



West Georgia Youth Leadership Summit

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

EVALUATION REPORT



“Overall, my summit experience was inspiring and meaningful. I learned that strong communication, reflection, and adaptability shape great leaders. The activities helped me understand myself better, and the panel showed me how leadership looks in real workplaces. It brought out everyone’s strengths and encouraged me to think bigger about the impact I can make.” -Devin Cetoute, Hardaway HS

Sponsored by:



"My summit experience was very good. I learned a lot and before coming, I thought that leadership would not affect me in my career field (nursing) but after I realized that leadership is and can be anywhere." - Gwen Sullivan, Harris County HS



21st Century Leaders' West Georgia Youth Leadership Summit took place at Columbus Tech on December 4, 2025, impacting over 70 high school students from **Chattahoochee, Harris, and Muscogee** counties in Georgia.

Sponsored by Aflac, students at the summit engaged in interactive teambuilding activities designed to equip them with leadership skills and inspire a shared vision, while exploring career opportunities and pathways through a career expo. The Aflac panel shared their professional journeys, and students had the opportunity to network and exchange insights with peers from different schools and with professionals who volunteered at the event.

71 H.S. STUDENTS

6 HIGH SCHOOLS

48 VOLUNTEERS

*including 23 from Aflac and
25 from Columbus Tech*



STUDENT IMPACT

91% of attendees reported that they gained new skills they can use both now and in the future.

90% of students felt that the summit helped them learn how to communicate effectively.

86% agreed that their confidence as a leader increased.

74% agreed that after attending the summit, they're interested in participating in 21CL events in the future.

"The Compass vs. GPS activity taught me that leadership is about direction, not shortcuts. GPS gives quick steps, but a compass teaches you how to navigate on your own. It showed me that leaders need vision—something bigger than themselves that brings everyone together. A clear direction helps a team stay focused even when things change." - Devin Cetoute, Hardaway HS

"My biggest takeaway from the summit was getting a chance to speak publicly!"
- Joshua Williams, Carver HS

"My favorite part was the exposure to new careers." - William Carter, Carver HS

"Leadership is about more than just being a leader. It's about adapting to changes and communicating with your peers or colleagues." - Katherine, Columbus HS

"The experience was good. I got to hear some wonderful words of wisdom about what to do for different careers and for yourself." - Kimora Ingram, Hardaway HS



CAREER IMPACT

LUNCH & LEARN NETWORKING WITH



"My biggest take away was that leadership is about understanding your subordinates and being prepared to adjust to any change."

“Being a leader is more than just being a good role model and figure, it’s knowing how to communicate and to earn trust within your partners.” - Destynee Jones, Columbus HS

"My biggest takeaway from the Aflac Panel was that real leadership starts with caring about people. When you invest in others, support them, and build trust, they naturally want to follow you. I also learned that good leaders need strong people skills and adaptability. When you take time to understand someone's situation and help them grow, you become a "change agent" who encourages others through new challenges." - Devin Cetoute, Hardaway HS



“From the Aflac Panel, I learned that as a leader I need to network as much as possible. Also to be motivated and build as many relationships as possible.”- Savannah Ludy, Harris County HS

“My biggest takeaway was being invested in other people and caring for them to be a good leader. I also remember someone saying to start networking and building connections, as this will open up many opportunities for us.”-Aloni Johnson, Hardaway HS



52% of students said they used or practiced the leadership competency **Career Ambition** at the summit.

“I learned how to be a true leader and inspire others later on in the workforce.”- Lila Klein, Harris County HS

COLLEGE + CAREER IMPACT

COLUMBUS TECH CAREER EXPO



"I enjoyed learning about the many different career fields offered at CTC and how accessible the resources are."- Sarai Hill, Harris County, HS

"My favorite part of the West GA Summit was getting to meet with the technological teachers and speaking with them about what the career is like and what the possible prerequisites and what my plans are for Columbus Tech."- Preston Hall, Harris County HS

"I really enjoyed seeing the diversity of all the classes they offer here."- Katherine Kenyon, Columbus HS

"I liked going into the Early Education Room, and I liked learning about what career options to explore in education."- Abigail Johnson, Harris County HS

"My favorite part was the careers that were available as we walked down the hall. There were desks with different careers and people that introduced and explained the career or skill they were representing."- Quadarius Clark, Kendrick HS

"I got to see each career and how some careers correlate and which ones sparked my interest."- Gwen Sullivan, Harris County HS



STUDENT IMPACT

BUILDING EFFECTIVE TEAMS



"My favorite part was sitting with someone from another school." - Arianna Delay, Chattahoochee County HS

"I met so many new people & everyone was so sweet & open. I definitely want to take my classes here!" - Arturo Spadaro, Kendrick HS

"My favorite part of the West GA Summit was the tour and getting to see all the options Columbus Tech has to offer and get new ideas for future options."
- Ella Tamboer, Chattahoochee County, HS

100% of attendees reported that they gained a new perspective on leadership and grew in their understanding of it after hearing from the Aflac panel.

93% of attendees reported being more aware of career opportunities at Aflac after attending the summit.

52% of students reported to have used and practiced the leadership competence of building effective teams.



West Georgia Youth Leadership Summit

Thursday, December 4, 2025, Columbus Tech
9:30am- 1:30pm

Sponsored by: 

9:30 am	Welcome <i>Tim Parham, Director of Programs & Operations, 21st Century Leaders (21CL Alumnus)</i> <i>Student Welcome: Bella Burroughs, Harris County High School, 21CLub</i> <i>Student Intro: Keauna Holloway, Kendrick High School, 21CLub</i> <i>Lanita Lucas, Development Program Administrator, Aflac</i>
9:45 am	Aflac Panel <i>Speaker: Stephanie Quinones, Sr State Legislative Consultant, State Government Relations</i> <i>Speaker: Robert Marano, Sr. Manager, Technology Engineering</i> <i>Speaker: Meghan Dunn, International Liaison, Aflac International</i> <i>Speaker: Morgan Hill, Manager, Policy and Account Administration Compliance</i>
10:05 am	Student Thank You <i>Romandus Williams and Joshua Williams, Carver High School, 21CLub</i>
10:10 am	Leadership Challenge <i>Inspire a Shared Vision</i>
11:00 am	Lunch + Network w/ Aflac Volunteers <i>Location: Student Center + Classrooms</i>
11:30 am	College + Career Expo <i>Speaker: Ken Lockhart, Director of Student Life and Recruitment, Columbus Tech; Columbus Tech Faculty</i>
12:45 pm	Sharpen the Saw & Closing Thoughts <i>Student Thank You: Kirsten Rickman and Cortavion Hatcher, Columbus High School, 21CLub</i> <i>Tim Parham, Director of Programs & Operations, 21st Century Leaders</i>

