

2025-2026 SPARK LOOKBOOK

YOUTH

Advisory Council



FORWARD

In the following pages, you will see how youth voices can help move positive change forward in our communities. Young people bring unique **perspectives, creativity and energy that can lead to real progress.**

The Southern Nevada Health District leadership and staff are proud to support this Youth Advisory Council and the youth-led ideas that come from it. Young people offer fresh, timely and innovative approaches to community challenges – especially those that directly affect their health and well-being.

Guided by the Positive Youth Development model, this program provides participants with the opportunity for meaningful engagement, education, mentorship, and resources that can be shared with other youth, their families and the community. Creating space for youth to share ideas, discuss their unique experiences and make decisions with the shared goal of **sparking change**, is essential to building healthier communities.

Through this program, we hope these young leaders strengthen their knowledge and skills and use their voices to create the change they all want to see.

Date	Student Name
4/1	Genesis Erazo
4/1	Lola Romero
4/1	Leah Beam
4/1	Julia Park
04/01	Jaden Hang
4/1	Aaliyah Ramos Rosas
4/1	Giliiana Gonzales



LOGO CREATION PROCESS:

SPARK (Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility and Knowledge) is the name chosen by the Youth Advisory Council. The pilot program is led by Health Educators and includes 10 youth representing different cultures, high schools, backgrounds, and lived experiences. The group participated in 13 meetings. During these sessions, they learned about the Southern Nevada Health District's mission, the role of public health in protecting and improving community well-being, and developed leadership and advocacy skills.



SPARK 
STUDENTS PROMOTING
AWARENESS
RESPONSIBILITY
& KNOWLEDGE

CONCEPT 1.1



Spark 
Students
Promoting
Awareness
Responsibility
& Knowledge

CONCEPT 1.2



tact  **Teen
Advisory
Community
Team**

CONCEPT 2.1



tact
**Teen Advisory
Community Team**

CONCEPT 2.2

PROGRAM'S PURPOSE:

The purpose of **SPARK** is to harness youth voices and turn innovative ideas into action, resulting in overall positive health outcomes for the community. SPARK members will design and implement a group project from a selection of programs and apply a youth-centered approach to provide, enhance or promote a Southern Nevada Health District public health intervention, program or service.

We have designed a safe space for the council members to come together and experience a meaningful opportunity to contribute towards the health and wellness of their peers. This space will be achieved by:

- **Harnessing Fresh and Innovative Ideas:**
The diversity of the group brings a wide range of experiences and skills, offering unique viewpoints, critical thinking, and fresh, innovative perspectives to address longstanding challenges.
- **Mobilizing and inspiring others:**
Group members will identify issues and collaborate to develop solutions that are relevant to and effective for their peers.
- **Driving social change:**
Group members will identify issues, collaborate with the goal of developing solutions that are relevant to and effective for their peers. This engagement increases the possibility of forward movement and concrete change.
- **Fostering inclusivity and addressing intersectionality:**
Group members will have the chance to come together and use their collective voice using an intersectional approach to address their chosen group project.
- **Building essential skills and empowerment:**
Group members will participate in workshop sessions that will provide opportunities to increase their confidence, cement leadership skills, share ideas, and engagement with others- equipping them with self-confidence, resilience and decision-making skills.



PROGRAM'S LEADERSHIP:

Behind the Youth Advisory Council is a dedicated team committed to supporting and uplifting young voices. Under the leadership of District Health Officer **Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS** and Director of Community Health **Xavier Gonzales, PhD**, the SPARK program was made possible through their vision and dedication to advancing public health in Southern Nevada communities. **Crystal and Grissel** served as the core instructors throughout the program, guiding participants through interactive lessons, thoughtful discussions and mentorship that created a space where youth could explore real-world public health topics, build confidence and develop leadership skills. Together, this team played an essential role in fostering a supportive learning environment where young people felt encouraged to ask questions, share ideas and **grow as advocates for change**.



Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS
District Health Officer



Xavier Gonzales, PhD
Director of Community Health



Crystal Montgomery
Health Educator II



Grissel Oliveros
Health Educator I

SPARK ORIENTATION:

2025-2026



Students and their families gathered in July 2025 for the **SPARK** Kick-Off Meeting, marking the beginning of an inspiring new chapter. With family members in attendance, students were warmly welcomed and introduced to the **Youth Advisory Council (YAC) team and Southern Nevada Health District leadership**. The event set a positive tone for the year ahead, building connections, sharing goals, and sparking enthusiasm for the important work to come.

