



**EMPOWERING FUTURES, TRANSFORMING LIVES:  
A YEAR OF IMPACT BY UPLIFT ACADEMY**

**PROGRAMS**



**College Path Mentorship**

We have served over 30 students across four locations in Newark and Paterson, and we are in the process of expanding our services to include Passaic City as well."



**STEAM Academies**

Within our STEAM Academies, we provide classes in computer coding (Python) and math tutoring, alongside offerings like 3D printing and robotics courses.



**Summer Math Camp**

We are pleased to announce the success of this pilot project for two years, and we are excited to confirm its continuation as an annual initiative.

**NEWS**



**Our CPM Mentee Admitted into Rutgers University**

Congratulations to our mentee, Ahmed Quedraogo, on his admission into Rutgers Newark with full scholarship!



**Provident Bank Foundation Grant**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Provident Bank Foundation for awarding us a significant grant of \$10,000.



**We are now Uplift Academy**

Now it is official, New York Academy has changed its name to UPLIFT ACADEMY. We are incredibly excited about embarking on this new chapter.

# EMPOWERING FUTURES, TRANSFORMING LIVES: A YEAR OF IMPACT BY UPLIFT ACADEMY

As we reflect on the past year at New York Academy - now, UPLIFT Academy - we are proud to share the remarkable journey we have undertaken in our pursuit of equitable education and boundless opportunities for all students.

Our mission is to provide and promote high-quality educational services to students of New Jersey, working diligently to bridge the achievement gap arising from socioeconomic disparities. As we transition to the UPLIFT ACADEMY, our new name echoes our commitment to uplifting every student, symbolizing the transformative power of education.

## Programs that Illuminate Futures

The 2022-23 academic year has been nothing short of transformative, as we've expanded our reach and impact through a variety of initiatives:

- **College Path Mentorship (CPM):** Our flagship program, **College Path Mentorship**, has touched the lives of 33 high school students in Paterson and Newark. Over the course of 32 weeks, totaling 128 mentor-mentee hours, our students received intensive SAT Math and English preparation, along with College Readiness Seminars. As the seeds of knowledge were sown, we saw the blossoming of confidence and readiness for higher education.
- **Empowering Through Code:** Our **STEAM Academies** offered coding classes to middle school students across 3 locations. With 22 students immersing themselves in a 36-hour Python coding course, the seeds of a future empowered by technology were sown.
- **Guiding Application Excellence:** The annual **College Application Bootcamp** held at Montclair State University was a notable success, equipping students with valuable tips, timelines, and writing prowess for their college journeys.
- **Unleashing Mathematical Potential:** What began as a pilot project, **Summer Math Camp** expanded to 22 students across partner locations in Newark. Enthusiasm for numbers and problem-solving flourished.
- **Empowering Minds Through Tutoring:** Recognizing the critical need for math education, we extended our reach to 5 middle school students at the Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson, marking our first foray into targeted **math tutoring**.

## A Brighter Future

As we transition to the UPLIFT ACADEMY, a new chapter of our journey begins. The change in name reflects our unwavering commitment to uplifting every student, amplifying our impact, and symbolizing the transformative power of education.

In a few short weeks, on September 1st, 2023, we embark on yet another significant transformation – a move to a new center at 18 Railroad Ave., Rochelle Park, NJ. This move not only signifies our growth but also ensures that we can better serve our community with more space and a free parking lot.

As we turn the pages of our annual report, we see not just numbers and statistics, but the stories of lives touched, minds ignited, and futures reshaped. The journey continues, and we are excited for the chapters yet to unfold.

**Together, we uplift; together, we rise!**

Levent Koch, Ph.D.

CEO, UPLIFT Academy (formerly known as New York Academy)

# OUR SERVICES IN NUMBERS

01

## College Path Mentorship

We are pleased to announce that we served **33 high school students** in Paterson and Newark. CPM program took place over 30 weeks, totaling 120 mentor-mentee hours over the year. By the end of the program year, each mentee completed, on average, 40 hours of SAT Math and 30 hours of SAT English preparation courses along with 25 hours of College Readiness Seminars.

