



2023
THE EDGE PROGRAM
Cotillion Ball

www.edgeprogram.net

ABOUT



THE EDGE PROGRAM

The EDGE Program offers Black youth - male and female between the ages of 16 to 19 and juniors 7 to 10 - a unique, transformative experience that Empowers them to Develop and Grow their social and professional Engagement skills.

The EDGE provides diverse workshops that expose participants to information and techniques not offered in a conventional classroom. Designed to empower and motivate, The EDGE Program engages participants in a variety of leadership workshops, team-building exercises and includes a weekend retreat.

The EDGE Program is conducted in a safe, non-judgmental environment where mutual respect and support for their peers are promoted. As participants travel through this journey, we quickly establish the importance of adapting the skills and techniques they will gain while participating in the program.

Workshops are conducted during the spring - ending early summer. The EDGE concludes with a formal presentation ball where participants are re-introduced to their family and friends as graduates of our program.

Graduates have an opportunity to continue learning through our pre-arranged work internships and volunteering. We are aware that in today's world a strong drive to succeed is one of the most valuable gifts a young person can have, and increasingly one of the hardest to achieve. Technical skills may get you the interview, but without social graces and a strong work ethic, getting the job will be an overwhelming task.

We are committed to helping our community's young people to develop skills and attitudes that will support their future goals. We do our utmost to help participants find their inner spark and fan it into a bright flame.





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2023 EDGE Youth Program planning committee is pleased to welcome you to our annual EDGE Ball. We thank you for being here and a special thank you to the parents whose children are in the program this evening. This is a unique experience whose benefits will continue to pay dividends now and in the future. As a community we must explore opportunities that will provide our children with the tools that will help them develop and grow with confidence. Our dedicated committee gives of their time and expertise freely so that the program can continue to operate successfully.

The workshops are listed in the program book so please read about the many Black Professionals who were part of EDGE 2023.

Everything from a Career Panel workshop that allow the youth to explore their career goals to spending a weekend at the University of Waterloo where they spent time on campus meeting Black professionals who shared the wraparound program that the university has for black people. These additional experiences along with all the other workshops gives the participants the EDGE.

To our resident choreographer Andrea Douglas, thank you for the magic you work every year. We truly appreciate you.



EDGE has grown. We now have EDGE West. This program runs from June to October so please share this information taketheedge.peel@gmail.com.

In closing I want to thank you all for coming and congratulate our senior and junior Debutantes and Beaux, our volunteers and especially our excellent planning committee. Without you, this would not be possible.

PATRICIA GLOUDON

Chair of the Board



MEET THE HOSTS



TAEJAH NOBLE

Master of Ceremonies

Taejah Noble is a diverse individual with over 8 years of experience in facilitation, youth engagement, scholarship coaching, community work, public speaking, and workshop creation. With a degree in Family and Community Social Service from Guelph-Humber, Noble combines her academic knowledge with practical experience to empower individuals in recognizing and leveraging their strengths for personal, academic, and overall growth.

Through her educational background in Family and Community Social Service, Noble has gained valuable insights into effective strategies for facilitating personal and professional development. This specialized degree equips her with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics within families and communities, allowing her to create inclusive spaces where individuals feel heard, valued, and empowered.

Noble's passion for making a positive impact extends beyond her educational background. She actively engages in various community initiatives, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to address social issues and contribute to community development.

Taejah is not unfamiliar with receiving support, encouragement, and appreciation from others, and hopes that she can continue to see the same in whomever she serves, even if it's just one. She understands that her support systems have made significant contributions to her life and believes that it makes a wealth of a difference for others to have that same opportunity.

MEET THE HOSTS



STEFAN THOMAS

Master of Ceremonies



Stefan Thomas, BSc. SSW.

Public Speaker | Workshop Facilitator |

Student Affairs Professional

<https://alfan.link/stefanthomas>

Stefan Thomas is a motivational speaker and student success coach based in Toronto, who equips students with the necessary skills and strategies to excel in school; and helps professionals learn how to develop a growth mindset for success, while building a legacy that they are proud of.

Known for his ability to be a strong communicator and for his engaging personality, Stefan has had the opportunity to facilitate workshops and give keynote speeches for the Durham District School Board, Jays Care Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, and Humber College. He has also hosted engaging conversations with wellknown influencers like Brandon Gonez, Blake Carter and more!

Stefan is committed to helping individuals from his community and all walks of life discover their purpose, while helping them learn how to maximize their own potential so they can turn their dreams into realities!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



CHRISTOPHER INFANTRY
MEET THE

Keynote Speaker

Christopher Infantry is passionate about rapidly furthering environmental sustainability via the use of solar energy and a plant-based diet. Dedicated to helping the planet and its inhabitants become happier and healthier, Christopher also motivates and trains others to continuously outperform themselves. He holds a MA from Columbia University and a Hons. BA from Carleton University.



