



21ST CENTURY LEADERS

SENIOR BRAGBOOK

CLASS OF
2023



CONTENTS

03 IMPACT

04 CORE VALUES & COMPETENCIES

05 LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

06 21CL ALUMNI NETWORK

07 CLASS OF 2023 SPOTLIGHTS

38 SUMMER INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

39 ABOUT 21CLUBS

40 ABOUT LEADERSHIP CONNECT

IMPACT



CLASS OF 2023
REPRESENTING

21st Century Leaders (21CL) is proud to recognize and honor our Class of 2023.

Our mission is to connect, transform, and inspire high school students from across Georgia to leverage diversity, explore career opportunities, and become leaders in their schools, communities, and ultimately the workforce.



STUDENTS



HIGH SCHOOLS



IN SCHOLARSHIP
OFFERS

*all numbers based on self
assessments and reports submitted
from students or teachers.*



OF STUDENTS WHO
REPORTED GRADUATED H.S.
AND PLAN TO GO TO POST-
SECONDARY ED OR
MILITARY



SAID THEY TOOK ON NEW
LEADERSHIP ROLES AFTER
JOINING 21CL



OF STUDENTS NOW
SEE THEMSELVES AS
A LEADER



SAID THEY ARE
CLEARER ON KNOWING
THEIR CAREER PATH
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



SAID THEIR CAREER
INTEREST CHANGED OR
WAS RE-AFFIRMED
AFTER 21CL

INSPIRING YOUTH TO LEAD

SINCE 1989

OUR 5 LEADERSHIP VALUES

- RESOURCEFUL
- PASSIONATE
- LEVERAGES DIVERSITY
- SERVICE-ORIENTED
- FORWARD-THINKING

OUR 7 LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

- COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- ACTION-ORIENTED
- SELF-DEVELOPMENT
- BUILDING EFFECTIVE TEAMS
- INTEGRITY/TRUST
- CAREER AMBITION

ENCOURAGING THE HEART

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE CLASS OF 2023

To our 21st Century Leaders' Seniors:

I recently read something by the author Neill Strauss who said,

"Don't let the fact that you don't know what you're doing stop you from doing anything. We start everything from a place of not knowing. And through the doing, we learn. We may not get it right the first time, but eventually we know what we're doing."

I love that statement because it's true at ANY age and ALL stages of life. Think back to all those first moments. First day of school, first time speaking in public, first time taking on a leadership role, or even the first time attending a 21st Century Leaders event. Most of those moments came from a place of not knowing what to do or how that experience was going to turn out. But you did it! And I bet, for the most part, those were positive experiences and ones that continue to challenge you and make you a better leader today!

At 21st Century Leaders we always say *"be comfortable being uncomfortable"* and I hope that stays with you, because being a leader isn't always easy. As you look ahead to what's next, do the things that are hard, that make you a little nervous, where you don't know anyone, or the things you don't know how to do. In the end, each one of those moments will make you a more confident person with a new network of friends and a new set of skills!

And while you're doing the hard things, **don't forget the people around you**. Make sure you're taking the time to connect with them, build relationships, and uplift those who need it. We hope you found your connection at 21st Century Leaders an inspiring one as you connected with diverse peers and passionate professionals and transformed your leadership skills and opportunities for the future.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, and our entire leadership team, congratulations! We're proud of each and every one of you, honored to have been on this leadership journey with you, and excited to see what you accomplish next! This is just the beginning for each of you.

Go be great,

Kate Hewitt,
Executive Director




21ST CENTURY
LEADERS
Stay connected with me!


21CL ALUMNI NETWORK

WELCOME ALUMNI! A MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR BOARD

Congratulations Seniors!

As a graduating senior, you've just achieved one of many great milestones you have to look forward to as you continue on your path of success. Now that you have officially graduated from high school, you are also **now officially a 21st Century Leaders alum!** You are joining a prestigious group of over 17,000 21st Century Leaders alumni across the globe. As a member of this group, you have access to a vast network of professionals across industries who have a shared interest in your success.

We are all here to support you on your journey and encourage you to leverage this network in all your future endeavors. We hope that you will remain an active and engaged member of this group and that you will give back to the group as it will continue to give to you.

Best wishes on the next steps of your journey and congratulations on your success! We are proud of you and wishing you the best.

Sincerely,

Lauren Flanigan
Marketing Director, Mondelēz International /
Vice Chairperson, 21CL Junior Board



[Connect with the Junior Board](#)

STAY
CONNECTED



Join the 21CL Alumni
Group on LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/groups/1943559/



Keep in touch for volunteer and
career opportunities. Be sure to
update us with any and all new
contact info!

Email us at:

alumni@21stcenturyleaders.org



21ST CENTURY
LEADERS

Inspiring youth to lead.

CLASS OF 2023

LERROY SPANN IV

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES AT SAVANNAH HS |
CHATHAM COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "If they don't give you a seat at the table bring a folding chair."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Savannah State University and major in Engineering. I hope to stay connected locally and help rebuild my community, gyms, parks, and all recreation facilities so that underprivileged children can have a positive experience.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memories are volunteering with my 21CLub in the city. Especially during the Enmarket Arena Community Day when I had the opportunity to work with children at my own station.

21CL Impact: Yes, attending the online sessions about leadership and going out in the community to apply what I had learned definitely had a great impact on me and helped shape my future plans to give back to my community.

LINDSEY SANDERS

CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL (SMYRNA) | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day."
- Alice Morse Earle

Future Plans: I plan to attend Spelman College and major in Biology with a minor in Spanish. I hope to become a pediatric dentist and one day open my own dental practice!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is attending the 2022 Healthcare & IT summer leadership institute, but to be specific, I loved the talent show night at the camp - it was so much fun. I got to watch my friends and other campers sing and dance in their business professional outfits which was hilarious!

21CL Impact: 21CL has given me a greater sense of confidence in my leadership abilities. It has introduced me to passionate, like-minded peers who embody what it means to be a servant leader and who challenge me to become a better person each day. 21CL has strengthened my love for serving others within my school and in the greater community. Ultimately, it has affirmed my belief that I can contribute great things to my generation and to the world.

KEYMN COLE

PEBBLEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today." -Malcolm X

Future Plans: I plan to attend Chapman University and major in Fine Art & Screen Acting. I aspire to become a film and television actor, director and producer!

Favorite 21CL Memory: One of my favorite memories is during the 2021 WarnerMedia summer leadership institute when the VP of HBO Max explained his process of how he decides on their shows and how it benefits the company. I enjoyed learning about the concept of considering the history of shows, sales, and the significance of today's viewers.

21CL Impact: 21CL has given me the opportunity to see where there is a potential for my personal and professional growth.

CLASS OF 2023

KATIE GRACE LOWREY

ALLIANCE ACADEMY FOR INNOVATION | FORSYTH COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "If your hate could be turned into electricity, it would light up the whole world." -Nikola Tesla

Future Plans: Attend University of Georgia and major in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. I plan to go into alternative energy power systems engineering to help build a cleaner future (for power generation, which in turn will significantly reduce Co2 emissions)

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is touring Plant Vogtle during the Earthcare Institute!

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me learn to work alongside different people with wildly different personalities. I feel like through this program I gained a lot of social and professional skills that I will surely take with me to college and into the workforce.



