



Empowering teens through entrepreneurship, employment and education.

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## **Y.O.U. Employability Skills Boot Camp held in Partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland**



Friday, February 3, 2012, about 60 youth participated in a half-day intensive event presented by business volunteers and Y.O.U. staff. The Boot Camp, a partnership of Y.O.U. and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, provided job-seeking and job-retention skills to at-risk youth in a fast-paced, engaging format. The curriculum includes volunteers guiding youth through creation of a business resume and conducting a mock interview to prepare each youth for a real interview later.

Employer expectations and how to keep a job are also covered. Over 25 Y.O.U. and Federal Reserve volunteers and staff worked at the event.

Boot Camp partner, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, is the site of the event. About 150 Y.O.U. teens will participate in one of two half day sessions that will be held downtown at the Fed, set for February 3 and 10<sup>th</sup>.

At Youth Opportunities Unlimited, employment – a summer or part-time job while in school – is very important to urban teens. A job may last just a few weeks, but it can profoundly impact youth in many ways:

- 99% of our teens live in communities that are high poverty, so a teen's income matters a lot to the family
- The job provides a constructive opportunity and a safe environment
- Teens develop important job experience and the foundation to the next job
- Teens learn first-hand about a career path and whether they want to pursue it
- Many teens receive mentoring and other benefits from their supervisor or others

Each year, hundreds of teens enroll in Y.O.U. programs in order to secure such a job, and each spring, thousands of teens register at the Y.O.U. website in hopes of getting a summer job. Y.O.U. operates a wonderful program, E CITY, that provides an entrepreneurship curriculum to about 150 youth. Because E CITY is now part of the Y.O.U. program family, the E CITY Boot Camp was developed so youth participating in Y.O.U.'s E CITY program could have the same employability skills training and job development services that other Y.O.U. programs enjoy.



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