FEATURE BAND

COURTENAY FRAZER, “PERFECT CADENCE”



Courtenay Frazer is a pianist with a wealth of stylistic knowledge. He has been singing and playing instruments in the church since 1986, winning district and regional Teen Talent competitions for group ensembles, as well as piano solos at the church he attended - Driftwood Church of God. Courtenay went on to play keyboards for a country folk band, The Haltons, directed by his late father, Wosley Frazer. His journey soon took him into other arenas of music, where he began singing for the Gospel quartet

“Surrender”, a well-known group on the Toronto Gospel music scene.

Courtenay’s diverse musical inspiration can be attributed to his deep appreciation for the music of such Gospel greats as Thomas Whitfield, Daryl Coley, The Clark Sisters and Ben Tankard, as well as his affinity for the artistry of the top Jazz players known as Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Art Tatum, and Chick Corea. His love of music encouraged him to study at Humber College of the Performing Arts where he completed studies in the Art of Jazz in 1999.

In the same year, Courtenay formed Perfect Cadence, a Gospel Jazz Group that encompasses the traditional make up of Bass, Drums, and Keys. Since then, Courtenay has moved into challenging yet inspiring territories of music that have allowed him to bring new light to Gospel Jazz, embracing the feel of Smooth Jazz, Fusion and other realms of music.

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

ANDREA DOUGLAS

WORKSHOP LEADER, DANCE EDUCATOR AND
CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrea Douglas, an educator, dancer, and choreographer, received her training at The Guyana National School of Dance, the Edna, College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica, York University Fine Arts, and the University of Toronto Education. She has trained and performed with legendary Caribbean dancers including Eduardo Rivera of Cuba and Rex Nettleford of Jamaica.



A former dancer with the Guyana National Dance Company and the National Dance Theatre of Jamaica, Andrea is the Artistic Director of the Children and Youth Dance Theatre of Toronto, a non-profit and charitable Dance Academy for children and youth Toronto. Andrea is a retired TDSB school principal and an avid advocate For Arts in Education. In 2018, she received Ward 19 Trustee Award for strong leadership, her caring and compassionate service to students in schools. She continues to share unconditionally with children and youth whose opportunity to grow artistically is marginalized in any way.

Andrea was the resident choreographer at the Applause Institute Cotillion Ball and is the resident choreographer for the EDGE Program. She has facilitated lecture demonstrations, dance presentations, and workshops at local and international dance

MEET THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

TAELORE COLEMAN

WORKSHOP LEADER AND JUNIOR
CHOREOGRAPHER

Taylor is a passionate performer and teacher who is committed to her craft. She received her formal dance education at the Children and Youth Dance Theatre of Toronto, in a diverse range of dance genres including ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, West-African and Afro-Caribbean. Continuing in education, she has now completed her Honours Bachelor's degree at York University in Criminology and Dance.

conferences and summits. She is the proud recipient of the 2005 Guyana Cultural Association USA award for Outstanding Contribution to Culture and Heritage, the 2013 Harry Jerome Award of Excellence in the Arts in Canada, and the 2021 Guyana 50th Republic Anniversary Award in recognition of her valuable contributions in the fields of Arts and Entertainment.

Taylor's passion for performing has driven her to compete locally at renowned competitions, meanwhile proudly representing Canada at various international dance conferences such as the International Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival in Scotland and in Trinidad for the 14th annual CARIFESTA (Caribbean Festival of the Arts). She has performed professionally with two of Canada's esteemed black dance companies, Ballet Creole and Ronald Taylor Dance on several projects and participated as a debutante with EDGE in 2017.

As she continues to grow as a performer, Taylor has embraced the opportunity to teach aspiring dancers aged 3 to 15 years old. She is recognized with "choreography" awards for



her mini jazz group and ranked highly for overall scores. Taelor's dedication to her craft is uniquely profound as she continues to train rigorously, and strives to elevate her skills, technique, and creativity.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

PROGRAM

Host Introduction	Stefan Thomas & Taejah Noble
Land acknowledgement	Rosa Berdejo-Williams
Welcome	Pat Gloudon
Anthems O' Canada & Lift Every Voice	Perfect Cadence
Grace	Pastor Michael Morris

