



The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center

Getting community youth to, through, and beyond college



NBCUniversal Day – April 18

Through a collaboration with Young Audiences New York (YANY) and NBCUniversal, 12 DDC students are participating in a media & arts course. The course instructor is Christie Neptune who is a professional artist and teacher. Throughout the semester students, chaperoned by DDC Assistant Director Kaye Reyes, go to the NBC offices to learn more about filmmaking, storyboarding, and scripting. In this highly creative and interactive class, students are mentored by NBC professionals while they work as consultants to develop a social justice media campaign for an NBC client. DDC student, Destiny Howell, won the class film project with *Harlem is My Home*. On their April 18th visit to NBC, Destiny presented her work to the client, Creative Force. Students not only build their creative and academic skills but also key professional competencies. Check back here for the sneak preview!

DDC Students on the Road for their College Tours – April 24 to 26

To help students understand how to evaluate colleges for best fit, which is vital for persistence, we want them to experience different campuses. This year, nearly 75 DDC students hit the road during Spring Break to visit several colleges and universities. Some students traveled with DDC staff, Meaghan Davis, Krystin Hernandez and Kaye Reyes, to visit American University, George Washington University and Howard University. Meanwhile, others boarded a bus with DDC staff, Destiny Saldivar and Corey Getchell, to head to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. While there, they toured the campus, met with the admission office, and attended a workshop on STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). [Follow DDC on Instagram for Instagram Stories, photos from the college tours and much more!](#)

Alison P., Columbia/Barnard Mentor: *I see how hard DDC students work, they should always be celebrated and encouraged by their mentors/tutors because they are accomplishing so much. They ARE college bound!*

College Discovery Day – April 22

DDC also worked with Columbia's Double Discovery Student Organization (DDSO) to host College Discovery Day on April 22nd, during the NYC public school Spring Break. Twenty-three DDC students had the opportunity to experience college life from the perspective of their College Discovery Day mentors who are undergraduate students at Columbia and Barnard! College Discovery Day started with DDC students shadowing a Barnard or Columbia student all over campus -- from class to dining hall. Afterwards, the students and their mentors headed to a workshop on health and wellness in the college environment. They learned about stress management, exercise, healthy eating! DDC students discovered just how much college is a whole new world and important strategies that can help them succeed on any campus.

DDC Student Spotlight:

Clarck Desire Jr., 11th grade, DDC student since 9th grade, and his mother, Kaime Desire, PA President at A. Philip Randolph Campus High School

Clarck Desire, Jr.:

DDC changed my life! They helped me find my passion and taught me step-by-step how to make it a reality. I am a junior at A. Philip Randolph Campus High School and want to do nuclear engineering. I have been accepted to the Summer Leadership Experience Program at West Point Academy. West Point has one of the best nuclear engineering programs in the country!

What I most appreciate at DDC is how they show you opportunities, they take you to college tours and expand your job interests, so you see what you want to do. Some schools start talking about opportunities in 12th grade, but it is too late.

I learn so much at DDC. DDC teaches that the impossible is possible. The counselors give us individual attention and push us to think more broadly. They teach us life skills – time management, leadership, social and how to prioritize goals. They also offer many interesting classes – Math, American History, and Writing. I had difficulty writing; however, DDC helped me improve my writing skills, and now I can write clearly.

Kaime Desire:

As a mother, when you find this kind of opportunity, you do not let it go! DDC programs are very structured, the SAT program is excellent, and counselors supervise my son's homework.

Parents cannot do everything, DDC is great for both parents and kids.

Partner with us to offer the gift of education! To help fund our programs and expand our outreach, click here: “[Change a Life](#)”

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