Academy for Urban Scholars
High School Youngstown

Annual Report

2025-2026



Directors Notes

Dear AUSY Families, Staff, Community Partners, and Stakeholders,

As I reflect on this school year, I am proud of the growth, resilience, and accomplishments demonstrated by our scholars and staff at the Academy for Urban Scholars. This year, we continued building a learning environment focused on opportunity, accountability, and preparing scholars for success beyond graduation. Through workforce literacy initiatives, project-based learning experiences, and career exploration opportunities, our scholars engaged in learning that connected the classroom to real-world applications while developing the skills needed for future success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding opportunities connected to workforce readiness, industry-recognized credentials, and innovative learning experiences that prepare scholars for college, careers, and life. Thank you to our families, staff, and community partners for your continued support and commitment to our school community. Together, we will continue creating meaningful opportunities and lasting impact for the young people we serve.

With Gratitude,
Monica Perkins
Director of Innovative Academics
Academy for Urban Scholars



Monica Perkins



Aderonia Foreback

Dear AUSY Scholars, Families, Community Members, and Stakeholders,

As we close another remarkable school year at the Academy for Urban Scholars Youngstown, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support, commitment, and partnership. This year has been a true reflection of what is possible when we work together with purpose and a shared vision for student success.

Our scholars demonstrated resilience, growth, and determination—earning industry-recognized credentials, advancing toward graduation, and actively engaging in career pathways that prepare them for life beyond high school. Through expanded workforce development opportunities, community partnerships, and hands-on learning experiences, we have continued to bridge the gap between education and employment while empowering scholars to see their full potential.

This year also strengthened our commitment to providing wraparound support for scholars and families, ensuring that every student has access to the tools, resources, and encouragement needed to succeed both academically and personally.

To our staff, thank you for your passion and dedication. To our families and community partners, thank you for trusting us and standing alongside us. And to our scholars—your perseverance and achievements are what make this work so meaningful.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished together and are even more excited about what lies ahead.

With gratitude,
Aderonia Foreback
Director of Education & Workforce Development
Academy for Urban Scholars Youngstown

Directors Notes

Director of Education and Workforce Academy for Urban Scholars Canton note

Dear AUS Canton Scholars, Families, Community Members, and Stakeholders,
As we reflect on another successful school year, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support, partnership, and commitment that have helped make Academy for Urban Scholars Canton a place of growth and opportunity.

I am incredibly proud of our scholars for their hard work, perseverance, and dedication to their academic goals. Their determination continues to inspire us every day. I also want to thank our outstanding staff, whose passion and commitment have made a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

This year, we strengthened valuable partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and community leaders who share our vision of creating brighter futures for our scholars. These collaborations have expanded opportunities and laid the foundation for even greater success ahead.

As we look forward to the new school year, there is tremendous excitement surrounding the launch of our new Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. These programs will provide scholars with meaningful career exploration, workforce training, and real-world experiences that prepare them for success beyond graduation.

Together, we are adding value to the community one scholar at a time. With the continued support of our families, community members, and stakeholders, we look forward to an impactful year filled with growth, new opportunities, and stronger partnerships than ever before.

With Gratitude,
Wasilwa Mwonyonyi
Director of Education and Workforce
Academy for Urban Scholars High School Canton





AUSY Board Members

Lewis Macklin-President
Lynette Frost
DeMaine Kitchen
Eugene Norris
Maurice Williams

Career Academy **Staff**

Sabrina Jones – President of Education
Corey Yoakam – Superintendent
Danielle Noble- Director of Operations
Charles Jefferson – Director of Student Engagement and Outreach
Jerrica Manley – Director of School Counseling
Aderonia Foreback, M.Ed. M.S. - Director
Lindey Kamora, M.Ed. M.S. - Intervention Specialist
Vivian Morgan, B.S. - General Education Teacher
Timothy Tensley - General Education Teacher
Jessica Beith – Informational Technology Teacher
Brittany Rogers – Academic Advisor
Mark Rheins – CTE Coordinator
Chris Whitfield – Dean of Culture
Lafay Walden II, B.A. , M.A. - Engagement Coach
Felicia Turner – Enrollment Specialist

Prep Academy **Staff**

Sabrina Jones – President of Education
Corey Yoakam – Superintendent
Danielle Noble- Director of Operations
Charles Jefferson – Director of Student Engagement and Outreach
Jerrica Manley – Director of School Counseling
Monica Perkins, B.A - Director
Lakela Williams- Dean of Culture
Mathew Griffith- Math
Zach Christian- STEM
Greg Gustovich- Social Studies
Derrick Stredrick- Engagement Coach
Kara Miller – Intervention Specialist
Albert Jenkins – Male Mentoring Specialist
Jerrica Sheppard – Female Mentoring Specialist
Mika Pomales- Academic Advisor
Nanyale Martin – Student Services

Canton **Staff**

Sabrina Jones – President of Education
Corey Yoakam – Superintendent
Danielle Noble- Director of Operations
Charles Jefferson – Director of Student Engagement and Outreach
Wasilwa Mwonyonyi – B.A. Director
Chiquasia DeGraffenried – B.A. Dean of Culture
Shamyr Johnson – B.A. General Education Teacher
Taylor Miller – M.S. Intervention Specialist
Freda Robinson - B.A. Enrollment Specialist
Jerome Ballard - Engagement Coach



How We Measure Success
AUSY is committed to assisting our students to obtain jobs, get to and through college and the workforce. Guiding students to achieve their dreams is only possible if we monitor our progress. Data helps us understand our impact, what is working and what needs to be enhanced.