DINNER AND DESSERT SERVICE

EDGE Board Member Message	Tammy Sikakane
Parent Testimonials	Betty Viera and Dwayne John
Introduction of Cheorographers	Stefan Thomas & Taejah Noble
Juniors Presentation	Junior Participants
Official Presentation & Introduction	Debutantes and Beaux
Grand Entrance March	Debutantes, Beaux & Junior Participants
Dance Presentation	Senior Debutante & Beaux Waltz
Keynote Address	Christopher Infantry
Serenade	Perfect Cadence
Dance Presentation	Senior Debutante & Beaux
Introduction of EDGE Committee	Stefan Thomas & Taejah Noble
Song Presentation	Debutantes Chiyanna Campbell & Rayana Rojo Bolton
Professional Dance Presentation	Tapestry Dance Company
Presentations of Trophies/Certificates	EDGE Board Members
Parting Words	Current Deb (Kemora Faith Manning) and Beau (Zavier Wylie) of the Year
Announcement of Special Awards	Pat Gloudon & Liz Valladares-Pereira
Vote of Thanks	Liz Valladares-Pereira
Final Dance	2023 Participants
Dance Floor is Open	DJ Henry

TONIGHT'S MENU

STARTER

Dinner Rolls & Butter
STRAWBERRY SALAD WITH BALSAMIC
VINAIGRETTE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO BASIL SAUCE



MAINS

CHICKEN SUPREME WITH BBQ SAUCE

OR

SALMON WITH LEMON HERB SAUCE

OR

SALMON WITH LEMON HERB SAUCE



CONGRATULATIONS, EDGE PARTICIPANTS!

DESSERT

ICE CREAM CREPE SERVED WITH
COFFEE & TEA



A Message from the EDGE Board to our Participants

Congratulations to this year's Junior Debutantes, Junior Beaux, Senior Debutantes, and Senior Beaux! You have grown so much over the past few months as participants in the EDGE program. You have attended workshops and classes which have challenged you to see your strengths, recognize your brilliance, and understand that you possess unmatched talents as Black individuals. You have also been equipped with the necessary tools to help you become successful in the world. As you move forward in life, please remember that you have our unwavering support as you become innovative leaders in the fields that you choose to step into. The possibilities are numerous, and you are capable of doing anything that you put your mind to.

As many of you continue to put forth your best efforts in elementary school and high school, we want to highlight the following Senior Debutantes and Senior Beaux who are entering higher education, or continuing their studies in higher education in the upcoming school year:

Mia Baksh-Richards - Seneca College

Kyeron Banton - York University

Maya Elliott - Toronto Metropolitan University

Mayah Ricketts - Queens University

Rayana Rojo Bolton - Toronto Metropolitan University

Justin Adjebeng - Ontario Tech University

Deshawn Chambers - George Brown College

Darien John - Durham College

Tremaine Ross - Trent University

~ 2023 EDGE Board Members

Maya Elliott



Parent: Lisa Lorray

Hobbies: Make music, Dance, Sports, Making skits, Video games, and Driving

Career Goals: Being able to make it far in soccer and my business.

Personal Comments

Learning better ethics, values, and how to be a better person from The EDGE was a terrific idea. The Edge is also a fantastic place to make friends and meet new people.

Josiah Lorray



Parent: Christiana Labi & Richmond Oppong

Hobbies: Listening to music, soccer, spending time with my friends

Career Goals: Professional Soccer Player

Personal Comments

Thanks to my parents for supporting me.



Parent: Charisse Elliott and Walter Elliott

Sponsored By: Brianna Hylton and Shane Crichton

Hobbies: Soccer, Music, Fashion, Singing

Career Goals: Teacher, Social Worker, Artist, Coach, Stylist

Personal Comments

EDGE was and is a great experience to make bonds that could last forever. The retreat was especially helpful because it created a bond amongst all of us. It really taught me how to talk to people, how to resolve problems and more. I will forever use it as a starting point for the future that I will have.

Joanna

Oppong



Parent: Kenroy Rubin and Ronke Macaulay

Hobbies: Football, soccer, basketball reading and watching Anime

Career Goals: To become a Veterinarian

Personal Comments

EDGE is a great program for black youth and I encourage every child to at least try the program once

Helen Lett

Hobbies: Reading, baking, listening to music

Career Goals: Professor, Lawyer, collections curator

**Naheem-Isreal
Macaulay**





Parent:



Personal Comments

I was student body president, and salutatorian. I am grateful for the EDGE program because it was a way for me to come out of my shell and help me look at life differently.

Ricketts



Mayah

Hobbies: Fixing computers
Career Goals: Cyber security

Personal Comments

Parent: Dwayne John , Cleo Christie

Darien John



Parent: Mandy Thomas and Erik Joseph
Sponsor: 758 HVAC and Construction Services Included

Hobbies: Dancing, cooking, painting and history
Career Goals: I aspire to be a professional dancer.

Personal Comments

I loved that I was represented and learnt alot through the different sessions.