AIREONA SUMMERS

SOUTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Always Grind For What You Want. Don't ever give up cause you are closer to your goal."

Future Plans: Attend The Art Institute of Atlanta and major in Culinary Arts. I aspire to purchase a store front and a food truck for my current project, "Gook's Famous G'Rolls" and later open a food chain. I also hope to host food & clothes drives for the homeless as well as open early childhood education centers.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My best 21CL memory is attending the ACCA Culinary Arts Program!

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to improve my communication skills, my work skills, and how to be open-minded by trying different activities without saying they're boring or not for me even before trying them.



HANNAH COOK

MORGAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL | MORGAN COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Never be so kind you forget to be clever; never be so clever you forget to be kind." - Taylor Swift

Future Plans: Attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Biomedical Engineering.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the 2022 EarthCare talent show, laughing and watching all the students showcase their talents and non-talents!

21CL Impact: 21CL cemented my leadership aspirations, promoted my growth to support my community. It has also shown me the importance of diversity and equity, especially of my own and taught me how to branch out into new and uncomfortable situations!



CLASS OF 2023

HOPE EMANUEL

VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL | LOWNDES COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Why wish for it when you can work for it."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Mercer University and major in Political Science with a minor in English. I aspire to become a trial attorney, open my own law firm - Emanuel Law Firm - that will help support individuals who cannot afford legal fees to have access to quality justice. My goal is to eventually become a federal judge/politician and serve underprivileged communities.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I remember 2022 SYLI as if it was yesterday! After a long day of working on our business pitches, Mr. Tim introduced the "Privilege Walk or Step Forward If..." game. At first, I was surprised to find that every student irrespective of their backgrounds, tax brackets/incomes, or cultures shared the same struggles/barriers. This activity helped me identify and reflect on my experiences and increased my empathy and understanding for my peers.

21CL Impact: 21CL has allowed me to network and befriend amazing individuals with the same mindset as me. I am more vocal and can communicate better.

ROSSANA MORA

DACULA HIGH SCHOOL | GWINNETT COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "All limitations are self-imposed."

Future Plans: Attend Georgetown University and major in Finance.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is attending SYLI 2021.

21CL Impact: 21CL definitely reaffirmed my choice of major, and having the opportunity to talk to executives from the Coca-Cola Company and Cox Enterprises opened my eyes to more future opportunities.

ANYA CHIARA DE SARAM-LARSSEN

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF WARSAW | WARSAW



Favorite Quote: "When accessibility is an afterthought that is the opposite of inclusion."

Future Plans: I plan to take a gap year in Norway, in the arctic and make a film on my experience and climate change. I want to become a marine biologist, film-maker, actor, TV reporter, author, and develop inclusive technologies.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is while at HBO learning how their shows are developed and meeting amazing people!

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped to get me more interested in exploring careers in the media; and as a mixed-race neurodiverse woman, the program has really helped me gain more confidence to make myself heard!

CLASS OF 2023

EDEN LANGLEY

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Wisdom begins in wonder."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Howard University and major in Sociology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Attending the Leadership exCHANGE at Morehouse College was impactful. This summit gathered student leaders from various schools to discuss issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The topics of discussion were insightful and it was great to meet students from other schools who are committed to making positive changes in the world.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me discover and master different leadership competencies needed for success in college and the workplace. It also instilled a sense of confidence that helped me become more self-assured. The focus on development and problem-solving presented opportunities to solve a variety of challenges, and assisted me with applying those same skills to tackle some of the issues I faced in my personal life. By networking with diverse professionals from a variety of industries, I cultivated my interpersonal skills and feel comfortable in a variety of settings.



CHAITANYA SRI YETUKURI

GEORGE WALTON COMPREHENSIVE HS | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Future Plans: Attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in finance.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Participating in the talent shows and singing with the flashlights on!

21CL Impact: 21CL has empowered me to dream big and work to make those dreams come true. The leadership trainings I attended have prepared me to be an exceptional worker.



JANIYA WATKINS

HANCOCK CENTRAL HIGH | HANCOCK COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Always be the somebody that makes everybody feel like somebody."

Future Plans: Attend Fort Valley State University and major in Middle Grades Education. My aspirations are to become a middle grades teacher and eventually become a school principal. Also interested in becoming a small business owner.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Participating in all of the summer leadership institutes and having the opportunity to learn and meet new people!

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me in a very positive way. I learned about the importance of critical thinking and diversity and how to genuinely be yourself and not to be afraid to stand up for yourself and your values!



CLASS OF 2023

JAYLIN ELLISON

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "When you know better, you do better."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Vanderbilt University and major in Cinema and Media Arts. My plan is to become a movie producer, writer and director.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory of 21CL is participating in the WarnerMedia Institute; I distinctly remember being so inspired by the people I met.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me see that it is possible to become a media personality.



SENIAH DZAH

MAYNARD JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Don't say you can't when you can, anything is possible if you can start by praying."

Future Plans: Attend Atlanta Tech and major in Accounting. I aspire to be able to take care of my family!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is joining a Zoom meeting and having a discussion about life after high school!

21CL Impact: 21CL has had a positive impact on me.



JENNY THAM

CROSS KEYS HIGH SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Rock bottom is a firm foundation for building."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Emory University and major in Biology. I aspire to be a healthcare professional.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is getting to meet and connect with all my peers at SYLI during the summer of 2022. Just getting to know everyone while also learning and having fun, made my experience very meaningful!

21CL Impact: 21CL has encouraged me to stand out from the crowd even when it makes me uncomfortable, and I learned to calm myself before speaking in front of an audience. 21CL has connected me with people that I wouldn't have known. Through these people, I've learned that everyone is just as nervous and scared of messing up just as I am. But I also learned through these people that as long as you put on a brave face and get through it anyway, you should be proud yourself!



CLASS OF 2023

SANAI WHITMORE WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "I can't cry about having a lot on my plate if my goal was to eat."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Tennessee State University and major in Nursing. I aspire to become an Anesthetist Nurse.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is attending Leadership exCHANGE. I talked to many people that went to the schools I am interested in and they also shared about their college and career aspirations.

21CL Impact: 21CL has made me a better communicator and taught me how to be a better leader.



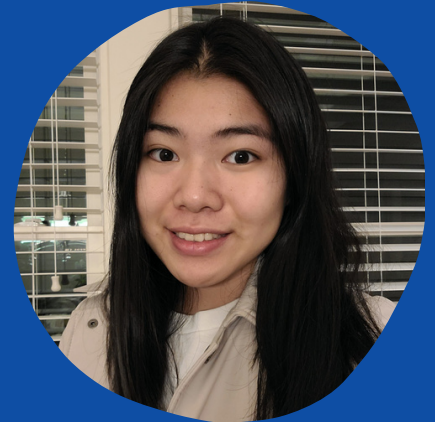
CHRISTIE PENG NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "C'est la vie, mon cher."

Future Plans: Attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Business/Product design.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Participating in the talent show at SYLI 2021!

21CL Impact: 21CL empowered me to become more confident and pursue opportunities outside of my comfort zone. It also helped me meet many of my close friends.



MALAYA ROBERTS MAYNARD JACKSON HIGH | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Where there is no vision, there is no hope."

Future Plans: Attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and major in Mass Communication. I aspire to become a Public Relations professional!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is participating in a 21CL event where coaches and leaders were recognized, it felt like family!