Meet the Students





LOLA DOIDGE

11th Grade

I plan to attend college and obtain a degree in Psychology or Science, and work as a Crime Scene Investigator or Criminal Psychologist. I hope to gain new knowledge and insights into public health, and how I can apply it in my life through this experience. The health area I am most interested in is behavioral health. I find it interesting how people's brains work and what drives people to do certain things. I would like to help people through the challenges of mental health and offer solutions. I want to learn more about the psychology behind mental health issues and be part of the solution.

Interests: Crocheting, Reading, Unsolved Case Files, Forensic Science

GENESIS ERAZO

11th Grade

I'm most interested in the areas of mental health and psychiatry. There is not much accessibility to mental health care because of the stigma surrounding it. Nowadays, although it is receiving more attention, many people would prefer not to work in this area. I understand, it is hard. Many may not want to receive help and you will be dealing with heavy issues that can even begin to take a toll on you. But these are still important issues we should be working on addressing.

Interests: Reading, Arts & Crafts, Writing, and Greek mythology



JULIA PARK

11th Grade

I am most interested in improving healthcare access in underprivileged communities, especially for immigrants and first-generation families living in rural areas. Many of these individuals face barriers, including a lack of basic healthcare supplies like bandages, feminine hygiene products, and other essential items. By finding gaps in the community and developing sustainable, community-based solutions, we can better support those in need. I believe that healthcare is a human right, not a privilege. I want to be part of the effort to create a more unprejudiced and compassionate healthcare system. Additionally, I am interested in preventive care because it focuses on staying healthy rather than just treating illness.

Interests: Playing games, Taekwondo, Music, Concerts, and Pokemon Cards.

GILIANA ISABEL GONZALES

12th Grade

I am interested in the health areas of cognitive sciences and bone and joint health. These topics are interesting as we are able to apply them to our everyday lives and community interactions. This relates to the growing awareness of mental health which would be beneficial to be able to educate our youth and communities. I am also interested in bone and joint health because of my experience of being a track and field athlete. I would like to share more information about bone and joint health with the community as many people aren't aware of how vital self care, exercise, and proper nutrition can impact their health and longevity.

Interests: Painting, Cooking, and Exercising





LEAH BEAM

10th Grade

The health areas I am most interested in are physical and mental health. Physical health is the most interesting health area to me. I was in the ER twice in the span of 29 days, first for a broken nose, second for a sprained ankle. Both were soccer injuries. I have also gone to physical therapy for injuries. Overall I would say these injuries, though unfortunate, have shown me how incredible the medical field is. I am also interested in mental health. I took basic psychology, and my eyes were opened to all the mental health issues out there. I believe mental health is just as important as physical health and should be treated as such.

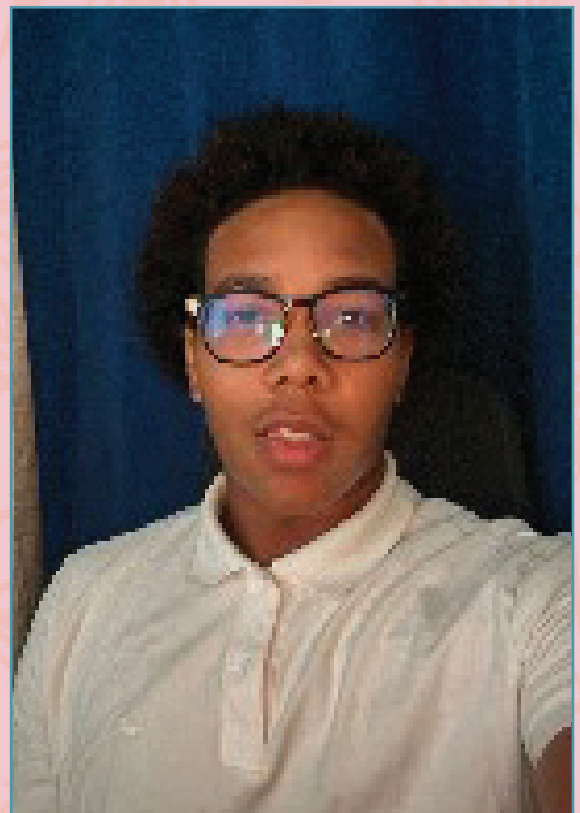
Interests: Sports, Reading, Hiking, Swimming, and Music

JAIDEN MCCALL

11th Grade

The health areas I am most interested in would be environmental and social health. These interest me because environmental health is probably one of the most important in my opinion because it can have a big effect on the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the way we live. If our environment isn't clean or safe, it can lead to serious health problems. Social health also matters to me because it has to do with how we treat each other, our mental health, and how we connect with others. I think having loving people in our life helps us live happier and healthier lives.