Thomas



Allegra

Parent: Wandamae Black
Sponsor: EDGE Program
Hobbies: Basketball and soccer
Career Goals: Firefighters

Personal Comments

Thank you for accepting me into the program.

Elvis

Moxey

Parent: Billie-Jane Bolton de Rojo and Rolando Rojo



Hobbies: music, singing, painting and writing

Career Goals: A jazz/r&b performer on the side

A journalist and activist, maybe in the future to have my own network

Personal Comments

EDGE's recognition over the years is well deserved, and the organizers need more praise and credit. From first-hand experience finishing my first year in university, I can see how the EDGE workshops equip and prepare us to thrive in the real world. The Career panel allowed us to ask questions on how to succeed in the fields we were interested in, giving us the opportunity to hear first-hand advice from successful Black people. This year, I received a scholarship from Wes Hall and was invited to a beautiful gala. The etiquette classes taught by Mrs. Maureen would have been a great asset to impress those who sat at my table. I know that without my uni experience, I would not have been able to value the workshops in their entirety. Still, because of that perspective, I treated the workshops like one of my

Rayana lectures and was keen to absorb everything the EDGE workshops offered. We will undoubtedly face anti-black racism, especially in post-secondary institutions and future careers. I am confident I can

Rojo Bolton

navigate those situations and have the mental fortitude to withstand and conquer those challenges and obstacles with the resources and knowledge the program has offered us.



Parent: Sharon Creedland, Bod Creedland

Hobbies: Rugby, video games, exercising, volunteering

Career Goals: I want to be successful

Personal Comments

This program is something that I would recommend to any young black individual who not only wants to be able to succeed in whatever area they so choose in, but also a community of their own people that they can go to.

Alexander Creedland



Parent: Samara Smith & Omar Honeyghan

Hobbies: Basketball, soccer and track

Career Goals: In the future I hope to be an architect

Personal Comments

The EDGE program taught me etiquette, drama, stage directions, and many other exciting things. I got to meet some very nice people.

Honeyghan



Parent: Onika Powell

Sponsor: Dwayne John

Hobbies: Coding and other STEM activities. Singing, Dancing, and Playing Soccer. Interest in Harry Potter

Career Goals: Engineer and Professional Soccer Player

Personal Comments

I am enjoying the program and making new friends. I even got to work with Ms Douglas, who also used to teach my mom when she was my age. So cool!

Damarlie Jeffers



Chiyanna



Parent:

Chadelle Campbell and Anniff Ried

Hobbies: Swimming, reading, cooking, baking, singing, music

Career Goals: My aspirations are to have a stable income and masters in both psychology and law.

Personal Comments

The EDGE program has granted me connections and lifelong bonds, I could only hope to find and have allowed me to grow in ways I did not know I needed.

Campbell



Parent: Khamalae White



Jahmar

Hobbies: Writing, analyzing, gaming, acting, story boarding and also music.

Career Goals: For quite a while I've dreamed about being in the medical field and helping save lives everyday. Eventually this turned into wanting to be an orthopedic surgeon or a chiropractor reassuring people they'll be fine and helping them in their natural lives. But recently through many experiences, experiences like the EDGE program and exposure from my highschool I have made a radical shift towards journalism and professional writing. To me this has been something I've always been good at.

Personal Comments

To summarize my experience at the EDGE program it has really showed me how to break out of an outer shell I didn't realize was there till my mom thankfully forced me into the program. It has helped me picture myself in a more positive and reinforced way, helping me connect more to my roots and core beliefs as well as different viewpoints. From talking to professionals all the way to meeting the community that is EDGE and their allies, it has certainly been eye opening for me as both an aspiring writer and a black youth. While I can definitely see myself coming to these realizations somewhere else and maybe

wouldn't recommend it to everyone, it's a powerful resource as well as a humbling preliminary program for those who want to create something beautiful while they're still young.

Scott



Parent: Clement & Tamara Pascal

Hobbies: Singing, Drama, Drawing anime and cartoons

Career Goals: I would like to be a celebrity and a youtuber or an author for comic books.

Personal Comments

I like the games and that the program was educational. It was like school but a little bit better.

Pascal



Chase Carter

Alexandria

Parent: Kerrylyn Black-Carter and Deanroy Carter

Sponsor: Pat Gloudon

Hobbies: I want to become a Basketball player

Personal Comments

Thank you to my sponsor to introduce me to this wonderful program, and thanks to my parents for allowing me to participate.