21CL Impact: 21CL taught me how to make personal decisions!



CLASS OF 2023

JALISIA FAMBER

COAHULLA CREEK HIGH SCHOOL | WHITFIELD COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance in what we do not see." ~Hebrews 11:1

Future Plans: I plan to attend Brewton Parker College and major in Nursing. I aspire to do pediatric travel nursing for 2 years, and afterward go to medical school and specialize in Pediatrics.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is when we visited Wellstar, and I tasted fresh honey for the first time.

21CL Impact: Yes, 21CL has had a great impact on me! I have become more outgoing and more open about what I believe in.

ZADA CARMICHAEL

HILLGROVE HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."

Future Plans: Attend The University of Texas at Austin and major in Communications and Leadership.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is listening to the speakers at the Warner Bros. Discovery Future Leaders Institute and sharing experiences with my peers!

21CL Impact: 21CL has made it possible for me to meet and share experiences with different people from different backgrounds and meet professionals who helped me see that anything is possible and I'm so grateful because this training has truly opened me up to who I could be in future.

AUTUMN AGES

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "I'm not going to miss my shot." - Hamilton

Future Plans: I plan to attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida and major in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Mathematics. My grandmother, who was a teacher was a major influence on my decision and I've been inspired by her actions and dedication to improve the lives of others through education.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is attending 21CL workshops.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to acquire leadership skills!

CLASS OF 2023

SKYLER HALL

HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "If you do the work, you get rewarded." - Michael Jordan

Future Plans: I plan to attend Brown University and major in Engineering. My career aspirations are in Creative Media and Technology. I hope to be a Disney Imagineer/Universal Creative/Pixar.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I enjoyed the group documentary pitch at the end of the Warner Media Institute (my group won btw :) it was fun to collaborate and come up with ideas and then present them, we made it!

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me better understand the media industry (an industry I'd like to pursue a career in) and find places of needed improvement in terms of being a leader!



PAYTON KEY

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Find out who you are and do it on purpose." - Dolly Parton

Future Plans: Attend University of Florida and major in Environmental Science. After college, I plan to pursue environmental law and get involved in policy making focusing on land use. One day, I hope to influence policies that ensure that the community and environment always remain the top priorities.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Every night during the 2022 SYLI at Emory University, when we'd get back to the dorms after a long day, we'd just kick off our shoes and play card games in the lobby. I got the chance to really bond with my peers and make friends all across Georgia that I never would've met otherwise. To this day, we all still keep in contact and regularly meet up. Overall, one of the best parts about being in 21CL has been building such a big network of people that are always there for me!

21CL Impact: By attending the 21CL summer leadership institutes and collaborating with such a diverse range of peers across the state, I was really able to expand my perspective and understand how different people may view a situation differently. I also learned what it means to recognize and leverage the diversity of the group I'm in; instead of applying a one size fits all approach, I now know how to learn about different aspects of people's personalities and experiences and how every person plays a unique role in achieving the team's goals.



Aside from that, I've noticed that I've become a lot more confident and outspoken. I used to hide away from the spotlight and not want to talk in front of the class, but at 21CL we have so many opportunities to introduce speakers or get up in front of a group of 100+ people to speak our minds. With gentle pushing from my mentors, I've learned that people aren't going to be as judgmental as you think and that public speaking just takes practice. It's important to speak your mind and stand your ground, so I'm so thankful that 21CL has given me the skills to do so.

CLASS OF 2023

XAVIER WILLIS

SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL | CHEROKEE COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "As a leader...your principal job is to create an operating environment where others can do great things."

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of Georgia and major in Mechanical Engineering. I aspire to become a "Double Dawg" and ultimately find a path that allows me to improve vehicle design and transportation infrastructure.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I enjoyed attending the Healthcare & IT Institute, which was on zoom due to Covid. We had the opportunity to discuss leadership and mental wellness. I also realized the career path I had initially chosen was not the right fit.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped enhance my leadership skills by providing guidance, inspiration and motivation. I encourage other high school students to attend 21ST CENTURY LEADERS programs.

KORE HAYNES

HOME SCHOOL | NEWTON COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "You miss 100% of the shots that you don't take."

Future Plans: Attend either Georgia State or Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Business with a concentration in Supply Chain Management and Logistics. I aspire to be a medical doctor one day!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is participating in the Summer Youth Leadership Institute at Goizueta and meeting new friends!

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me leadership skills and how to become a better leader and person through its Leadership Connect program.

MARIE HANNA

SOUTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL | FORSYTH COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Make the most of every moment that you experience."

Future Plans: Attend the University of Georgia and major in Neuroscience on the Pre-Med track. I aspire to be a medical doctor or surgeon.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Participating in my school's 21CLub and the different meetings/events that we held!

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me positively. I now remember to put my best foot forward and give it my all no matter what the assignment is or whatever it is I am working on!

CLASS OF 2023

VINCENT HOUSTON

NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."- Phil 4:13

Future Plans: I plan to attend Kennesaw State University and major in Computer Science. I wish to pursue a career in Information Technology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I enjoyed attending the programs and encouraging my peers whenever we made progress.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to improve my leadership skills.



KENIYA BELCHER

MAYNARD JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The stars are the limit."

Future Plans: Attend Atlanta Technical College and major in Nursing. My patient care class this year inspired me to pursue this career path!

Favorite 21CL Memory: No specific memory!

21CL Impact: 21CL has enhanced my leadership skills.



LAUREN BENTON

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL | SPALDING COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Work Smarter not Harder."

Future Plans: Attend Georgia State University or Fort Valley (haven't decided yet) and major in Business/Finance! My career aspirations are to obtain a business degree, build a successful business empire in real estate and assist others in doing the same.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is attending the SCAD Fall Summit. I met some really cool people and visited the school that my eldest sister attended!

21CL Impact: 21CL has shown me the importance of networking and expounded on the foundation that my parents have given me. As a leader, I am more equipped to initiate conversations and opportunities!



CLASS OF 2023

SABRINA MORALES

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Life's a journey not a destination."

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of Georgia and major in Marketing. I aspire to travel the world and learn about different cultures while finding strategic ways to market to each country and culture.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is my 21CLub doing a rock painting day during my school's volunteer day, and getting the most volunteers participating in our event compared to all other clubs.

21CL Impact: 21CL has given me team-building skills taught me how to be efficient in a group set up, and work together to accomplish goals.

MANAV BHATIA

LAMBERT HIGH SCHOOL | FORSYTH COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "One Day or Day One, You Decide."

Future Plans: Attend Georgia State University and major in Business. My career goals are to create businesses where I not only make money, but also create an impact in the community and inspire countless lives!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is attending SYLI in-person, meeting everyone, making new friends, stepping out of my comfort zone and exponentially growing. The energy was beyond amazing, and it was truly inspiring!

21CL Impact: 21CL has made me an even better leader and improved my leadership skills. I have gained quite a lot as a leader and I plan to consistently keep inspiring others.

ZARIAH WOODS

THERRELL HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "GO! Find your wings, I found my wings and I'm still flying and I will never ever land." -Tyler, the Creator

Future Plans: I plan to attend Atlanta Technical College and major in Fine Art. I aspire to become a very well known artist and have my work featured in museums one day.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I don't really have any one specific favorite memory.

21CL Impact: 21st Century Leaders has helped me to be more confident and this has helped in decisions and choices I have been making since attending the program!

