

 NEWARK
OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH NETWORK

 LEAD
CHARTER
SCHOOL

 YouthBuild
NEWARK

 MBKN
MY BROTHER'S
KEEPER NEWARK

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Robert Clark

Founder & CEO

Newark Opportunity Youth Network

When we first started YouthBuild Newark in 2003, we were determined to give young people another chance. A chance to earn their GED, to gain on-the-job training, and to transform their lives.

Nearly 20 years later, that is still at the core of what we do. While our work has evolved into multiple initiatives designed to address youth disconnection, the power of transformation is the throughline that connects it all.

It is my hope that the stories shared below provide a window into the work of Newark Opportunity Youth Network and into the potential of each young person we serve. Despite all the challenges of this past school year, there is much to be celebrated. From post-secondary placements to the passage of legislation, we are proud of the work that's been done - but know there's much more that lies ahead.

Together with our partners, we look forward to the coming year and to sharing the stories of even more young people as they transform not only their own lives, but their families and communities as well.

Robert Clark





Education

LEAD Charter School renewed for another five years



Workforce Development

Awarded \$300K grant from Aspen Institute to strengthen workforce ecosystem



Policy Advocacy

MBKN's advocacy helped pass bill A4663 in New Jersey's Assembly and Senate.



Systems Building

Launched school-to-workforce pipeline for young people

"I can truly say I've changed, not just academically, but as a person...This has been a very hard year for me, but LEAD has helped me make it through."

Dasia Cross
2021 LEAD Graduate
Morgan State University
Class of 2025



"I think it's been very effective being a partner with NOYN, and because of that, we've developed our own strengths as an organization. I think our programs are more effective now."

Wendy Melendez
Program Division Director
of La Casa de Don Pedro

"I have witnessed firsthand the negative impact that flawed systems can have on boys and young men of color, particularly on those that are opportunity youth. I'm honored to take on their cause."

Mark Comesañas
Executive Director of My Brother's Keeper Newark



"The respect, the love, the dignity -- Everything that [YouthBuild] stands for is what made me who I am today...I'm valuable now - not only to me, but to my daughter, my mother and I'm somebody to this community."

Christian Winbush
2005 YBN Graduate
Rutgers University - Newark
Class of 2023

LOOKING FORWARD

NOYN IN ACTION

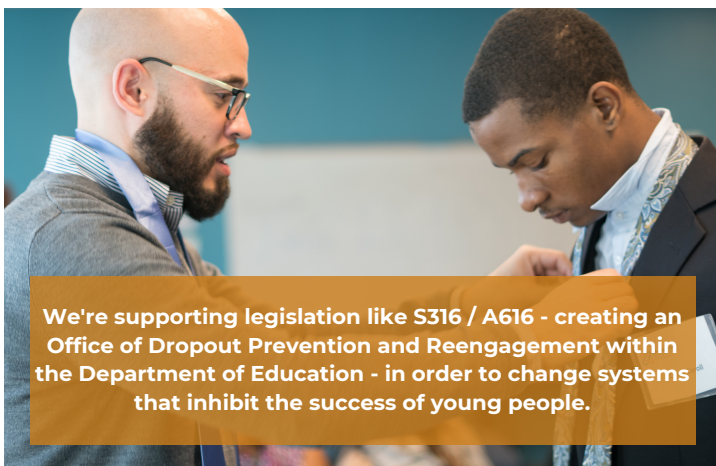
HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION



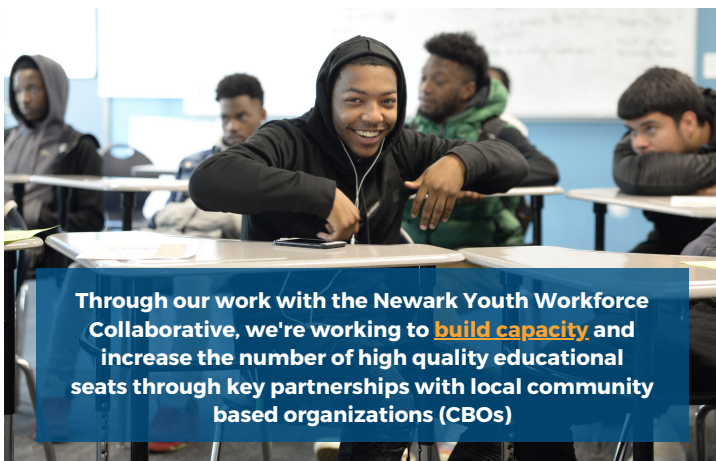
YouthBuild Newark graduate and senior vocational instructor Terry Lang celebrated helping more than **700 young people earn industry-certified credentials**. We're working to recruit and develop more Terry's at LEAD.



We're expanding **partnerships** with organizations that share our mission -- like **DoorDash**, **Scotch Porter** and **BRICK Education Network** -- in order to grow resources that are dedicated to opportunity youth in Newark.



We're supporting legislation like S316 / A616 - creating an Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement within the Department of Education - in order to change systems that inhibit the success of young people.



Through our work with the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, we're working to **build capacity** and increase the number of high quality educational seats through key partnerships with local community based organizations (CBOs)



Looking for ways to support NOYN's work? Here's how:

1

Follow us on social media platforms and share our posts + stories.



[OYN Newark](#)



[oyn_newark](#)



[NewarkOYN](#)



[Newark Opportunity Youth Network](#)

2

Engage with opportunity youth throughout your community + **connect** them to us.



Learn more [here](#).



[Apply here](#) to get HS diploma/GED, and credential in construction, allied health or information technology.

3

Donate to NOYN, contributing to funds that will support **education, workforce development, policy advocacy, and systems building**.



Make a pledge to OY [here](#).



Learn more about us and our approach [here](#).