Parent:

Hobbies:

Antoinette Stephen

Acting, journaling, story- writing

Career Goals: Acting & directing

Personal Comments

The EDGE program has been a good experience so far. It taught me life-long lessons and opened up insight & opportunities which were memorable and fun and still continues to be. Accomplishments I made was learning how to work in real estate, law, entrepreneurship & more, and I learned about african art. I also made bonds with people there. Everyone is open minded and welcoming there

Keyannie which makes everything better when going. **Stephen**



Parent: Lisa Lorrain

Hobbies: Sleeping, basketball and interest in real estate

Career Goals: Getting wealthy

Personal Comments

Emmanuel Lorrain



Parent: Clement & Tamara Pascal

Hobbies: Gymnastic, playing the violin and playing outdoors.

Career Goals: I want to be a professional gymnist and a babysitter as a side job. I'd also like to be a singer and rescue animals.

Personal Comments

I like everything about the EDGE program, especially making friends.

Pascal



Elisabeth

Parent: Elke Fany and Fernando Gaete

Hobbies: All sports and Video Games

Career Goals: The STEM workshop has me interested in science.

Personal Comments

The EDGE Program is taught me a lot. I had fun and I made new friends.

Joaquin



Parent:

Hobbies:

Gaete



Kerrylyn Black-Carter and Deanroy Carter

Sponsor: Pat Gloudon

Hobbies: Dancing, like to participate in outdoor activities, my interest is learning new things and having positive conversations in regards to things happening around the world.

Career Goals: My career goal is to be apart of the medical field, actually I want to become a Pediatric Nurse

Personal Comments

In the EDGE program I have learned a lot things while things that I haven't learned in school. I like how the program teaches black kids how to have proper etiquette. **Chassady** also want to thank my sponsor Ms Pat who always pushed me to join the EDGE program even when I was young.

Carter



Parent: Gemma St. Hill

Sponsor: Solomon William (William Demolition & Excavation INC.)

Hobbies: Special interest in video and photography. Hobbies are playing basket ball, soccer, track and field and piano

Career Goals: Professional photographer. A profession in the trades industry

Personal Comments

Special thanks to my mom and sponsor for this opportunity. EDGE was definitely a great program. The workshops were a good way of networking and learning. I was able to connect with great individuals and will apply what I have learned in the

future.

Jamal

St.Hill-Lucas



Parent: Christiana Labi & Richmond Oppong

Hobbies: Outdoor activities, socializing, making new friends

Career Goals: Police Officer & Gymnast

Personal Comments

It was awesome



Parent:



Oppong



Rachael

Parent: Oseye Cohen

Hobbies: Working out, playing soccer, and Hotwheels.

Career Goals: Kairos is an up and coming sprint track star who will one day run faster than Usain Bolt. Kairos is interested in trades and will be the owner of our family construction administration company.

Personal Comments

The EDGE program was a good place for me to wear a tuxedo and look like a gentleman. It was fun!

Kairos Cohen

Betty Vieira, Reagan Vieira

Piano, rugby, soccer, and dance

Career Goals: Neuropsychologist

Personal Comments

I met some nice and funny people

Vieira



Parent: Karl Ross, Verlyn Ross

Hobbies: Basketball, acting, film

Career Goals: Own rental properties



**Alexia
Tremaine Ross**



Parent:

Hobbies:

Personal Comments

EDGE has helped me develop and learn useful life skills that school never taught me.



Emily

Parent: William and Natasha Macklem

Hobbies: Swimming, music, dancing **Career**

Goals: Veterinarian

Personal Comments

The EDGE program has allowed me to experience things I normally wouldn't do like coding.

Macklem



**Dillon
Hunte**

Parent: Davidson and Wynette Hunte

Hobbies: Drawing, Gaming, Mathematics, Martial Arts

Career Goals:Illustrator

Personal Comments

The EDGE Program brought my son out of his shell. It challenged him to be more assertive, to try new things and be unafraid to make mistakes. Learning from specialists who look like him and understand him in ways our traditional educational system may not was priceless. He enjoyed exploring topics like Internet safety, botany and dance. After attending a session, he would always leave inspired and eager to discuss what he had learned. The EDGE Program uplifts the community, and I am excited to see the results of all the work put in behind the scenes. My son will be returning to further his growth as a Sr. beau.



Parent: Shondell Duke
Sponsor: Gem Williams

Hobbies: Playing volleyball, reading black literature, learning about black history, and shoe collecting

Career Goals: To pursue a career in the field of kinesiology and or child and youth work

Personal Comments

Firstly, I want to thank God for guiding me to the EDGE Program. I also want to thank my mom and sponsor for giving me the opportunity to network and be inspired by other black youth. The EDGE Program has been instrumental in my self-discovery and has empowered me to pursue any path I choose. Programs like this are crucial for uplifting, empowering and educating black youth, as there are few initiatives out there that are designed to support and

foster growth for young people who look like me. "We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." - Maya Angelou



Brianna Joseph

Parent: Colvin Chambers & Natalie Harewood

Hobbies: Producing Music, Drawing, Painting, Listening to Music. **Career Goals:**

1. Being an expert producer selling and making songs with popular/famous Christian artists
2. Owning my own success and popular Christian clothing line

Personal Comments

The EDGE Program is an interesting program. I learn a few new things every week, the people are nice and funny. I find myself being able to be more vocal and social while keeping my introverted qualities. it is worth the money and time spent, especially for the friends that I've made.