CLASS OF 2023

J'AVANI STINSON

DEKALB EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "That's not flying, that's just falling with style." - Woody

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Mathematics and Biology. I aspire to be a biomedical researcher with a specialization in pathology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory has to be at the 2022 Fall Summit that focused on DEI. I had a great time with friends I met there. I specifically remember the best conversation about food I've ever had, lol.

21CL Impact: 21CL has definitely increased my confidence. I no longer fear public speaking and now go for every opportunity that comes my way. 21CL has also greatly prepared me for post-secondary life; I have learned about workplace etiquette, and emotional intelligence, and have made tons of useful connections and friends.



JESSICA JENKINS

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HIGH | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Take the Risk or Lose the Chance."

Future Plans: Attend Tennessee State University and major in Human Performances & Sports Sciences. I aspire to be the head athletic trainer for a professional sports team.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is receiving the Elijah Major Spirit Award while attending the Healthcare and IT Institute in the summer of 2022.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me evolve into a better leader by instilling in me essential skills of communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving. It has equipped me with tools to thrive in a dynamic and often unpredictable environment, helped cultivate empathy, inclusivity and build better relationships with others. Overall, 21CL has had a profound impact on my personal and professional growth, enabling me to become an effective leader who can bring about positive change in the world.



MIA CRAWFORD

KIPP ATLANTA COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "If I believe it, I can achieve it."

Future Plans: Attend Georgia State University and major in Film and Media. I aspire to become a Set Designer and Videographer!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is while learning how to build our own personal brand, and how to market ourselves!

21CL Impact: 21CL taught me how to dress up for different occasions and present myself to others!



CLASS OF 2023

BENJAMIN HARPER

CHARLES R. DREW CHARTER SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on earth."

-Muhammad Ali

Future Plans: I plan to attend Morehouse College and major in Economics. I aspire to become an investment banker working on Wall Street.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is being surprised with the Warner Bros. Discovery Leadership Award during 2023 GA Youth Leadership Awards.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me as a leader! I have gained the leadership skills of networking and communication, and that is in addition to the lifelong friendships that I now have.

SIDDHARTHA YALAVARTHI

NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "It's not the hours you put in, it's the days you put in one hour."

Future Plans: Attend University of Georgia and major in Finance. I aspire for a career in banking and in the financial sector!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is the capstone project presentations!

21CL Impact: 21CL has made me become more outgoing and better at presenting myself in a professional manner.

CHRISTOPHER HICKMAN

PEBBLEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "Live life to the fullest! "

Future Plans: I plan to attend Morehouse College and major in Business Administration. I intend to be a Project Manager in the field of Information Technology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is meeting new people from across the state and learning about how I could combine my career interests.

21CL Impact: 21st Century Leaders has helped me gain communication and networking skills and I now know the characteristics for outstanding leadership!

CLASS OF 2023

SALAHUDDIN SAAFIR

GEORGIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY | GWINNETT COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Love is not kisses and hugs. It isn't lust or attraction, it isn't heartache or longing. It's an unrelenting, unconditional, unbreakable, unwavering, ruthless, and fundamentally sacrificial devotion. When that's mutual, it changes from a sacrifice to an ever-giving gift; that's when you know you're in love." -Salahuddin M. Saafir

Future Plans: I plan to attend Morehouse College and major in CTEMS (Cinema, Television, and Emerging Media Studies). I aspire to be a cinematographer, director, choreographer, and, most importantly, actor.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is during an event at Morehouse College, when we were all naming our walkout songs.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me greatly. I've greatly improved my skills and experience in working and sharing in a diverse group set up. Attending 21CL programs has given me so much freedom and prowess.



CHRISTOPHER DACRUZ

DRUID HILLS HIGH SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do."

Future Plans: Attend Morehouse College and major in Business Administration. I would like to become a successful serial entrepreneur, an international music producer, and philanthropist.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is attending the residential summer leadership institute at Emory University and meeting everyone there. I have built lifelong friendships and relationships with my peers and the staff. Thank you 21CL for one of the best summers ever!

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me as a leader and person by giving me the additional skills and knowledge to become a better and more effective leader. I have noticed that I am more of an astute and confident leader as a result of being a part of the organization.



DYLAN WALKER

NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The tallest mountains have the greatest views."

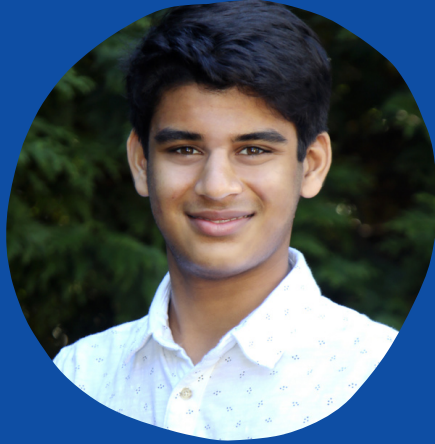
Future Plans: Attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and major in Neuroscience. I aspire to become a Neurologist.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is during the summer leadership institute over Zoom, I was able to form an elevator pitch and learn how to be confident in myself and my accolades!

21CL Impact: 21CL taught helped me to understand my capabilities. I now know that I can do so much more than I had originally thought, and I now have bigger aspirations and goals for who I am and what I plan to do!



CLASS OF 2023



ASANSHAY GUPTA

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Some say don't put all your eggs in one basket. I say put all your eggs in one basket, then get some more eggs." - Kobe Bryant

Future Plans: I plan to attend Stanford University and major in Product Design.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is meeting all the other awardees at the GA Youth Leadership Awards in 2022.

21CL Impact: 21CL has inspired me to stand up as an active member of my community, especially during the Stop Asian Hate movement, and I realize that taking action is key to being a leader.



PEYTON DAVIE

CRISTO REY ATLANTA JESUIT SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." - Maya Angelou

Future Plans: Attend the University of Notre Dame and major in Biological Sciences. I aspire to become an oral/maxillofacial surgeon and eventually have a private practice!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is connecting with my peers in small groups at the start of each call in the morning.

21CL Impact: 21CL has strengthened my leadership skills and been a confidence booster.



JALANA SMITH

DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL | LAURENS COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Fairy tales can come true. You gotta make them happen, it all depends on you." - Tiana (Princess and the Frog)

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Computer Science. I aspire to become a software engineer or developer. After gaining some experience in that field, I would like to work as a video game programmer and specialize in computer graphics!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is meeting and collaborating with peers at the Warner Bros. Discovery Future Leaders Institute, and meeting Carl Azuz from CNN10 was a plus!

21CL Impact: Ever since I joined 21CL, I have become a better leader and person. The organization encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone and helped me become more vocal in my community! I have really enjoyed this program! Through Leadership Connect and the Warner Bros. Discovery Future Leaders Institute, I have truly grown as a leader, person, and citizen of my community. I am proud to be a 21st Century Leader!

CLASS OF 2023

DIMI DEJU HOME SCHOOL | GWINNETT COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

Future Plans: I plan to attend Emory University and do Business Administration with a major in Marketing and a minor in Botany. I plan on going into the food and technology industries and becoming a business owner who develops smart, efficient solutions to problems like malnourishment and food insecurity around the world. I want to become a traveling entrepreneur or consultant who gives back through smart solutions and servant leadership.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL is eating food from Waffle House during 2022 SYLI at Goizueta Emory University with new friends. We sat around, talked about the future, and all sorts of juicy topics with our SYLI intern, Lara, and the weather was *amazing*.