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02

## Coding Classes

Coding classes, a fundamental component of our STEAM Academies, were extended to middle school students across three locations in Newark and Paterson. Each of the **22 students** attended a comprehensive 36-hour Python coding course.

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## Essay Bootcamp

The annual College Application Bootcamp took place on June 10-11, 2023 with the attendance of over **30 students** at Montclair State University. During the event, presenters shared valuable tips and tricks, outlined a year-long timeline, guided students through the college search process, and provided writing guidelines for crafting personal statements.

30

04

## Summer Math Camp

The Summer Math Camp has developed from a pilot project into a substantial program that offers 30 hours of math instruction. It began in the summer of 2022 at a single location, serving 7 students initially, and has now expanded to accommodate **22 students** across 2 partner locations in Newark.

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## Math Tutoring

Recognizing the pronounced demand for math education, we introduced math tutoring for the first time this year, catering to **5 middle school students** at the Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson. The initiative proved successful and will be sustained throughout the 2023-24 academic year.

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## OUR MISSION & VISION

UPLIFT Academy provides and promotes high-quality educational services to students of New Jersey to close the achievement gap resulting from socioeconomic inequities, and to help students of all backgrounds reach their greatest academic and intellectual potential.

We envision a world where equitable educational opportunities are afforded to all students, and those students aspire to solve social injustices.

### EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY: GRATITUDE TO DONORS AND NEED FOR FURTHER FUNDING

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors – especially the Provident Bank Foundation and Walmart, GEICO, COSTCO, and New Jersey Community Foundation, and our dedicated friends – for their unwavering support. Your contributions have already propelled us forward, empowering us to make a significant impact in our community through our diverse educational programs.

As we continue to witness the positive transformations that our initiatives bring about in the lives of NJ youth, we are inspired to dream bigger and reach farther. The success of our existing programs fuels our vision for even greater outreach, but to turn these aspirations into reality, we require additional funding. With your continued generosity and support, we are confident in our ability to expand our programs, touching more lives, and making a lasting difference. Together, let's forge ahead on this meaningful journey of growth and empowerment. Join us in our mission and help us create a brighter future for all.

### MAJOR GRANT FROM THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION



New York Academy was awarded a Major Grant in the amount of \$10,000 from The Provident Bank Foundation to support their College Path Mentorship program. New York Academy was selected to receive the grant based on its positive impact on youth in Northern New Jersey through its College Path Mentorship program. The College Path Mentorship aims to increase college attainment rates of high school students from low-education-level and high-poverty areas of Essex and Passaic Counties.

### OUR PARTNERS

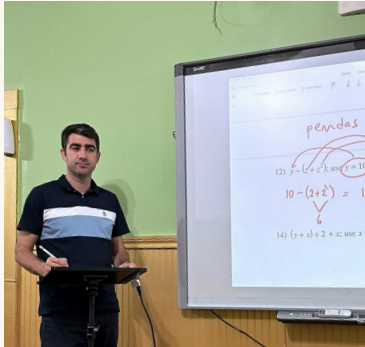
- Masjid Fallahee (Newark)
- Alaaka Association (Newark)
- Cultural Integration and Arts Association (Newark)
- Seminary Baptist Church (Paterson)

We extend our sincerest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to our invaluable partners for their unwavering support and commitment to the success of UPLIFT Academy. Their dedicated collaboration has formed the bedrock of our capability to deliver exceptional educational programs that ignite inspiration and empower numerous young minds. Their unwavering belief in our vision and their devoted efforts to foster growth and learning are truly praiseworthy. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for being an integral part of the New York Academy family and for helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.





Our name has officially been changed to Uplift Academy! We are extremely excited about this new chapter in the life of our organization.



## SUMMER MATH CAMP

We hosted our second Summer Math Camp from July 10th to August 4th, 2023. During this period, 7th and 8th graders participated in the camp from July 10th to July 21st, where 9th and 10th graders attended from July 24th to August 4th.