Deshawn Chambers

Parent: Natalya Bailey

Sponsor: Monique Ashley-Kelly

Hobbies: Drawing and making clothes

Career Goals: To be a doctor or a dentist or school teacher

Personal Comments



Parent:
Hobbies:



Faith

Genesis

Parent: Mr. Courtney Edison Cadogan

Hobbies: Football, basketball, soccer and Pokémon cards.

Career Goals: To play professional football and/or become a scientist.

Personal Comments

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our sponsor for making this wonderful experience possible. We'd also like to thank Mrs. Gloudon and all of the facilitators for their time, patience and detailed guidance. I have received valuable life lessons which I plan to carry with me throughout adulthood.

Cai

Edward Cadogan

Cheryl Langevine Mark Lorimer

Gymnastics, Reading, Exploring **Career Goals:**

Accountant

Personal Comments

I'd like to thank my mom for placing me in the program and taking care of me. Without her i don't know where I would be

Lorimer



Parent: Grace Adjebeng, Michael Adjebeng

Hobbies: Music, Playing Music, Working out

Career Goals: Doctor

Personal Comments

EDGE Program has been a fun and impactful experience, and I want to thank my mom for putting me in the program

Robinson



Parent: Colette Bailey

Hobbies: I enjoying dancing, singing and reading. I play the piano and love to paint in my spare time.

Career Goals: I aspire to be the owner of Care Cafe. a cafe for kids with a play area and a creative corner.

Justin Adjebeng



Kingston Smart



Personal Comments

EDGE is an amazing program to join. I was crowned the junior Debutante for 2022. I have gained confidence and courage to accomplish my goals. I enjoy public speaking and telling everyone to join the EDGE program as it will be an amazing

Averie

experience for kids and teenagers.

Parent: Kwame and Orica Smart

Hobbies: Basket Ball, Karate, Reading Dog Man Books, video games. **Career Goals:** I would like to be an actor or basketball player.

Personal Comments

I really like the friends I've met so far.

Parent: Sharifa Baksh and Quinn Valladares

Hobbies: Dance, fashion design, modelling and reading

Career Goals: * Achieve my bachelors and masters in social work, 6+ figure business, To be well known for the greatness of my work

Personal Comments

Throughout EDGE I didn't know if I would truly enjoy it or if it would just be a fun experience, but coming to the end of the program I really enjoyed every workshop, choreography class and especially our retreat. It was blissful to have made such incredible bonds and friendships with people in the program and our retreat really brought everyone together, we all felt like a big happy family, and getting to be able



Mia to observe and learn that there are people who look like me in the real world with **Baksh-Richards**

successful careers made me feel like I belonged. EDGE helped me learn a lot about myself and cleared my eyes to the things I want to do and pursue in the future.

Parent: Debra McKenzie mom - Devon John dad

Hobbies: Cars

Career Goals: Automotive engineer

Personal Comments

Great way to make friends



Clyke



**Esteban
Gaete**



Parent:
Hobbies:



Orion John



Parent: Lori Clyke

Hobbies: Mermaids, drawing, lol dolls, bath bombs

Career Goals: Owning a juice bar, animal rescue, be a mermaid.

Personal Comments

Enjoyed the theatre intro and creating

Scout

Parent: Elke Fany and Fernando Gaete

Hobbies: Sports and Video Games

Career Goals: After doing the STEM workshop, I like the idea of becoming an Engineer.

Personal Comments

The EDGE Program is fun and I enjoy coming with my brother and making new friends.



Parent:

Yolan Bowen and Richard Banton

Sponsor: Rosa Berdejo-Williams

Hobbies: Dance, Writing, Poetry, Children and Bible study!

Career Goals: I will be attending law school after my undergraduate degree in Psychology! I want to open a dance studio to support young black dancers and give them opportunities!

Personal Comments

EDGE has been a great opportunity for me in many ways. Being apart of this program has helped me to become a better version of myself and has assisted in me making connections with like minded youth in the GTA. I appreciate all the



Kyeron support I have received from my sponsor and I hope that I am making my family and friends proud while contributing to this program!

