

Leadership exCHANGE

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1,
2025

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Evaluation Report

Prepared by 21st Century Leaders

"THE SUMMIT GENUINELY GAVE ME THE ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS WHO REMINDED ME OF MYSELF, IN THE SENSE THAT I AM ALSO SOMETIMES MORE RESERVED. SO, IT WAS REALLY NICE GETTING TO KNOW THOSE WHO MAYBE AREN'T AS VOCAL, RELATE WITH THEM AND HELP THEM FEEL INCLUDED WHILE ALSO LEARNING ABOUT INCLUSION DURING THE SUMMIT :) OVERALL, MY SUMMIT EXPERIENCE WAS GREAT!"

- NIYA MEADOWS, WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Leadership exCHANGE is one of 21st Century Leaders' one day leadership experiences held annually in the Fall. Leadership exCHANGE focused on the collaboration of ideas and perspectives while learning about inclusive leadership practices.

The Fall Summit was hosted at the Junior Achievement Discovery Center of North Georgia. Student attendees heard from summit sponsor MarketSource, Vander Bannister, in the "Map Your Mountain" Activity where they found solutions to real world challenges by goal setting, brainstorming practical solutions, and taking action.

Dr. Yvette Pegues and the 21CL staff hosted the Unlabeled: Forged to Lead Different activities. Students learned about breaking stereotypes to see beyond limits and reimagine leadership through the lens of accessibility, inclusion and leadership.

STATEWIDE STUDENT DIVERSITY

115 HS STUDENTS

41 HIGH SCHOOLS

18 COUNTIES

67% FEMALE IDENTIFYING

31% MALE IDENTIFYING

33% BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN

20% INDIAN/SOUTHEAST ASIAN

14% ASIAN

14% WHITE/CAUCASIAN

11% HISPANIC/LATIN AMERICAN

3% MULTI-RACIAL

3% BIRACIAL

2% MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN



"I LEARNED MORE ABOUT COLLABORATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE SAME PROBLEM. BRINGING TOGETHER EVERYONE'S IDEAS WHILST SOLVING THE ISSUE WE WERE PRESENTED WITH MADE IT MUCH EASIER TO COMPLETE THE TASK AND GAVE OUR SOLUTION A LOT MORE DEPTH."

-TANISHA PATEL, NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

5 VOLUNTEERS | 3 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS | 1 ALUMNI

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM

 MARKETSOURCE?

"I learned from the "Map your Mountain" activity that leadership is not about you as a leader it is about how you can do your best to support those around you."

- Lisa Saxon, Dekalb Early College Academy

"Eye opening and challenged my view on leadership"- Grace Park, Lanier High School

"We can always take the initiative just by learning and having an open mind."

- Hadil Adam, Clarkston High School

"I learned that true leaders must trust and rely on their team in order to solve problems; leadership is not about giving others commands but instead is about relying on the unique strengths of one's teammates."

- Raina Banerjee Wheeler High School

It helped me understand how to analyze , plan, and coordinate an idea with others involved like teachers, sponsors. Also I got an exposure of various opinions, and thinking in a college student perspective to solve the problem better."

- Lalita Sahasra Chimakurti, Innovation Academy



STUDENT IMPACT

100% of students said they are confident in their ability to lead inclusively.

98% of students said they learned how to create environments where everyone feels valued and included.

95% agree that they can see themselves using the skills they gained from this experience now and in the future

94% of students report they have gained a new perspective or lesson from discussing real-life disability scenarios.

94% of students agree that after attending the summit, their confidence as a leader increased

"I learned that there are many challenges that people face every day and that sometimes people's lives are on the line due to these issues. This means that efficient problem solving is incredibly important and a skill that everyone should practice and understand."- Isabella Judd, Lanier High School

STUDENTS REPORTED PRACTICING OR GROWING IN 21CL'S SEVEN CORE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES:

77%	COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY
62%	SELF-DEVELOPMENT
77%	PROBLEM SOLVING
54%	INTEGRITY & TRUST
50%	BUILDING EFFECTIVE TEAMS
53%	ACTION ORIENTED
34%	CAREER AMBITION



"BEING A LEADER IS TAKING INITIATIVE AND PUSHING THROUGH AT YOUR OWN PACE. I LEARNED THAT PROBLEM-SOLVING CAN BE EFFICIENTLY DONE THROUGH COLLABORATION AND A GROUP EFFORT."- JALASHA MADDUX, CLARKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

UNLABELED: FORGED TO LEAD DIFFERENT

with Dr. Yvette Pegues, Ed.D.