21CL Impact: 21CL has made me more comfortable with public speaking, more introspective, and honestly, better at being friendly to others.



JANISHA WILDER BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Your future is only as good as the work you put into it."

Future Plans: Attend Gordon State and major in Nursing.

Favorite 21CL Memory: No specific favorite memory other than learning leadership skills.

21CL Impact: 21CL has not only taught me necessary professional and life skills, but it also encouraged me to go outside my comfort zone. Before I had been afraid to take any chances, worried about failure and embarrassment. I am proud of myself that I got to graduate even when many people doubted me and tried to bring me down but I didn't let that get to me.



GABRIELLE WALTHOUR DEKALB EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "You shall keep peace for us, because in you we hope, LORD JEHOVAH, to the eternity of eternities!" - Isaiah 26:3

Future Plans: Attend Northwestern University and major in Environmental Science. I want to serve the Lord in all I do and put Him first; currently, I plan to go to law school and become an attorney.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the public speaking opportunities at the 2022 Summer Leadership Institutes. Getting to introduce business professionals, hands-on leadership learning, and getting to meet new people is not something I would have been able to do anywhere else!

21CL Impact: Every activity I have done with 21CL, from summer leadership institutes and leadership summits to Leadership Connect, has been enriching. I have learned how to be an effective leader who is action-oriented, a team-player, who finds practical solutions.



CLASS OF 2023



AJAY BALASUBRAMANIAM LAMBERT HIGH SCHOOL | FORSYTH COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." -Albert Einstein

Future Plans: I plan to attend Emory University and major in Biology and Music. I hope to become a physician and treat patients while continuing to explore music and perform on the side.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the 2022 GYLA event where I was an awardee and I got to meet each of the other 20 winners and learn their stories. It was inspiring to hear how everyone had served their community and demonstrated leadership skills that 21CL values. It was a night of honoring student and adult leaders, charitable giving, and great food, too!

21CL Impact: I have grown a lot as a leader and person since joining 21CL. I've been inspired and learned a lot about leadership while also giving me opportunities to meet and learn from high level professionals and be part of an amazing community of student leaders. 21CL has shaped me into who I am today and I thank everyone in this organization for helping me so much throughout my high school years.



SUMMER MATTHEWS MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Opportunities don't just happen, you create them." – Chris Grosser

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of West Georgia and major in Nursing. My academic and career goals are to continue to volunteer at Grady Memorial Hospital Teen Leadership program and gain more hands-on experience in a hospital environment; I also hope to acquire a summer paid internship or job at a local hospital or clinic to help not only gain experience but also get funds for my college expenses. After my first two years in college, I will apply for a nursing program. I want to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree in nursing and work as a traveling trauma or pediatric nurse to help and save lives all over the world!

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is spending time with senior citizens at Brannan Towers Senior Highrise together with my 21CLub@Midtown on Martin Luther King Day. We played many games, got to know each other more and celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me in so many ways. It allowed me to give back and make positive contributions within my community; it has helped me see the world in a new and bigger perspective, bringing new ideas to the table, and developed my deep passion for helping others. The leadership skills I learned have helped connect with peers, develop service projects, spread the word about different community service opportunities, listen to people's life stories and get to know them a little better and also raise donations.

CLASS OF 2023

PEDRO PABLO SANTA-MARIA

ROME HIGH SCHOOL | FLOYD COUNTY

Future Plans: Attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Engineering. My major has a broad spectrum of job opportunities, there are also new major options at GT such as Biomedical engineer that are pretty interesting. The future holds surprises and new possibilities.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the group discussions and meeting people from different backgrounds.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me as a leader and opened broad perspective for my future and encouraged me to keep moving forward.



ENIOLA BADEJO

HILLGROVE HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "What is all this golden light for if not to sing about?"

Future Plans: Attend University of Georgia and major in Entertainment and Media Studies.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is when I was in the audience of Dennis D. Williams' panel during the Warner Bros. Discovery Future Leaders Institute in the summer of 2022. It meant so much to me to see someone who looked like me in such a high position working at a company at which I would love to work some day.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me as a leader and person by showcasing spaces in which I can serve that I didn't know were possible. I used to think that working in the media industry meant no stability or job prospects, but 21CL showed me that there is a plethora of job opportunities in the sector that I can follow, and that I don't have to work in a field I don't love.



ARYNN REYNOLDS

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Treat people how you want to be treated."

Future Plans: Attend Tuskegee University and major in Animal Science.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is bonding with the other students and the experience of hearing different ideas from them.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me at a very personal level! I learned public speaking and have been able to get out my comfort zone.



CLASS OF 2023

WANGESHI MACHARIA

NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated."

-Maya Angelou

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of Kansas and major in Political Science. I dream of being a successful lawyer and positively impacting people's lives.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is watching a movie virtually with other 21CL students at the end of the WarnerMedia Institute For Future Leaders.

21CL Impact: 21CL has inspired me and made me more aware of my goals and helped me join more organizations that fit my career interests.

JONAH FRIED

HERITAGE CLASSICAL STUDY CENTER | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Circumstance does not make the man; it reveals him to himself."

- James Allen

Future Plans: Attend Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University and major in Business Entrepreneurship.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I generally enjoyed learning about how to improve myself.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to take charge of interpersonal situations and communicate effectively.

CARRINGTON SMITH

NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Success is measured by the amount you desire."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Alabama A&M University and major in Speech Pathology. I want to become a speech therapist for children in urban areas all around the country, with the hope of one day taking over my mother's speech therapy company.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is while completing 21CL assignments every Wednesday morning in Ms. Canon's programming pathway and having fun with my classmates!

21CL Impact: I have learned how to become a better leader not only in a classroom setting but also as a person. I am more able to speak up for myself more often and also through various assignments, I learned more about myself and how to interact with others from different backgrounds and in different situations.

CLASS OF 2023

LATAVIA VEREEN

CORETTA SCOTT KING YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "You live by you successfully."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Miles College and major in Business. I aspire to become a successful business manager.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I have many great memories of 21CL!

21CL Impact: 21CL has inspired me and helped me be who I am!



ARI DRAKE

COLUMBIA SECONDARY SCHOOL | NEW YORK

Favorite Quote: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." - Benjamin Franklin

Future Plans: I plan to attend Vanderbilt University and major in History.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is listening to Carl Azuz from CNN10!

21CL Impact: I believe that 21CL helped me to develop my public speaking and leadership skills.



JULIUS HUNNTER GOINS

DRUID HILLS HIGH SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "If You Dare to Struggle, You Dare to Win." - Fred Hampton

Future Plans: Attend Wake Forest University and major in Psychology/Pre-Medicine. My career aspirations center around my passion for helping others, I hope to be a professional in the medical field, preferably as a successful orthopedic surgeon or general practitioner, and to ultimately launch a healthcare facility to serve the disadvantaged population. My vision also includes providing mobile medical units in impoverished areas and publishing television segments about the importance of health and medicine.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I had an amazing experience my first summer leadership institute. I learned so much about myself at the Healthcare & IT Institute (HII), and the wealth of knowledge gained surrounding the importance of mental health components that make the medical field run was priceless. Taking part in the program helped to cement my future goals even further. I also made many friends who I have continued to stay in contact with until today.

