

2024

# Leadership exCHANGE



INSPIRING YOUTH TO LEAD

sponsored by  **MARKETSOURCE®**



## Evaluation Report

*Prepared by 21st Century Leaders*

“AFTER THIS SUMMIT, I AM INSPIRED TO CONTINUE STRIVING TOWARDS A MORE DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE WORLD AND I WILL ACTIVELY CHOOSE TO BE AWARE AND MOTIVATED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TOWARDS THIS FUTURE.”

- ABIGAIL RONG, DENMARK HS



# Leadership exCHANGE

Sponsored by:



125  
STUDENTS

45  
VOLUNTEERS

704  
ITEMS DONATED  
FOR SERVICE  
PROJECT

**“FROM WHAT I’VE LEARNED TODAY, I PLAN TO TAKE THE LEAD AND BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF MYSELF. I AM NOW MORE OPEN TO TALKING AND ASKING QUESTIONS, WHICH WILL HELP ME NAVIGATE MY ACADEMIC JOURNEY AND FUTURE CAREER.”**

**- CRYSTAL PHUNG, CLARKSTON HS**

**Leadership exCHANGE** is one of 21st Century Leaders' live leadership training experiences available to all current 21CL students. Hosted at Georgia State University on Saturday, November 9th, 2024, students learned from summit sponsor **MarketSource** about the connections between business and DE&I, and participated in critical thinking activities to solve DE&I challenges.

Students also gained college exposure through a tour of Georgia State University, networking and a dynamic panel, along with a sponsored lunch by **Chick-fil-A**. As a service component, students donated over 700 food and hygiene items to give to the Augusta Dream Center.

[www.21stcenturyleaders.org](http://www.21stcenturyleaders.org)



# STATEWIDE STUDENT DIVERSITY



<b>125</b> STUDENTS	<b>46%</b> BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN
<b>50</b> HIGH SCHOOLS	<b>14%</b> INDIAN/SOUTHEAST ASIAN
<b>25</b> COUNTIES	<b>16%</b> ASIAN
<b>69%</b> FEMALE IDENTIFYING	<b>9%</b> BIRACIAL
<b>31%</b> MALE IDENTIFYING	<b>8%</b> HISPANIC/LATIN AMERICAN
<b>1%</b> NONBINARY	<b>6%</b> WHITE/CAUCASIAN
	<b>1%</b> MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN



**"I ENJOYED WORKING WITH PEOPLE I'VE NEVER MET TODAY AND HAVING AN OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT ISSUES WE FACE WITH DEI. WE ALSO GOT TO LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER AND BUILD CONNECTIONS."**  
- ARIANNA BALDEMOR, GSMST



# INCLUSION IMPACT

45 VOLUNTEERS | 12 ALUMNI

## WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM



"My biggest takeaway from **Asher Jones'** presentation was understanding how essential DEI is in creating a respectful and welcoming environment. It highlighted the impact of valuing diverse perspectives and ensuring everyone feels included and represented, which strengthens communities and drives positive change." - *Crystal Phung, Clarkston HS*



"I thought Asher Jones' presentation was very thoughtful because I was able to learn a lot about DEI's implications for economic growth for corporations."  
- Ronak Vyas, Alpharetta HS

"It's important to look at how companies implement DEI and their policies because they are going to be our future employers. It will be good for us to work with people who care and mirror our values and beliefs, so doing our research on a company's DEI policies is essential to prosperity, growth, and happiness." - Nathan Elidor, GSMST

"My biggest takeaway from **Asher Jones'** presentation is that we need a lot of diverse perspectives to do great things."  
- Lee Cochran, Ringgold HS

"I really enjoyed the nuanced approach he did in the discussion. He didn't shy away from current events that are affecting this sector and in fact focused on it, which I enjoyed very much." - Anshuman Khadanga, Lakeside HS (Evans)



# STUDENT IMPACT

**98%** said their **knowledge of DEI has increased** after attending the summit

**95%** said they are **more connected to professionals** and **have access to more resources** after attending the summit

**94%** can **see themselves promoting DEI as teenagers** after attending the summit

**93%** have **gained skills** they can use now and in future

**92%** said they are **more knowledgeable of the kind of leader they want to be** after the summit

**91%** said their **involvement with 21CL has provided information needed for career advancement** and said **they knew how to be an inclusive leader** after the training.