Banton



Parent: Khamalea White & Jermaine Scott

Hobbies: Fitness, Gaming, Sports, Cooking

Career Goals: My goal for a career is to work to being a successful Sous Chef eventually progressing towards what will one day be the ownership of my very own restaurant.

Personal Comments

I'm currently taking courses on the culinary arts at the moment. These courses are biology, chemistry and the different food courses in at school. After highschool I would hope that I'd be well on my way to an amazing apprenticeship or post-secondary education to further my knowledge and skills in the culinary arts. They're many skilled instructors in edge who has helped me visualize this goal, between the lessons I've learned in business casual vs business formal, the demands in society today, advertisement, where to start an entrepreneur and so

Kyon

many other skills. These are only some of the skills I've learned in past months. EDGE is a great tool to help forge the sharp minds of black brothers and sisters throughout the GTA.

Campbell



Parent: Antoinette Stephen and Craig Cossar

Hobbies: Soccer, basketball, LEGO

Career Goals: Professional Soccer Player

Personal Comments

It was a fun experience

**Immanuel
Stephen**

Scott



Parent: Chadelle Campbell & Anniff Reid

Hobbies: Reading, playing outside, gymnastics, crafts, games.

Career Goals: Maybe a doctor or a nurse something that helps people

Personal Comments

Riyèle is a positive, loving, caring and helpful young lady. She enjoys filling her curiosity by learning new things and asking lots of questions. She is energetic, enthusiastic, encouraging, and loves to laugh and have fun.

Riyèl

MEET THE EDGE BOARD



PATRICIA GLOUDON

Chair



**LIZ VALADERES-
PERERIA**

Co-Chair



LEONIE FALCONER

Junior Program
Coordinator



BRIANNA HYLTON

Workshop Coordinator



JOAN SMITH

Treasurer



DWAYNE JOHN

Beaux Coordinator



ROSA BERDEJO-WILLIAMS

Workshop Coordinator



TAMMY SIKAKANE

Grant Writer



MAUREEN SIMPSON

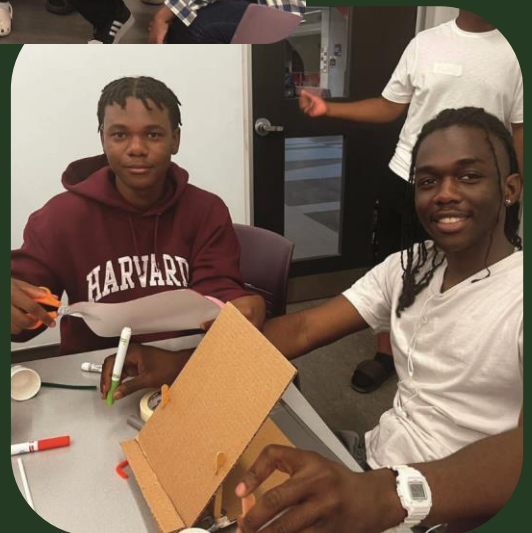
Venue Lead Coordinator

2023 WORKSHOPS

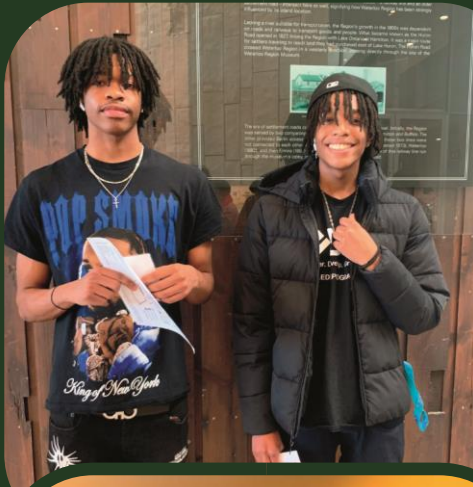


EDGE RETREAT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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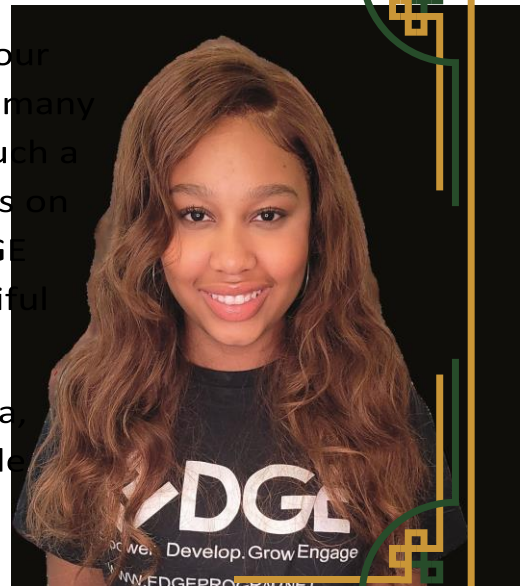
CONGRATS!