21CL Impact: I have gained great skills and knowledge; my academic performance improved, thanks to the critical thinking skills I developed through the program. Also, I became more confident in my professional abilities, thanks to the leadership training I received. My overall positive experience with 21CL is a testament to the program's ability to help individuals grow and make a positive impact in their communities. I highly encourage others to take advantage of the opportunities 21CL offers.



CLASS OF 2023

TROY STEWARD

EAST COWETA HIGH SCHOOL | COWETA COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Be so good they can't ignore you." - Steve Martin

Future Plans: I plan to attend Middle State Tennessee University and major in Business Studies, Film and Video Production. I hope to benefit the community at MTSU in many ways: simply by being a good steward, by participating in local events, and by encouraging others in the community to do the same. After college, I would like to work as a live director in sports, news, and other live TV events.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I really enjoyed the Georgia Youth Leadership Award ceremony. It was impressive to hear about the wonderful things other students my age are accomplishing. They are already changing their communities for the better. It was very inspiring!

21CL Impact: 21CL has definitely opened my eyes to the many different job opportunities I could have in the entertainment industry. I learned from everyone -- from fellow students, my mentor, the production assistants, to the heads of high-ranking departments at Warner Bros. Discovery. I improved my leadership and professional skills that will certainly help me in my journey to make a positive impact on my community

DA'JANA SHIVERS

DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL | LAURENS COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

Future Plans: Attend Wesleyan College and major in History, Politics, and Global Studies. After, I will pursue legal studies and become a juvenile lawyer so I can have a role in ensuring juvenile justice-I aspire to specifically help black kids. I must attend college so I can be able to pursue my dreams.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Talking to 21CL alumni is one of my favorite 21CL memories.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to communicate more effectively! I play soccer and the skills I acquired helped me to participate in the description of my team's objectives, understand the preferences of my team members and also helped in resolving disagreements.

KENDALL SUMMEROUR

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Find a way or make one."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Southern University Baton Rouge and major in Political Science. I aspire to become an attorney and possibly a politician too.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is attending the SYLI@Gouizeta residential summer leadership institute at Emory University.

21CL Impact: 21CL has shown me that we all have unique qualities that can be tapped into for one's personal leadership role. You don't have to always be out front to lead!

CLASS OF 2023

CHAD PARKER LOVETT SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "That's one thing Earthlings might learn to do, if they tried hard enough: Ignore the awful times and concentrate on the good ones."- Slaughterhouse-Five (Kurt Vonnegut)

Future Plans: I plan to attend Hampton University and major in Biology. I aspire to become a Pulmonologist.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is when we visited Wellstar and did various immersive problem solving activities. We were given a problem regarding the transportation of something via plane and had to design a paper airplane that could carry a lightweight object, and the group's plane that traveled furthest won.

21CL Impact: 21CL allowed me to cultivate my communication and problem-solving skills while also allowing me to learn about the various facets of a career in the medical field. The relationships I formed with other students and the highly distinguished professionals I met are greatly appreciated as well.



MISHA GUPTA WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Good, better best. Never let it rest. Till your good is better and your better is best."

Future Plans: Attend Emory University and major in Finance.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is doing the online workshops in preparation for the MARC Program.

21CL Impact: 21CL lessons provided me with the tools to go into the MARC Program and apply those skills in personal interactions. I was able to greatly increase the proficiency of the soft skills that are so important in leadership.



KAYLA RIVERS WHITEWATER HIGH SCHOOL | FAYETTE COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me."
- Philippians 4:13

Future Plans: Attend Spelman College and major in Documentary Filmmaking. I plan to successfully complete the 21CL Internship, earn a degree in Documentary Filmmaking at Spelman College and have an award-winning career as an Executive Producer.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Unfortunately, most of my experiences were during the pandemic, however the online sessions were very engaging and resourceful. I enjoyed listening to the speakers share their stories and that helped me learn more about what it takes to be a leader.

21CL Impact: I have been able to use the skills I gained from this program in my school and community leadership positions.



CLASS OF 2023

JULIEN HERARD

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Faith Without Works is Nothing."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Loyola Marymount University but I am not decided yet on my major. I am interested in learning more about holistic medicine, so I can make medicine more accessible for people who may not afford traditional Western medicine.

Favorite 21CL Memory: One of my favorite memories was going to the LocumTenens.com building and learning how it is used to help keep doctors well-rested and motivated. Most importantly, I enjoyed making new friends in the Healthcare & IT Institute at KSU.

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me how to apply my leadership in a professional and casual setting. It has also helped me better understand how leadership can and should be applied in different work settings.

JAMARI SINGLETON

KIPP ATLANTA COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "When you can't control what's happening around you, challenge yourself to control the way which you respond. That is where your true power lies."

Future Plans: Attend Alabama A&M University and major in Finance.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Although it was virtual, I was still able to connect and bond with my peers and truly enjoyed my experience. Thanks to Ms. Nicole Meadows for the opportunity and for creating an experience I will never forget.

21CL Impact: Thanks to 21CL I can now speak and engage more confidently in crowds amongst people I am unfamiliar with.

ALEXANDER YULIN-DERSCH

CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking." -Steve Jobs

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia State University and major in Finance or a medical major. I want to pursue classes in business so that I may be financially literate, and possibly become a Physician's Assistant.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is meeting with the executives of Coca-Cola and learning about marketing for the Coca-Cola brand.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me positively as a person and leader by allowing me to meet people and be in group situations which required me to work together with them and take the lead in certain situations, something which is imperative as a life skill!

CLASS OF 2023

EVA RAHMAN WESLEYAN SCHOOL | GWINNETT COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "I dwell in possibility"~ Emily Dickinson

Future Plans: Attend Wofford College and major in Biology and Political Science.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is meeting Carl Azuz and receiving 2023 Georgia Youth Leadership Award.

21CL Impact: 21CL has made me more confident in my abilities as a leader.



AMIRAH WILLIAMS CLARKSTON HIGH SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Everyone wants happiness, nobody wants pain, but you can't have a rainbow without a little rain, so keep pushing and keep trying."

Future Plans: First attend Georgia Piedmont Technical College and transfer to University of South Florida and major in Architecture.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite moment was helping with the food drive, although I didn't get to hand out to the people, making the bags made me feel good about helping others.

21CL Impact: 21CL has been an awesome experience especially in shaping the person I have become and continue to grow into- a selfless 21st Century Leader.



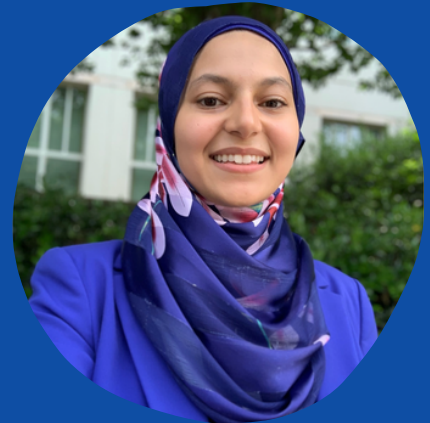
SALAAM AWAD MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Every master was once a beginner." - Robin Sharma

Future Plans: Attend Emory University and double major in International Studies and Chemistry. I aspire to work in the field of International Human Rights and potentially tie Medicine into that.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL is attending SYLI@Goizueta at Emory University. I met so many wonderful people, learned so much about business, and further developed my leadership skills.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me at a very personal level! The biggest thing I have learned is that effective leaders see what their team is missing. 21CL helped me learn to take the initiative when working with a team.



