limited to 100 total participants, so reserve your spot today!*

- Duo (Paired spellers): $120
- Trio (Team of 3 spellers): $160

**VIEWERS:**
*Viewers can select either the Duo or the Trio competition to watch.*
- $30 tickets -- view the show to cheer on your friends!
- $60 tickets -- view the show and receive a digital copy of Journal #11!
- $80 tickets -- view the show; receive a digital copy of Journal #11 and a Crown Bee certificate!

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**
*$750 event sponsorship comes with:*
- Digital and print acknowledgement
- Event speaking opportunity
- 1 Duo and 1 Trio team spots
- 2 viewer tickets

**GAME RULES:**
*In 15 lightning rounds of spelling...*
- The first team to type their team name in the chat spells that round.
- If they spell the word correctly, they earn the point.
- If they misspell, the next team in the chat tries their luck.
- The team with the most points at the end of our 15 rounds wins!

**BEE THERE OR BEE SQUARE!**