**“AFTER THE SUMMIT, I AM INSPIRED TO FOSTER A MORE EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE CLUBS THAT I STARTED TO HELP ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HAS AN EQUAL CHANCE TO BE A LEADER WITHIN THE CLUB.” - AADI SHAH, INNOVATION ACADEMY**

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

**79%** COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

**77%** SELF-DEVELOPMENT

**63%** CAREER AMBITION

**58%** ACTION ORIENTED

**57%** PROBLEM SOLVING

**55%** BUILDING EFFECTIVE TEAMS

**50%** INTEGRITY & TRUST



**“I plan to advocate for those communities who aren’t being represented and to push DEI and educate those who do not know about it”**

**- Foluke Oladeji, Homeschool**



# STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

## OVERALL, HOW WAS YOUR SUMMIT EXPERIENCE?

**“Overall, my summit experience was very enjoyable and fun. I learned new things about how this university works and I also increased my leadership capabilities.”** - Jimmy Butts, Discovery HS

**“10/10, it was amazing.** I would recommend it to other people and I have gained a lot of knowledge and experience.” - Maqueria Murray, Baldwin HS

**“Great. Networking with new people and understanding different points of view was interesting.”** - David Jeon, GSMST

**“Great! I love any 21CL opportunity to network and learn new things and this summit met every expectation.** It’s so cool to be able to get connections and grow my network as well as learn new things from professionals.” - Thalia Smith, Midtown HS



**“Amazing! I was able to learn a lot and hear from many people that look like me.”** - Alaysia Jones, Rockdale Magnet School

**“AFTER THIS SUMMIT I AM INSPIRED BY ALL THE LEADERS AND ALUMNI OF THIS LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE WHO GAVE GREAT SPEECHES AND ADVICE.”**

- THU BUI, GSMST

# COLLEGE + CAREER READINESS

## WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THE TOUR AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY?

“Learning about all the opportunities GSU offers. Because it is such a big school they have partners with a lot of different companies which can open so many doors to their students.”

-Foluke Oladeji, Homeschool

“I enjoyed learning about the different buildings and student centers that GSU has to offer. And I am glad that I got to learn a little bit more about the film and media major since that is the major I intend to choose if I were to attend this school.”

-Tinuade Jayeola, Pebblebrook HS



## What was your biggest takeaway from the GSU student panel?

“My biggest takeaway from the GSU panel was DEI and diversity is an important component of life and should be continued to be encouraged throughout the world.”

-Louise Lee, GSMST

“My biggest takeaway from the GSU panel was that we are all human beings that deserve representation.”

-Georgia Bharwani, North Atlanta HS



**"I'M INSPIRED TO POSSIBLY APPLY TO GSU IN THE FUTURE AND TO USE DEI TO THE ADVANTAGE OF OUR COMMUNITIES."**

**- LAILAH DODSON, DEKALB EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY (DECA)**



# 2024 Leadership exCHANGE

Saturday, November 9th, 2024

Georgia State University

10am - 4:00pm

**Sponsored by:**  **MARKETSOURCE®**

- 10:00am**      **Welcome**  
*Kate Hewitt, Executive Director, 21st Century Leaders*  
*Student Welcome: Lokesh Pampatti, Chapel Hill High School, Youth Ambassador*
- 10:15**      **Georgia State University Welcome**  
*Student Intro: Siri Manekar, Northview High School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Speaker: James Wilson, GSU 95th SGA President, 21CL Alumni*
- 10:25**      **Sponsor Remarks: MarketSource**  
*Student Intro: Kezia Kotey, Dekalb Early College Academy, Youth Ambassador*  
*Speaker: Curtis Bennett, Director of Technology, MarketSource, Inc.*  
*Student Thank You: Josie Herren, Berrien High School, Youth Ambassador*
- 10:35**      **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: If I Ruled The World**  
*Student Intro: Fucheng Li, Darlington School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Speaker: Asher Jones, Diversity & Inclusion Manager, MarketSource, Inc., 21CL Alumni Board*
- 10:50**      **Students in Action: Breakouts!**  
*Students and Volunteers*
- 11:30**      **Idea Showcase & Debrief**  
*Student groups share their results*  
*Student Thank You: Evan Drinks, Westlake High School, Youth Ambassador*
- 12:00pm**      **Lunch and Learn Networking, Sponsored by** 
- 1:00**      **Georgia State University College Tours**
- 2:00**      **Georgia State University College Panel**  
*Student Intro: Litzy Sanchez, Morrow High School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Student Intro: Ronak Vyas, Alpharetta High School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Student Intro: Leia Lankford, Woodstock High School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Student Intro: Afra Haque, Chamblee Charter High School, Youth Ambassador*  
*Speaker: Skyy Corral, GSU*  
*Speaker: Jordan Madden, GSU*  
*Speaker: Adanna Charles-Ezeoke, GSU*  
*Speaker: Zayvion Sheppard, GSU* 
- 3:20**      **Student Thank You**  
*Hannah Lang, Georgia Cyber Academy, Youth Ambassador*
- 3:25**      **Sharpen the Saw & Closing Thoughts**  
*Tim Parham, Director of Programs & Operations, 21st Century Leaders*
- 4:00**      **Dismissal**