The camp's objectives encompassed:

- Reinforcing students' previous math knowledge
- Cultivating their algebraic skills and comprehension
- Equipping students for upcoming math courses

Each group received approximately 30 hours of math instruction. Additionally, students enjoyed engaging activities like chess and Jenga.

## CLOSING CEREMONIES

Our students across various programs successfully completed the 2022-2023 academic year! To applaud their achievements, we hosted closing ceremonies at each partner location. Students were presented with certificates and gift cards during these ceremonies. We warmly congratulate our students for their outstanding accomplishments throughout this remarkable year.



## ESSAY BOOTCAMP

On June 10-11, 2023, the annual College Application Bootcamp took place at Montclair State University. During the event, presenters covered valuable tips and tricks, outlined a year-long timeline, guided students through the college search process, and offered writing guidelines for crafting personal statements.



## TESTIMONIALS

"I have enjoyed my experience at the program. It has been very welcoming and helpful. So far, it's been a great experience. My mentor Ms. Habibah has been an amazing teacher and tutor and I appreciate all the things she has educated me on. I would definitely come back to this program."

- **Hamza Waziri, a mentee at CPM program**



**"I really enjoy this program and I would love to continue to attend"**

"The college mentorship program has helped me to learn and study materials and grasp new concepts quicker. I now find that I'm able to manage my time better. One thing my mentor always encourages me to do is to think bigger and know that the possibilities in life and career are endless. I learned that in order to be comfortable in the future and achieve my big goals, I have to first be willing to be uncomfortable and put the work in. The trip to Montclair State University gave me greater insight about what my expectations should be during the admissions process and beyond. I really enjoy this program and I would love to continue to attend."

- **Rabi Abare, a mentee at our CPM program**



"These essay boot camps provide great opportunities for students to learn more about the college application process and provide them with resources to craft their applications. I am grateful to be able to learn from these students and help them get ready for the next stage in their lives."

- **Yusuf Kocaman, Princeton University, a mentor at CPM program**

I really enjoyed every session of this program - the boot camp - and definitely would recommend it to other students as well.

- **Ramatu Abare, a mentee at CPM program**

I am so happy I joined this program, for being able to connect with other high schoolers, and for my mentor's guidance as well.

- **Latifah Tetteh, a mentee at CPM program**

During the College Path Mentorship program, I tried my best to be honest about the struggles I faced in high school in an attempt to plan for the future. My vulnerability helped my students feel more comfortable in sharing their own struggles.

- **Giovanna Bialoglowka, NJIT a mentor at CPM program**



## OUR MENTEE ENTERS RUTGERS

Our only 12th grader in our CPM student, Ahmed Quadraogo, has officially been accepted into Rutgers University New Brunswick **with Full Scholarship!** We are extremely proud of his hard work and accomplishments. As a college present, Uplift Academy awarded Ahmed with a brand-new laptop. Ahmed attended the CPM for 2 academic years.

## SMART BOARDS DONATED AND INSTALLED

Thanks to a generous donation of Smart Boards by Paterson Charter School of Science and Technology, we have successfully gifted and installed 14 Smart Boards at our partner locations. These Smart Boards has significantly enhanced our ability to deliver our programs more efficiently.

## FREE TUTORING

At NYA, we provide free tutoring to students in our programs, such as the College Path Mentorship and STEAM Academies.

Firstly, we offer free tutoring for STEM AP classes to high school students who need extra help. Interested students are paired with highly skilled teachers who assist them in achieving their goals.

Secondly, we provide students with free math tutoring, led by professionals in the field. This condensed program aims to prepare students for the upcoming SAT exams.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

In the 2022-23 academic year, our 10th and 11th grade mentees in the College Path Mentorship Program submitted their end-of-the-year Community Service Projects.

Through this initiative, mentees create projects with the potential to positively impact their communities. This undertaking enables students to distinguish themselves in college applications and acquire valuable experience for their future pursuits. Those who submitted eligible projects were rewarded with \$50 gift cards.

## WE ARE MOVING

In just a few weeks, on September 1, 2023, we are poised for yet another momentous transformation – relocating to a new center at 18 Railroad Ave., Rochelle Park, NJ. This move signifies not only our remarkable growth but also our unwavering commitment to better serve the youth through an expanded space. Here, we will continue to persist in our endeavor to provide the utmost quality of education.