Our data team meets frequently to examine our program. The school's leadership team meets often to examine the data. We use seven essential questions to provide a measure for our progress, keep us focused as we have grown, and most importantly, help us keep the promise we make to your students, their families, and our community.

Essential Measurements

of students over the age of 18: **128**
# of students who are parents: **21**
# of enrolled students: **322**
Prep Academy: **138**
Work Academy: **184**
AUSCa: **135**

# of students who returned for the 2025-2026 school year: **320**

Reading increase from fall to spring: **2.7%**
Math increases from fall to spring: **2.9%**

Staff Retention: # of staff who returned for the 2025-2026 school year:

- **Prep Academy: 12**
- **Work Academy: 12**
- **AUSCa: 6**

Graduates in post-secondary:

of graduates: **87**
# of graduates going to college: **53**
# of graduates entering workforce: **31**
# of graduates going to military: **3**

Diversity Demographics (in %)

African American: **77%**
Hispanic: **12%**
Multiracial: **3%**
White: **8%**
Healthcare: **8**

Industry Recognized Credentials:

Manufacturing: **5**
Construction: **11**
Hospitality and Tourism: **72**
Information Technology: **7**
Healthcare: **4**

State Report Card
For the 2025-2026 school year, AUSY earned an overall school rating of "Exceeds Standards" AUSY earned an "Exceeds Standards" rating in the areas of graduation and closing the gap.

Career Tech
Education

SCHOLAR ADVOCACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Through this experience, scholars developed skills connected to communication, public ng used daily by many AUSY scholars traveling to and from school. speaking, persuasive writing, collaboration, and civic responsibility. Scholars wrote letters, participated in community discussions, created awareness campaigns, and encouraged community involvement through petitions and public outreach efforts.

The initiative resulted in more than 400 verified petition signatures and provided scholars with an opportunity to apply workforce literacy and leadership skills in a meaningful real-world setting. This experience reinforced the importance of scholar voice, civic responsibility, and community impact.



HAWK LITERACY LAB

The Hawk Literacy Lab continued serving as a targeted academic intervention designed to strengthen reading fluency, comprehension, and overall literacy development for AUSY scholars. Through structured intervention, individualized support, and consistent progress monitoring, scholars demonstrated measurable academic growth throughout the school year. Scholars participating in Hawk Literacy Lab demonstrated approximately 96–97% reading accuracy while also improving reading fluency by an average of 16 correct words per minute. These gains reflected the continued focus on literacy intervention, consistency, and scholar engagement.

To encourage engagement and celebrate progress, the Hawk Literacy Lab Rewards Program recognized scholars for attendance, effort, reading growth, and academic persistence. The program helped promote a positive academic culture while motivating scholars to remain focused on their educational goals.



ACADEMIC GROWTH HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the school year, AUSY remained committed to academic growth and intervention support through the use of STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments, targeted intervention strategies, and data-driven support systems.

AUSY achieved 100% completion for STAR Round 1 assessments, with scholars demonstrating measurable growth from fall to spring. Average STAR Reading and Math scores increased to two grade levels. Staff utilized intervention supports, classroom data, and the Traffic Light Intervention System to identify scholars needing additional academic, behavioral, and attendance support while monitoring progress throughout the year.

The Traffic Light Intervention System allows staff to provide targeted interventions and individualized support while improving communication and accountability across the building. Through these combined efforts, AUSY continued strengthening systems focused on scholar growth, achievement, and long-term success.







FIELD TRIPS

Scholars from Academy for Urban Scholars High School Canton had the opportunity to explore a wide range of postsecondary education pathways at Canton's largest college fair. The event connected students with representatives from colleges, universities, technical schools, and career programs, helping them gain valuable insight into their future educational and career opportunities.

Scholars participated in the 2026 Uplift Her Event alongside almost 10,000 women and vendors held in Columbus, on June 24, 2026. The event focused on promoting women's health, leadership, personal growth, mentorship, and community engagement through a combination of wellness activities, educational programming, recognition ceremonies, and entertainment.
For AUS Youngstown, the event was planned as an opportunity for female scholars to:

- Grow in self-awareness and confidence.
- Explore topics related to womanhood and leadership.
- Learn more about NCUS community initiatives.
- Envision positive educational and career pathways.
- Participate in mentoring and networking opportunities.

Career Academy hosted a "Spark Convo and Paint" Open House in February. The event combined creativity, community engagement, and recruitment efforts by providing prospective scholars and families with an opportunity to explore the academy in a welcoming environment. The activity encouraged relationship-building, increased awareness of AUS programs, and showcased the supportive culture at the career academy.

Sports and Athletics

Our scholars were provided opportunities to participate in several athletic programs throughout the school year that promoted teamwork, leadership, discipline, and school pride. Through competition and collaboration, scholars developed skills that extended beyond athletics and into the classroom and community. We are also proud to share that our student athletes maintained an overall 3.0 GPA throughout the school year, demonstrating their commitment to both academic and athletic success.

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Our Varsity Basketball team competed throughout the season with determination, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Scholars demonstrated growth both individually and collectively while representing AUSY with pride during games and school events.

VARSITY CHEERLEADING

Our Varsity Cheerleading team demonstrated school spirit, leadership, and dedication throughout the school year. Through performances, practices, and school events, scholars were able to build confidence, teamwork, and communication skills while encouraging and supporting their peers.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross-Country program provided scholars with opportunities to build endurance, discipline, and perseverance. Throughout the season, scholars competed with determination while learning the importance of commitment, goal setting, and teamwork.

BOWLING

Our Bowling team continued to grow throughout the school year while promoting teamwork, focus, and sportsmanship. Scholars competed against schools across the region and developed confidence through both individual and team competition.





TRACK & FIELD
Track & Field gave scholars the opportunity to challenge themselves individually while supporting one another as a team. Scholars participated in multiple events throughout the season and represented AUSY with determination, school pride, and positive sportsmanship







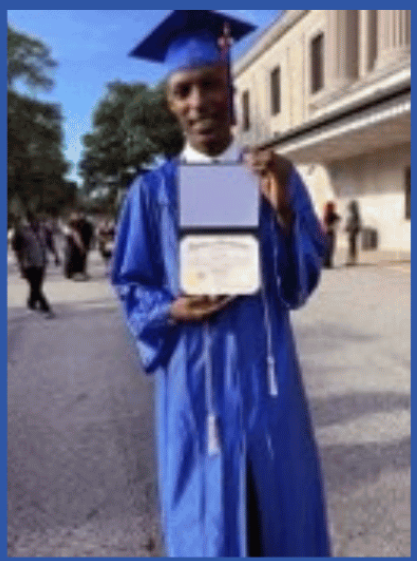
THE JOHN GREGORY CUP
Each year, scholars from all Academy for Urban Scholars campuses come together to showcase their talents and competitive spirit in athletics, speech and debate, and Esports. These events culminate in a spirited competition for "The Cup," the organization's highest campus honor. We are proud to announce that the Canton campus earned the title of overall champion, bringing home The Cup while also securing a first-place finish in Speech and Debate. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, teamwork, and excellence demonstrated by our scholars throughout the year.

GRADUATION

AUS Graduation is more than a ceremony; it is a celebration of perseverance, achievement, and new beginnings. From recognizing over 100 high school seniors to honoring the accomplishments of our 22+ Program participants, the day showcased the power of education to transform lives across generations. Together, students, families, and supporters celebrated milestones that will create opportunities for years to come.









CANTON CAMPUS

During our Senior Brunch, we proudly recognized and celebrated our graduating seniors for the unique qualities, character, and leadership they have demonstrated throughout their high school journey. Each scholar received an award highlighting the distinct strengths and personal attributes that set them apart, reflecting both who they are today and the potential they possess for the future. This special event honored not only their accomplishments but also the lasting impact they have made on our school community and the bright paths that lie ahead as they pursue their goals beyond graduation.







ACADEMY FOR URBAN SCHOLARS
AUS
HIGH SCHOOL





Our scholars had the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the community through a variety of Title I family and community engagement events. Demonstrating both creativity and service, students volunteered their time and talents to provide free face painting for attendees, helping to create a fun, welcoming atmosphere for families. These events allowed scholars to apply their skills in real-world settings while strengthening community connections, building confidence, and exemplifying the spirit of service and leadership that defines our school community.

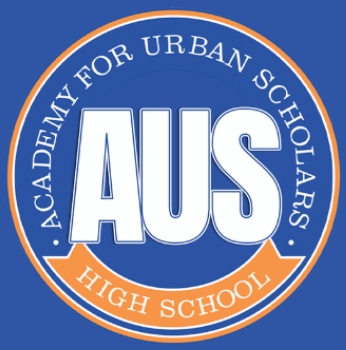
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION







Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) relies on multiple sources of data to evaluate the community school's performance including academic performance on national normed tests and academic scores published by the Department of Education & Workforce on the Local Report Card. In addition, BCHF conducts multiple onsite visits to the school throughout the year to ensure compliance with all Rule and Law, as well as the sponsorship contract. Performance results for the school will be available for the 2025-2026 school year on the BCHF website (www.bchf.org) after November 30, 2026.



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