

## *Graduating Class of GCMi 2015 E-Camp!*



The Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi) has joined forces once again with Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's, Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (CYC/JCG) program and funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and The Area 13 Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Entrepreneurial Camp called "E-Camp." E-Camp is a month-long summer program for rising high school seniors and recently graduated seniors that offers entrepreneurial education with an emphasis on life skill enhancements.

GCMi's mission is to promote individual self-sufficiency and community economic development by stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship among low and moderate income individuals. GCMi's relationship with CYC/JCG programming unifies our objectives and missions by providing their students with life learning opportunities and assisting in identifying achievable career goals through entrepreneurship.

This year GCMi celebrated 15 graduates who successfully completed the 2015 E-Camp! The month long program consists of a daily 4-hour classroom and interactive training and workshops, which encompasses Entrepreneurship Education, Business Development, and Financial Education. The students learned how to develop ideas into concepts and concepts into actual business opportunities. They were also involved in critical thinking workshops, team building activities, problem solving exercises, leadership skill development, and more importantly how to think like a successful entrepreneur. They also had the opportunity to participate in open discussions with real Entrepreneurs and CEO's from some of Cincinnati's top corporate leaders.

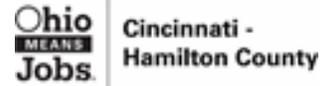
Throughout the program, students worked in teams to create their own product or service and business model. At the June 30<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, each E-Camp group presented their project to a panel of judges in a "Shark Tank" style of competition. This year's winner was "Therma-Stock", the business concept and development of an all in one cooler featuring heating and cooling compartments, Bluetooth speaker system, solar panels, adjustable stilt wheels, and several other unique features. The 2015 E-Camp Business Development winners "Therma-Stock": **Jodi Allen, Angel Archer, Ravae Brice, Brittney Campbell, and Daymeshia Shelton**

This year's list of students:



*Oyler-Samuel Miller, Brittney Campbell, Angel Archer  
Purcell Marian-Dwight Williams  
Aiken- Dumariyea Ballew, Tiesha Elmer  
Winton Woods-Jodi Allen, Joseph Allen  
Western Hills University High School-Richeal Williams,  
Isabella Goodlander, Starr Thomas, Tanaria Payne,  
Laurene Darby, Ravae Brice, Daymeshia Shelton*

E-Camp is provided through GCMi and the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Job for Cincinnati Graduates program and funded by the WIA and the Area 13 SWORWIB.



This year's E-Camp participants showed a great level of improvement in team building skills and their knowledge of all aspects of entrepreneurship and business development. Both GCMi and CYC/JCG programs are proud of the students' progress in problem solving, critical thinking, developing an entrepreneurial mindset, and leadership development.

For information on GCMi programming and services please contact Willie Hill, Executive Director at 513-569-4816 ext 2442 or [whill@cincy-caa.org](mailto:whill@cincy-caa.org) or visit us at [www.gcmi.org](http://www.gcmi.org).

### **GCMi, Inspiring Minds Through Entrepreneurship**

The **Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative, Inc.** (GCMi) a 501© 3 Non-Profit is a collaborative effort of Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati (UWGC).