Interests: Football and spending time with friends & family





AALIAH RAMOS

11th Grade

One of the health areas that interests me the most is menstrual health, specifically addressing period poverty among students in the Clark County School District. This lack of access can negatively impact students' confidence, academic performance, and overall health, often contributing to periodic chronic absenteeism. Menstrual health should never be a barrier to education. I aspire to help increase the availability of menstrual products in all school bathrooms, and I believe that it is a necessary step toward creating a more equitable and supportive learning environment for everyone.

Interests: Music and Spending time with family & friends

JADON HANG

11th Grade

I am interested in community health education because it is a crucial way to address health disparities in our communities. When people have access to good health education, they can make informed decisions about their own health and well-being. I have always enjoyed playing tennis and taking my dog Mochi on walks at the park. This led me to become passionate about how urban planning can improve public health outcomes. Parks and recreational areas provide safe spaces for people to exercise and connect with others. Together, these approaches can help create a healthier and more equitable Southern Nevada.

Interests: Playing tennis, piano player for 8 years & cello for 5 years, collecting figurines (Hirono & Smiskis), and spending time with my dog Mochi, who is a Bichon Frise.





JEANA KIM

12th Grade

I'm especially passionate about mental health, preventive care, and health equity. As a child of immigrants, I've witnessed how language barriers, stigma, and limited access can prevent people from receiving the care they need. I'm also drawn to adolescent mental health and suicide prevention, especially in the context of social media, academic pressure, and cultural expectations. I hope to explore how public health strategies, peer support, and culturally competent care can better serve youth populations.

Interests: Music, K-dramas, and Learning new languages

YASH KADAM

11th Grade

Living in Las Vegas has made me aware of the connections between health equity and environmental health. In many areas of the city, extreme heat, limited green space, and air pollution directly impact people's health, especially in underserved communities. I've seen how access to healthcare and safe environments can vary greatly depending on where you live. That's why I'm passionate about health equity and environmental health, making sure that everyone, regardless of background or neighborhood, has access to clean air, safe housing, and quality healthcare.

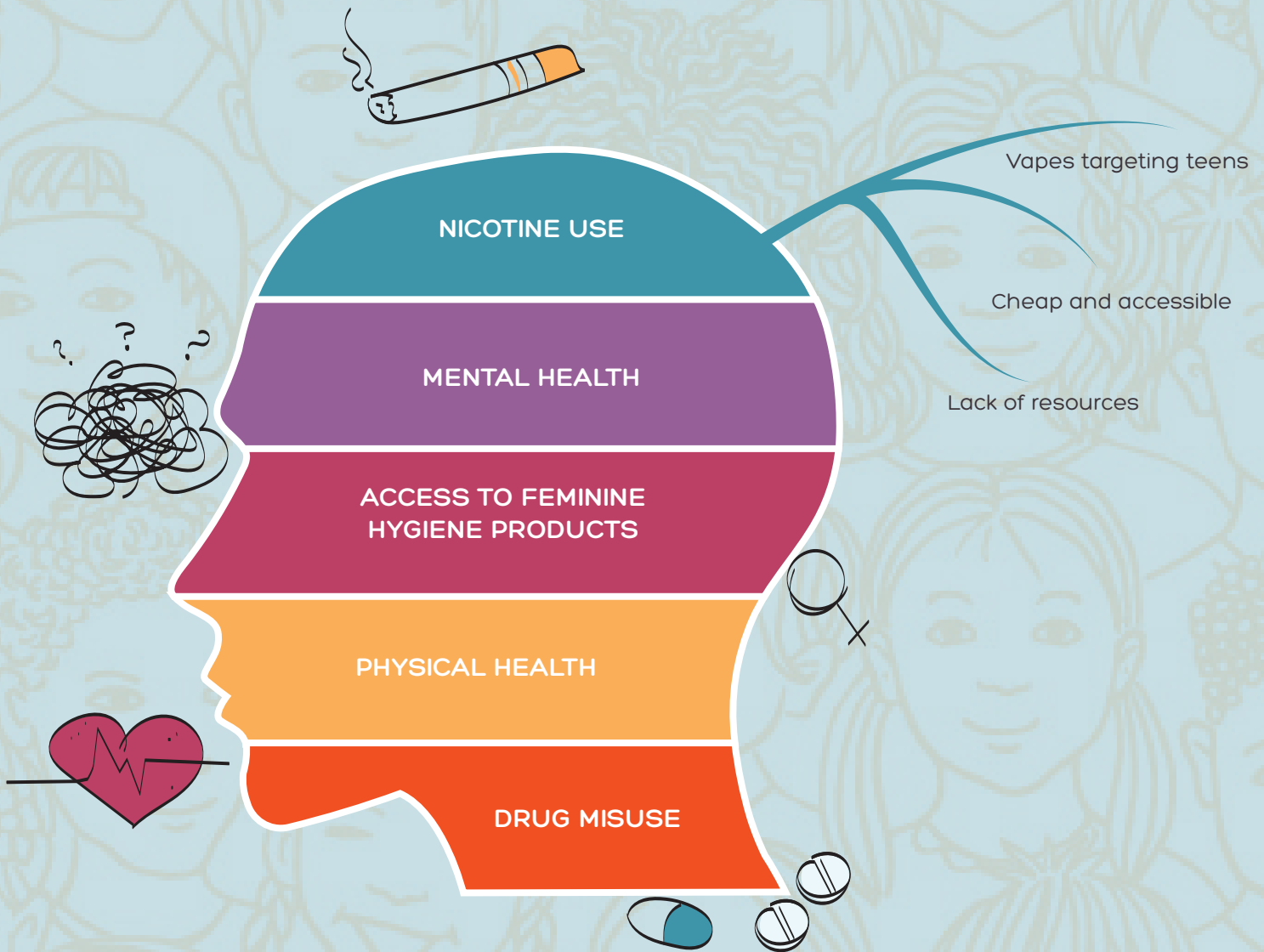
Interests: exploring the outdoors, hiking, playing sports, cooking, hanging out with friends, swimming, listening to music