## REWARDS & AWARDS

To further motivate and express our appreciation for the students in our programs within underserved communities, we distribute awards to those who demonstrate academic success and progress. These rewards vary, ranging from \$10 gift cards to as much as \$100 gift cards. Throughout our program in 2022-23, approximately 30 students received gift cards, totaling \$2,800.

## PROGRESS IN SAT PRACTICE TESTS

The mentees in the College Path Mentorship Program completed 2 SAT Practice tests, and on average, they achieved a 150-point increase between the two tests in the 2022-23 academic year. Throughout this program, mentees engage in four mentorship hours per week over a span of 32 weeks, resulting in about 120 mentor-mentee hours throughout the year. By the conclusion of the program year, each mentee participates in 40 hours of SAT Math preparation courses, 30 hours of SAT English preparation courses, and 25 hours of College Readiness Seminar sessions.

## OUR NEW PARTNER IN PATERSON!

The College Path Mentorship program's reach is expanding as we collaborate with our new partner, Seminary Baptist Church in Paterson, to assist middle-school and high-school students. This new partnership aims to support a greater number of students with their SAT exams and College Applications. Our aspirations for growth extend into the 2023-24 academic year as well.



## FIELD TRIPS FOR FUN



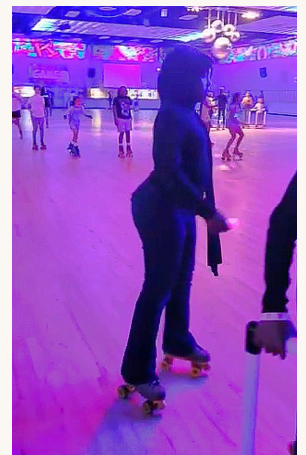
### TRIP TO FUNPLEX

Our mentees at CPM Program at Fallahe had a trip to Funplex as a reward to their hard work. We thank DANARO LIMO for sponsoring the transportation.



### ROLLER-SKATING TIME

Our Coding and CPM students at Alaaka Association enjoyed time in roller-skating.



Roller-skating time for our Coding and CPM students at Alaaka Association

# Our Major Programs

→ COLLEGE PATH MENTORSHIP → STEAM ACADEMIES → SUMMER MATH CAMP →

## College Path Mentorship

Our free College Path Mentorship (CPM) Program aims to increase college attainment rates of students from low education-level and high poverty areas of New Jersey. CPM, by providing free and quality college preparation, strives for expanding these students' access to education who are otherwise least likely to get a college education. The program offers quality, well-rounded educational experiences by equipping mentees with not only academic, but also social skills needed for college success.

The program takes place over 30 weeks from October to June. Mentors meet with their mentees for 4 hours on Saturdays, totaling 120 mentor-mentee hours over the year. By the end of the program, each mentee undergoes 40 hours of SAT Math and 30 hours of SAT English preparation courses, and 25 hours of College Readiness Seminar courses.

## STEAM Academies

STEAM Academies aims to heighten K-8 students' interest and enhance their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEM and Art). Our goal is to achieve this mission by igniting curiosity in students and establishing a life-long love for STEM and Art through our expertly designed, creative & fun curriculum. Our STEAM Academies is uniquely focused on fostering and developing essential 21st Century and STEAM skills like Problem-Solving, Critical thinking, Creativity, and Collaboration in a hands-on and practical but fun learning environment.

## Summer Math Camp

UPLIFT's Summer Math Camp strengthens students' mathematical foundations, helps them overcome summer learning loss, and ultimately maximizes their academic success at high school and beyond. The program's primary goal is to narrow achievement gaps and develop students' intellectual capacity so that they get ahead for the next school year. Summer Math Camp makes a positive impact by filling a gap in the education system that leaves students from low-income communities behind, providing critical educational resources to students with the greatest needs.

UPLIFT PROVIDES THESE PROGRAMS FOR FREE TO STUDENTS WITH THE GREATEST SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS.