

Danville Youth Health Equity Leadership Institute (Danville YHELI) Fact Sheet

"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education" – Martin Luther King Jr.



"The Danville YHELI gives life changing skills and opportunities to students that they would not otherwise have." -Danville YHELI Parent

Our Progress and Accomplishments

- Year 1 – Year 3 Participation = 120 students
- Year 1 – Year 3 Curriculum = 200+ hours
- Colleges Visited: 14
 - Includes 4-year, 2-year, and trade schools
- Serves as Peer Mentors and Tutors = 200+
 - Volunteer and Community Service Hours
- Serves as GWHS Open House Student Tour Guide Ambassadors (annually)
- Hosts GWHS Talent Showcase (annually)
- Founded Danville YHELI Advisory Committee and hosts meetings (monthly)
- Created Text Alert Group. To join:
 - Parents and Community Group
Text @yhelidpac to 81010
 - Student Leader Group
Text @yhelidsl to 81010

Our Next Steps

- Sustainability and Continued Implementation Plan (Current Grant ends July 2020)

Our Partners



What is the Danville YHELI?

The Danville YHELI is a four-year after school and summer program dedicated to empowering students to graduate high school on-time, with an action plan for the future! The program provides students with knowledge and skills to have successful and fulfilling education and career plans, overcome barriers to education, and decrease health inequalities by providing:

- Leadership Development
- Life Skills and Critical Thinking Skills
- Mentoring Opportunities
- College Trips and Preparation
- Career Planning
- Financial Planning and Management Skills
- Resume Building



"Thank you for helping me expand my horizons and see opportunities that I didn't know were available to me." -Danville YHELI Student

Contact Information

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Our Mission

The mission of the Danville YHELI is to improve the public's health by addressing factors that impact on-time high school graduation through effective best practice models. Considering education is one of the strongest predictors of health, the Danville YHELI goal of improving on-time graduation rates will also improve the community's health.



"Danville YHELI students are changing their communities. It's amazing to hear stories about them stepping up to positively influence their peers."
-Danville YHELI Program Manager

Definitions

Health Equality: Giving everyone the same thing.
vs.

Health Equity: Giving people what they actually need. When everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. It acknowledges that it's hard to be healthy without access to good jobs, homes and schools.

Social Determinants of Health: Conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Our Background

The Danville YHELI was established in 2015 by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity, after receiving funding from the federal Office of Minority Health State Partnership Initiative to Address Health Disparities Grant. At the program's inception, Danville's on-time graduation rate was at 75.7%. The initiative addresses the national Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicator goal AH-5.1 to increase the proportion of students who graduate with a regular diploma 4 years after starting 9th grade with a goal of 82.4%.

The target audience is high school students at Danville's George Washington High School. Specifically, a cohort of 9th grade students who self-enrolled in 2016 to participate in the program each year through their graduation in 2020.

The Danville YHELI immediately began to have a positive impact on the community by producing more student and community leaders. Long-term, impacts of the Danville YHELI will be the continual positive outcome on the community by improving the problem of on-time high school graduation rates.



"I learned to use YHELI's tools and strategies to think about consequences to all my actions. I can overcome barriers in my community to achieve all my goals."
-Danville YHELI Student