CLASS OF 2023



JOSHUA WYNN

CURTIS BAPTIST SCHOOL | COLUMBIA COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "With all failures comes lessons and success."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Rollins College and study Business.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite memory is meeting new people.

21CL Impact: 21CL has definitely helped improve my skills to hear others' ideas and be able to work with a more diverse team.



ANALISA DAVIS

SANDY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL | FAYETTE COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "It's not the years in your life but the life in your years."

Future Plans: Attend Emerson College and major in Creative Writing. I would like to become a playwright and screenwriter for TV and movies.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memories are meeting new friends at the EarthCare Leadership Institute in 2022. At the end of the week, I was sad to leave because my friends had become my family and we had so much fun together.

21CL Impact: 21CL has inspired me to learn about different careers and interests.



ALIJHA MCCOY

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL | BIBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Our mistakes make the best stories."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Albany State University and major in Business.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is participating in the EarthCare Leadership Institute at GA College & State University in Milledgeville during the summer of 2022.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me positively, I have gained more confidence in public speaking and have become a more well-rounded person!

CLASS OF 2023

TURNER DAVIS

DENMARK HIGH SCHOOL | FORSYTH COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." -Margaret Mead

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Business Administration.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the breakout sessions with my group.

21CL Impact: 21CL strengthened my leadership skills and encouraged me to explore more careers in the area of business.



MAYA VELAZQUEZ

PARK SLOPE COLLEGIATE | NEW YORK

Favorite Quote: "Embrace yourself and embrace what makes you different." -Issa Rae

Future Plans: Attend New York University and major in Film & TV Production. I aspire to become a filmmaker and provide opportunities for Latinx communities in the media and entertainment industry.

Favorite 21CL Memory: One of my favorite memories from 21CL is towards the end of the WarnerMedia institute when we had the opportunity to create a pitch for a TV show and present it to Nickelodeon executives. Although my cohort was virtual, it was so fun to collaborate creatively with my peers. My group received a prize for the best pitch, and it was such a great way to end the week.

21CL Impact: The unique opportunities from 21CL helped me discover different professions in the entertainment industry; I was able to decide what I enjoy in this industry and possible future careers. Also, the courses that 21CL provided such as time management, helped to enhance my leadership skills.



CHRISTIAN CLAYTON

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The only impossible journey is the one you never begin."

- Anthony Robbins

Future Plans: Attend Alabama A&M University and major in Computer Science.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL is receiving unexpected prizes and gift cards for participating and completing my tasks in Leadership Connect.

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me a lot about being a leader. I learned effective leadership styles as well as the qualities of a good leader.



CLASS OF 2023



ALMA FRAZIER

HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "I am my inspiration." - Lizzo

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of San Francisco and major in Public Health. I plan to go to medical school and become a doctor, and eventually to open my own medical practice.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is while working on a group project with my peers and coming up with ideas for a TV show/documentary and producing posters for it.

21CL Impact: 21CL has cemented my initial aspirations of leadership. It made me more confident in myself and my leadership capabilities.



SOPHIE LI

CHAMBLEE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Future Plans: I plan to have a gap year to study from abroad in Taiwan and after that attend Georgia Institute of Technology in Fall 2024 and major in Biology. I aspire to become a physical therapist but I am open to other careers in the medical field.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is doing the case study at the 2021 Goizueta Youth Leadership Summit. Although the event was virtual, I remember this being the first time I'd felt like I'd made a tangible contribution to my team, which encouraged me to fully engage in future events. This summit was one of the major steppingstones that led me to become a more confident and involved leader both within and outside of 21CL.

21CL Impact: 21CL helped me to become more confident in group settings. Because of the open environment and encouraging peers/staff/mentors at 21CL events and camps, I felt comfortable sharing my ideas and engaging in discussions. This confidence translated into my other extracurricular activities and helped me gain credibility in leadership roles and contribute to decision-making. But most of all, 21CL has helped to improve my interpersonal skills and taught me how to work in a team. Constantly being surrounded by diverse people at 21CL events, I learned how as a team, we could benefit from the different ideas and abilities of our members. I incorporate this concept into the way I lead other clubs and actively seek to learn and utilize my team members' strengths to effectively achieve our goals.



SHANIYA LANDRUM

SOUTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "You can always forgive, but never forget."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Albany State University and major in Biology.

21CL Impact: 21CL has impacted me by giving me great skills and has allowed me to grow as a person and a leader. I am now more confident and independent.

CLASS OF 2023

ALEXANDER MARSHALL

RICHMOND COUNTY TECHNICAL CAREER MAGNET |
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Move with a purpose."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Mercer University and major in Law and Public Policy. In the future, I hope to serve as a city administrator.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to grow my leadership capabilities, I have become more comfortable with taking on new responsibilities and experiencing new situations.



NAYA PATEL

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
– Eleanor Roosevelt

Future Plans: Attend Mercer University and major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. I aspire to conduct biomedical research heading towards either the pre-medical or pre-physician assistant pathway. I am interested in specializing in anesthesiology or radiology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: One of my favorite 21CL memories is during the Healthcare & IT Institute roundtables, I was able to interact and learn from several professionals who shared their passions, experiences, and advice. One professional I met asked me specifically about my future aspirations and encouraged me to strive for the best and keep the mindset that nothing is impossible, and that I can achieve my dreams. His excitement for all students sticks with me to this day.

21CL Impact: 21CL has expanded my perspective of my future career, motivated me to network with others, and increased my self-advocacy. I have taken advice and learned from leaders I met throughout the week, and I am inspired to be action-oriented, ambitious and to communicate effectively.



AMIT BALAJI

LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Service is what life is all about."

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Industrial Engineering.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is creating my elevator speech with everyone else in my group.

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me to communicate with others for the purpose of bettering my community as well as myself!



CLASS OF 2023

RYANN GHOLSTON PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY | DEKALB COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "There is so much waiting for your arrival. Arrive there!"

Future Plans: I plan to attend Syracuse University and major in Computer Science. My ultimate goal is to continue creating a path into spaces where people who look like me traditionally haven't been welcomed while simultaneously working in a field I genuinely love. I plan on doing so by successfully completing 4 years at an accredited university, and then giving myself the option to either continue my education or begin my professional career. I am someone who values experience, which is why during my college years, I plan on pursuing internships within the STEM field to build my arsenal of skills.

Favorite 21CL Memory: At the virtual WarnerMedia Future Leaders Institute in 2021, I learned that the opportunities in the media field are endless. I was especially happy to hear from Black Women who built a successful career for themselves in the fields I dream of working in some day. I know that by continuing my research on career paths, I will find the perfect niche that will intersect my interests in media production/marketing and software development.

21CL Impact: 21CL has motivated me to continue building my leadership skills by being a part of a community of other self-driven students. My peers are my inspiration!

AURORA FLEGEL CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL (SMYRNA) | COBB COUNTY



Favorite Quote: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

- African Proverb

Future Plans: Attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Civil Engineering.