What You Don't See: Invisible Disabilities



"I was inspired by my last activity (the sound and blindness activity) because it enlightened me on the struggles that people without sight experience. It was a feeling that I'd never experienced before, and it made me want to change some of my actions to become a more empathetic rather than sympathetic person and leader."

-Isabella Judd, Lanier High School

"Amazing! I learned so much about disability inclusion and how to be more inclusive!!"

Lailah Dodson, Dekalb Early College Academy



Follow the Sound

"I am inspired to solve new accessibility problems in my community and school."

- Anjika Shah, Lanier High School



Mother of Invention

"An awesome look into other people's everyday lives. I feel much more empathetic and ready to make change."

- Natali Jones, Rome High School



Rolling Into Reality

"I'm inspired to speak to my board on accessibility for neurodiversity in my community for mental health in specific."

- Nathan Rivera, Midtown High School

"I AM INSPIRED BY DR. PEGUES BECAUSE SHE HIGHLIGHTS HOW INCLUSIVITY MAKES EVERY WORK SPACE AND TEAM TO BE EFFECTIVE AND TAKE ANYTHING AND ANYONE INTO CONSIDERATION. SHE IS INSPIRING TO ME BECAUSE SHE SHOWS HOW ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE THROUGH HARD WORK AND EDUCATION."

- JOSHUA BERDUO, DEKALB EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

**“I AM INSPIRED TO ADVOCATE MORE FOR INCLUSIVITY
IN MY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.”**

- ASHLYN ZIPSE, PICKENS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

“Awesome I broke new boundaries with public speaking”

- Alivia Rasler, Greater Atlanta Christian School

“Informative, inspirational, and unforgettable.”

- Litzy Sanchez-Cerecero, Morrow High School

**“Amazing! Learning new perspectives on leadership and really doing a
deep dive into inclusion was very helpful.”**

- Aaron Vigil, Peachtree Ridge High School

**“AMAZING!!! I learn about new struggles and perspectives every time I
interact with 21CL, this time I learned about how invisible disabilities
are everyone and anywhere. I learned that I need to, yes, have
sympathy but moreover I need to be able to respond with empathy and
compassion towards others.”**

- Vidhi Raiyani, Putnam County High School



**“I LEARNED THAT INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION ARE VERY IMPORTANT
ASPECTS IN BUILDING TOWARDS A GOAL. IT ENCOURAGES IDEAS, SOLUTIONS AND
CREATIVITY THAT HELPS US FOSTER LEADERSHIP AND BUILD CONNECTIONS.”**

- KRUTI MARRIPUDI, INNOVATION ACADEMY



2025 Leadership exCHANGE

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Junior Achievement Discovery Center

10am - 3:45pm

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|-----------------|--|
| 10:00am | Welcome
<i>21st Century Leaders</i> |
| 10:15 am | Host Welcome
<i>Student Intro: Alivia Rasler, Greater Atlanta Christian School, Youth Ambassador</i>
<i>Speaker: Austin Brandt, Operations Manager, JA of Georgia Discovery Centers</i> |
| 10:25 am | Sponsor Remarks: MarketSource
<i>Student Intro: Raina Banerjee, Wheeler High School, Youth Ambassador</i>
<i>Speaker: Ryan Palmore, Director of Reporting & Analytics, MarketSource, Inc.</i> |
| 10:35 am | Map Your Mountain Activity
<i>Student Intro: Fucheng Li, Darlington School, Youth Ambassador Secretary</i>
<i>Speaker: Vander Bannister, Corporate Real Estate Manager/ Philanthropreneur, MarketSource, Inc.</i> |
| 10:50 am | Students in Action: Breakouts!
<i>MarketSource volunteers</i> |
| 11:30 am | Idea Showcase & Debrief
<i>Student Thank You: Sarah Ikaidi, Arabia Mountain High School, Youth Ambassador</i> |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 12:55 pm | Unlabeled: Forged to Lead Differently
<i>Student Intro: Sneha Singh, Houston County High School, Youth Ambassador</i>
<i>Speaker: Dr. Yvette Pegues, Co-Founder and CEO, Your Invisible DisAbility Group</i> |
| 1:00 pm | Learning Outcomes & FORGE Stations |
| 3:20 pm | Closing Remarks + Thank You
<i>Student Thank You: Kezia Kotey, DECA, Youth Ambassador</i> |
| 3:20 | Sharpen the Saw & Closing Reminders
<i>Tim Parham, Director of Programs & Operations, 21st Century Leaders</i> |
| 3:45 | Dismissal |