MIND MAP:

Let's set a spark to drive innovation forward! Empowering and amplifying young voices is the key for community transformation.

Here are the challenges voiced by the YAC members during the initial stages of the program:



GUEST SPEAKERS & PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS- IN PERSON MEETINGS:

WEEK 8:

"I loved working with other members! I wish that we could have worked with each other more since this was super memorable. I hope we have more bonding in the future!"

"I loved meeting the social media team! It was very interesting what platforms they used and who they worked with! I liked the activity making our own social media campaign. Thank you so much!"

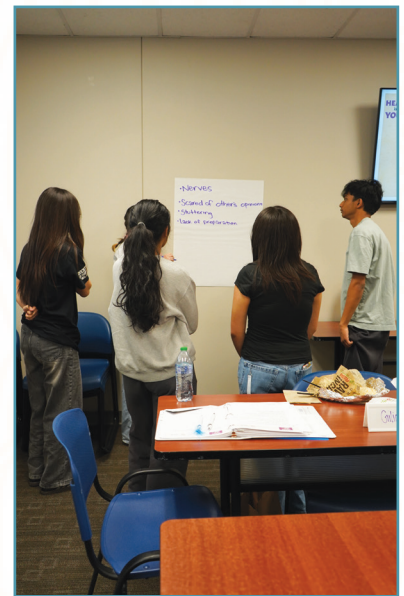
"The most interesting thing during today's meeting was bonding with the team and seeing them face to face. It was nice working on the social media campaign for public health geared towards teens."



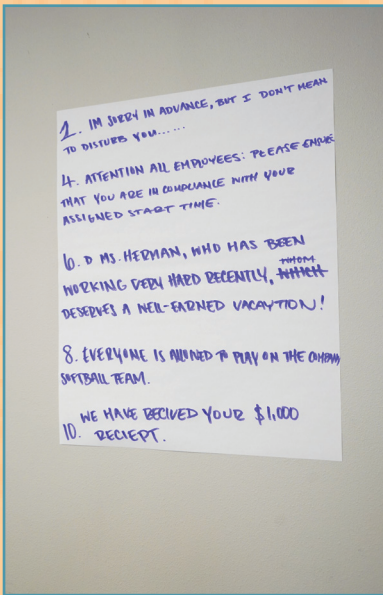
WEEK 9:

"Honestly, I loved the interactive group activities like the AJAX phone calls and Jeopardy. Team bonding was really in the room, and I'm glad that we are more familiar with each other and always work as a team! Thank you, Crystal, Grissel and April, for leading us!!! Know that y'all are greatly appreciated by ALL of us ❤️"

"I really enjoyed the videos we were shown and the activities we had. I always enjoy the in-person meetings because I can interact with the other SPARK members."



