



Q2 NEWSLETTER

RICHMOND'S WRITING AND COMMUNICATION
NON-PROFIT FOR YOUTH

SPRING PROGRAM RECAP & SUMMER FUN

BY CANDACE WEATHER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Like the wind, Podium's spring programs just breezed by! We closed out the school year with 5 teen programs at Armstrong, John Marshall, George Wythe, Highland Springs, and Huguenot high schools and 3 middle school programs at Wilder and Fairfield middle schools and at our pilot program with The Well in Hopewell, VA. In total, we served 32 middle schoolers and 200 high schoolers this quarter; check out our [Spring Zine here!](#) Additionally, we concluded our college scholar search and awarded five \$5,000 Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education scholarships to graduating seniors within our programs!

Sun's out, fun's out, and our summer session is making big waves already! Podium is busy hosting 3 middle school programs, 6 high school programs, 1 post-graduate program, and our 8th Annual Teen Professional Conference. Of these programs listed, two are in our new region of impact, Petersburg City. We are so excited to be working with the Petersburg Boys & Girls Club and National Park!. Podium is continuing to grow rapidly, and our impact is expanding. Thank you to the entire Podium family for supporting our summer programs across Greater Richmond and the Tri Cities!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 01** *Spring Program Recap & Summer Fun*
- 02** *Scholarship Awards Night*
- 03** *Scavenger Hunt Extravaganza!*
- 04** *Business Leaders, We Need Your Input*



YOUTH AT LUCILLE BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
COLLABORATING ON WRITING PROJECTS



YOUTH WITH THEIR PODIUM MENTOR AT
HIGHLAND SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

BY VICKI YEROIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On June 5, 2023, Podium hosted its second scholarship awards night! A dream started by Podium's co-founders and the Waldruff family, Podium is proud to offer Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education scholarships. A two-year award, Podium welcomed all three of its inaugural scholars back home from their freshman year at Virginia State University and celebrated five new scholarship winners. On a beautiful night, scholars received trophies, a Podium lapel pin, and uplifting praise and encouragement from their families, friends, and mentors!

Podium celebrates and honors its Class of 2023 Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education scholars:

- Tyler Jei Steele, Armstrong High School
- Debbie Gomez-Rivera, George Wythe High School
- Miyah Miller, George Wythe High School
- Adriana Keyes, Huguenot High School
- A'Landa Macklin, Richmond Community High School

Did you miss the celebration? Check out a video recap of the speeches shared by our scholars [HERE!](#). Shared by inaugural scholar Lael, "Because Anne F. Waldruff realized her dream, this scholarship helped me realize my dream of becoming a debt free Virginia State University Trojan." This year's scholarship awards night was dedicated in loving memory of Robert Waldruff.



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS. FROM L TO R:

A'LANDA MACKLIN, TYLER JEI STEELE, ADRIANA KEYES, DEBBIE GOMEZ-RIVERA, AND MIYAH MILLER

SCAVENGER HUNT EXTRAVAGANZA!

BY AERIN MILLS, COMMUNICATION & EVENTS DIRECTOR

On May 20, 2023, Podium hosted our RVA Citywide Scavenger Hunt at Main Line Brewery! It was an awesome day filled with smiling faces, great times, delicious food, and fierce competition! Teams hunted across the city completing tasks and taking pictures to accrue the most points. Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd place winners of the day: YP Board member Erika's team and BloomEd's team, respectively. Thank you to all who came out to hunt under the hot sun and to Village Bank for being our incredible event sponsor! Podium also wants to thank the awesome Cory Mosley from VA This Morning for being our celebrity host and the wonderful Melissa Vaughn from WRIR for being our celebrity judge!



SMALL FRIEND RECORDS & BOOKS WAS ON OUR LITERARY TOUR!



PODIUM YP BOARD MEMBERS WITH OUR SPONSOR: VILLAGE BANK!



STOPPING AT THE LATE YET ICONIC STRANGE MATTER



OUR 1ST PLACE WINNERS OUTSIDE MAIN ST. STATION

Stay tuned to Podium's socials to hear all about our upcoming events and givebacks! You can also learn more at www.podiumrva.org.

BUSINESS LEADERS, WE NEED YOUR INPUT

BY VICKI YEROIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We need you, yes YOU! Calling all business and community leaders who support Podium youth writing and communication programs, and calling all business and community leaders new to us: Podium is looking for your input to best determine how to update our professional development programming for Greater Richmond and Tri City teens. **Will you take a few minutes to fill out our Greater Richmond Workforce Development Survey?**

This 10-question survey identifies top cross-sector needs throughout our region. In an era of disrupted education, the time to build a successful future by providing targeted professional development opportunities for teens and recent graduates is now. As a leader of your professional field, please help us by identifying writing and communication based focus points needed in your industry.

[SURVEY LINK: forms.gle/5Tw53SJCvmhT947J9](https://forms.gle/5Tw53SJCvmhT947J9)

Podium seeks to update its curriculum and youth services to best accompany the needs of our business communities. With your help through your participation today, your company leads the way to a brighter workforce and future!



Scan me!

SUMMER PROGRAM TEAM SHOUTOUT!

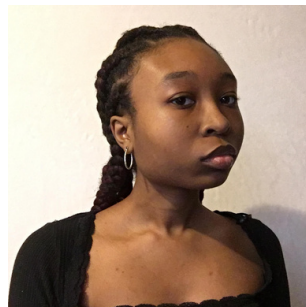
Podium mentors are the best around, no doubt about it! We are so lucky to have these amazing folks working with the youth we serve this summer. From Candace to Cindy, please meet our incredible program team. To quote Cindy, "My time with Podium has been fun! Seeing how kids express themselves in their writing is amazing, and being their peer mentor and helping them is the best part of it."



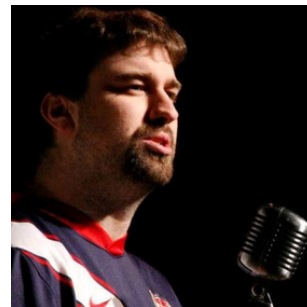
Candace Weather,
Programs Director



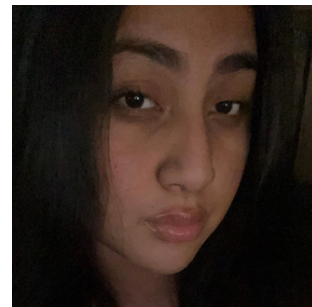
Jean Anderson,
Program Lead



Destiny Hall
Harper, Journal 14
Designer & alum



Robert Owens,
Program Lead



Cindy Montejo,
Our high school
summer intern

Check us out online at
www.podiumrva.org



[FACEBOOK.COM/PODIUMFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/podiumfoundation)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/PODIUMRVA](https://www.instagram.com/podiumrva)