Favorite 21CL Memory: Attending 21CL's fall summit, Leadership exCHANGE on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Morehouse College, where I spent the day with peers, and we talked about our experiences with different parts of our identity. I made new friends and understood the world around me from different perspectives after the conversations from this event.

21CL Impact: 21CL gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader who is a listener and organizer. I learned how to communicate effectively and use the strengths of individual team members to the advantage of the group as a whole. Previously, I had approached projects relatively independently thinking that this was the best approach to complete a task. 21CL taught me the benefits of teamwork and how to go about it. I also learned about myself and what type of communicator I am. The leadership skills I learned gave me the opportunity to be the president of my school's Key Club for two years, in which I organized donation drives for survivors of domestic violence and the local senior center. Because of 21CL, I was able to call others and present my idea in a way that could be easily received. My communication skills were tested once again as I became an assistant basketball coach for a team of second and third-grade girls. However, I was able to help them learn the foundations of basketball using the communication and listening skills I had learned through 21CL.

CLASS OF 2023

SHREYAS GUPTA

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL | COBB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Play Hard, Work Harder."

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of Georgia and major in Biology.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is Hunter and me at the Atlanta Hawks X Papa Johns Leadership Event watching the Hawks dominate the Trailblazers.

21CL Impact: Throughout my time with 21CL, attending the WarnerMedia Institute, workshops, and Winter Summit I have learned so many tips on how to become a better speaker and come out of my comfort zone. One of the main tips that I find myself using was told to us by Carl Azuz, one of the keynote speakers at the WarnerMedia Institute. Mr. Azuz shared with us about how he would record himself speaking his script and play it back to himself while brushing his teeth, eating breakfast, and on his car ride to work. When I'm preparing to pitch to local leaders like the state superintendent, Chairwoman Cupid, and Mr. Harris of the Ossoff committee, I often find myself using this tip. By the time I begin my pitch, I have already listened to my speech hundreds of times, allowing it to roll off my tongue with ease. 21CL has also taught me that perfection isn't everything and that my mistakes and shortcomings have molded and shaped me into who I am today. I continue to use these lessons on a daily base.



KIARA WARNER

ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." - Dr. Seuss

Future Plans: Attend Rutgers University - New Brunswick and major in Kinesiology on the pre-med track. I aspire to become a Sports Medicine Physician for a major league sport team.

Favorite 21CL Memory: I did not attend many in-person 21CL events but my favorite was the 2022 Leadership exCHANGE. I enjoyed meeting other students and networking with the professionals who came to share about what they do and their professional journeys.

21CL Impact: Being part of 21CL has taught me how to be a better listener, someone who is eager to learn from others, aspire to be successful, encourage my peers to work hard, and make a difference in this world.



CLASS OF 2023

MADISON DUBOSE

ARABIA MOUNTAIN HIGH | DEKALB COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Unfolded by the water are the faces of the flower."

Future Plans: I plan to attend University of Georgia and major in Biology. My plan is to become a Pediatric Physician Assistant.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is visiting Wellstar during the Healthcare and IT Institute. I met some amazing and lively professionals whose stories motivated and inspired me a lot!

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me to find comfort in the uncomfortable. I have been inspired and have learned to speak in a room full of people!

TA'LONIE JAMES

WILKINSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL | WILKINSON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Future Plans: I plan to attend Georgia Southern University and major in Psychology. I plan to continue my education until I receive a PhD in Psychology. I have dreams of owning my own practice operating as a Clinical Psychologist.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is the talent show at EarthCare 2022 with the 5 Stooges.

21CL Impact: 21CL has helped me to be a leader who is creative, understanding and assertive, 21CL has also taught me the importance of inclusivity and how rewarding it is to step outside of my comfort zone to take risks.

ALAN QIAO

CHATTAHOOCHEE HIGH SCHOOL | FULTON COUNTY

Favorite Quote: "Leader is not a title, it is action."

Future Plans: Attend Duke University and major in Economics and Computer Science.

Favorite 21CL Memory: My favorite 21CL memory is attending Earthcare Institute in 2022 and bonding with other students who I am still in touch with and have become my great friends.

21CL Impact: 21CL has taught me about the different leadership styles, and prepared me to be a real leader in life.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP + SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to these 11 graduating seniors who have been selected for our inaugural **Internship & Scholarship Program**.



From top left: *J'Avani Stinson, Aurora Flegel, Manav Bhatia, Benjamin Harper, Wangeshi Macharia, Lindsey Sanders*

From bottom left: *Jalana Smith, Salahuddin Saafir, Kayla Rivers, Keymn Cole, Christie Peng*

Each of these leaders will take part in a 4-6 week **paid summer internship** at a host site and receive a **\$2,500 scholarship** to the university they will attend in the fall.

This program is made possible by MarketSource, the State Farm's Good Neighbor Program in partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, 21CL's Board of Directors and individual donors.

Thank you to our host partners



ABOUT 21CLUBS

21st Century Leaders
21Club

21CLubs are 21st Century Leaders' student-led, school- and community-based clubs. Student members meet monthly to plan and host service projects, forums, and other leadership development and career exploration experiences.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 16 schools participated with 21CLubs, 5 of which were STEM + 21CLubs, in partnership with Science ATL to focus on leadership and STEM.



SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR 21CLUB SENIORS

Congratulations to all the 21st Century Leaders 2023 graduating seniors!

You all have displayed true leadership through your roles in 21CLubs. Some of you were leadership officers that assured your schools' 21Club was an active and successful program throughout the school year. From service projects such as the #VoteForEquity initiative where your goal was to inform your peers and community about the importance of voting. Hosting forums where you had volunteers from our Junior Board and Board of Directors discuss financial literacy and putting together many service projects that have positively impacted your community.

Because of your active participation and commitment within the 21CLubs you have all managed to collectively reach all 7 competencies that serve as the foundation for all our programs: Communicating-Effectively, Problem Solving, Action-Oriented, Self-Development, Building Effective Teams, Integrity/Trust, and Career Ambition.

I encourage you all to continue to implement the skills you've learned at 21st Century Leaders and good luck with all your future endeavors!

Best of luck!

Desiree Rodriguez
Program & Community Outreach Manager





ABOUT LEADERSHIP CONNECT

Leadership Connect is 21st Century Leaders' online learning platform featuring over 130 interactive, self-paced lessons focusing on our 7 core leadership competencies, social and emotional intelligence, diversity, equity and inclusion, financial literacy and life skills.

54

SENIORS
COMPLETED
LEVEL 1



22

SENIORS
COMPLETED
LEVEL 1 & 2



4

SENIORS
COMPLETED
LEVEL 1, 2 & 3



STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED ALL 3 LEVELS
RECEIVED A NEW LAPTOP IN RECOGNITION OF
THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

WHEN YOU LEARN YOU EARN

Throughout the year, 21CL rewarded students' progress in Leadership Connect with gift cards, tickets to special experiences, honor cords, and eligibility for the paid internship and scholarship program!

**21CL
Leadership Connect**

**130 HONOR CORDS
GIVEN TO 21CL
SENIORS**

**100 GIFT CARDS
SENT**

**40+ EVENT TICKETS
GIVEN**



***“WE MUST
BELIEVE THAT
WE ARE GIFTED
FOR
SOMETHING
AND THAT THIS
THING MUST BE
ATTAINED.”***

- MARIE CURIE



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



Inspiring youth to lead.



www.21stcenturyleaders.org