

NJ Youth Caucus attends Racial Justice Field Trip

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Justice for Youth @justiceforyouth · Jul 16
"The research is very clear. The lived experiences are very clear. That young people do not belong in adult prisons." @NJJNetwork #njjnforum2018



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After a day of field trips focused on civil rights history in North Carolina, NJJN members and youth leaders gathered outside of the Durham County Detention Facility for a vigil in honor of Uniece “Niecey” Fennell, a 17-year-old who died while being held on a \$5 million bail in the adult facility. NJJN, in collaboration with our member the Youth Justice Project and other national partners, sent a letter to the Durham County Board of Commissioners, demanding an end to the practice of housing youth in adult jails.

Tuesday, July 17th: Forum Opening and Awards



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NJJN Executive Director Sarah Bryer kicks off #NJJNForum2018 thanking our youth justice community for their commitment to justice and belief in the power of our tribe to fight oppression.



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On the first official day of our forum, we welcomed members at the Duke University School of Law. We began with an opening panel focused on North Carolina's history of organizing and what it takes to build an intersectional movement around youth justice reform. The panel included Rebekah Barber from the Institute for Southern Studies, D'atra "Dee Dee" Jackson from IGNITE NC, Jaclyn Maffetore from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and North Carolina District 30 State Rep. Marcia Morey.



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"It takes activism to get people to go one step further and vote," said @marciahmorey #NJJNForum2018



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We then went into our first breakout groups of the forum. One of the breakouts, "Positioning Youth at the Head of the Table," was moderated by NJJN Youth Justice Leadership Institute (YJLI) alumni

LaShunda Hill and Jeree Thomas. LaShunda and Jeree, along with youth leaders from Connecticut, Ohio, and California, discussed the forthcoming YJLI toolkit on justice-involved youth and how organizations can develop youth-led movements.

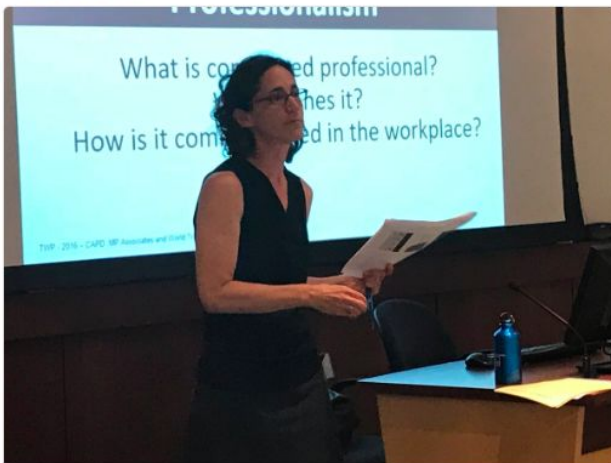
 **NJJNetwork** @NJJNetwork · Jul 17
"If we look historically on the success of movements, it takes those affected to be at the center of the movement." -Kim McGill from @YouthJusticeLA
#NJJNForum2018





Our second breakout during this session was “Identifying How Systems of Oppression Become Institutionalized in Organizations.” Facilitated by NJJN Executive Director Sarah Bryer, members and youth advocates held a discussion on how structural racism and systems of oppression show up within organizations and how to work together to combat them.

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"Dismantling power is a process. It is about seeing it and figuring out where you can make the change and then doing it."-NJJN Executive Director Sarah Bryer
#NJJNForum2018





In the third breakout, “Tap into Funding by Tapping into your Confidence,” experienced fundraiser Erin Dale Byrd led participants in exercises designed to name power dynamics at play in asking for donations while providing attendees strategies to overcome barriers to fundraising.



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"People give to people based on personal relationships." -Erin Dale Byrd from
Blueprint NC #NJJNForum2018



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Following the breakout session, we hosted a community conversation on racial justice, where NJJN members discussed with writer and anti-racist activist Tema Okun the role we all must play, both individually and as a community, to combat a white supremacy culture and to place racial equity at the center of youth justice reform.

On Tuesday evening, we held our annual NJJN Awards Reception, celebrating and honoring the work of youth justice advocates and allies.

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Jeree Thomas @Jeree_Thomas · Jul 17
Youth Justice Leadership Institute Alums roll deep and united. @NJJNetwork



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NJPC NJ Youth Caucus, NJJN members and partners came together to host a [vigil for Niecey Fennell](#), a 17-year-old girl who committed suicide while being detained with adults in Durham.



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David Crosby, youth director of policy at the New Jersey Parents Caucus, attended the young leaders field trip on Monday, where he witnessed the important role advocacy in Greensboro played during the Civil Rights Movement. #FacesofForum #NJJNForum2018

#FacesofForum

“ The historical context of Greensboro has really made this experience even more worthwhile.

”

David Crosby,
New Jersey Parents Caucus



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