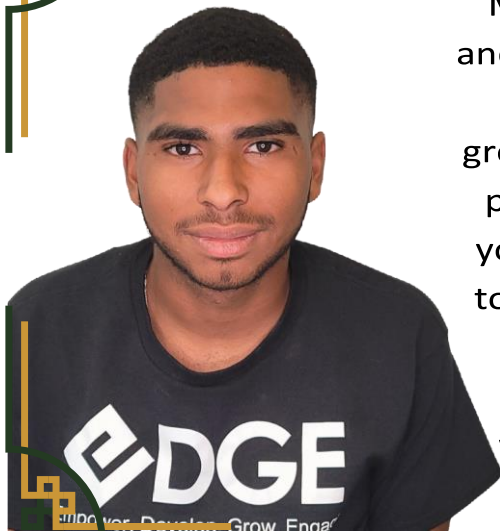
Congratulations to you Maya on completing this wonderful program. Go out and spread the word about DGE, so other young people can enjoy and benefit from this just as you did.
- Mom&Dad.

Alexia, we are so proud of you! Your dedication, determination and your many accomplishments has resulted in such a poised young lady. Congratulations on successfully completing the EDGE program and Cotillion as a beautiful Debutante.

Love Daddy, Mama, Michael, Grandma, Auntie Vikki, Aunt Cheriene, and Uncle Stephen.



CONGRATS!



My son, you have become stronger and wiser than ever and we are looking forward to see you become the greatest person reaching your highest potential. God has blessed us when you were born and we are so thrilled to see how you challenge yourself to develop skills and aspirations. We want to see you happy, healthy, wealthy and most important have gratitude and integrity.

Kyeron, this has been a defining year for you with many milestones. You graduated high school, overcame many personal growth hurdles, handled some difficult life situations with skill, made a commitment to serve the Lord and you completed all the requirements of this program. Your father and I are so proud of you and are excited to share this moment with you at the Cotillion ball as you showcase all that you've learned.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments!



CONGRATS!

Mayah, you continue to amaze us and make us proud!
Apart from you finishing all your 30 High School credits in Grade 11
you went back for a year to graduate with your class!

Not only did you get accepted to the university and program of
your choice, but you have also fulfilled your dream of studying in a
castle! Your hard work paid off when you received the History and
French academics awards, the University of Toronto book award-
which was given to you because of your creative mind! And for all
the awards you got, know that you have earned them!

Apart from the commitment to your studies, you represent
your school in sporting activities, president of the student
body, maintain a social life, made new friends and held
down a job! You did all that!

Mayah, Congratulations, we are so proud of you. All the
best in your future endeavors and remember to take
God with you always!



Congratulations to
Chassady and Chase for
taking on this amazing
opportunity in
participating in the Edge
Program. I wish you both
the very best in the
future.



- Mom



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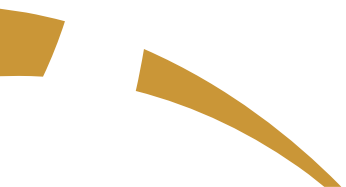
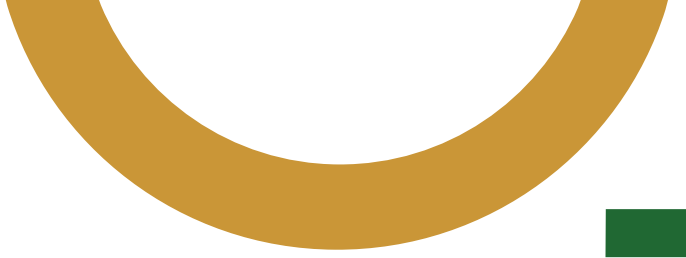
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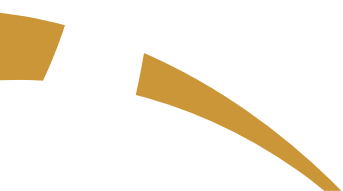
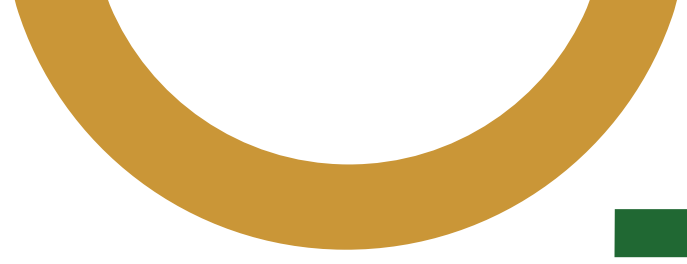
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