GUEST SPEAKERS & PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS- IN PERSON MEETINGS:



WEEK 11:

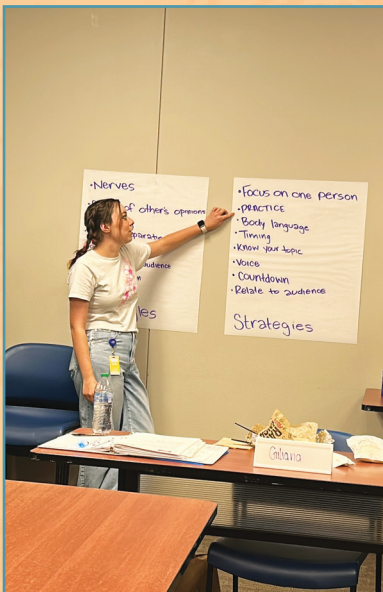
"I liked being in person again! Hearing from the immunizations department and what they do in the community was really interesting."

"I loved the guest speaker, as finding out what SNHD entails never ends. What works best and I hope continues is the more active team activities!"

"I loved the meeting. It was wonderful to see everyone's faces and learn from our guest speaker. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity!"

WEEK 12:

"I loved sharing our stories. It really helped me understand everyone else so much better. Our group was very supportive and we all shared in a way that made us feel connected."



"It was great learning more about my interests in public policy and how it goes hand in hand with what we're learning about in public health through this program."

BOWLING TEAM BUILDING:

The SPARK Youth Advisory Council Team building Bowling Event was intentionally designed to strengthen team bonds and enhance the council's collective capacity for collaboration. Prior to bowling, participants engaged in structured team building activities that emphasized communication, trust, and cooperative problem solving. These exercises provided youth with opportunities to build meaningful connections while developing essential skills such as leadership, adaptability, critical thinking, and non verbal communication.

By participating in hands on challenges that required creativity and teamwork, youth strengthened their ability to work effectively as a group and gained greater awareness of one another's strengths and perspectives. The event concluded with a bowling activity that reinforced camaraderie in an engaging environment. Overall, the experience supported personal growth, fostered unity, and reinforced the importance of teamwork as a foundation for successful Youth Advisory Council leadership.



BOWLING TEAM BUILDING:

“The bowling event helped me understand that communication and collaboration are the key to building strong connections within a team and achieving a shared goal. For example, the activity helped our teammates share strategies and tips with one another to try and beat the other team in the event. As a team, we were able to encourage each other and cheer each other up after missed shots.”

“In our official bowling activity, all of my fellow YAC members and our program coordinators were so supportive of one another; cheering each other on despite mistakes made along the way. Throughout the game, I saw how much confidence I had gained along with my other team members which was great to see.”



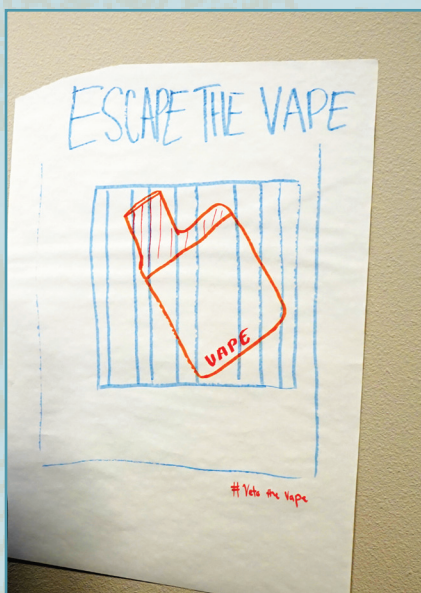
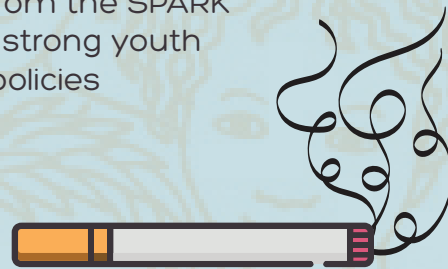
“At the December bowling event, I learned that teamwork works best when everyone encourages each other and stays positive. This was seen during the team building activity. I also learned that every person contributes in different ways and supporting each other helps the whole team do better.”





CSN PROJECT:

SPARK YAC students took part in the **TOBACCO FREE CSN MEDIA DAY** at the College of Southern Nevada West Charleston campus as part of the "CSN, The Time is Now!" project. This experience offered students hands on opportunities in youth advocacy, media production, and public health messaging while amplifying youth voices in support of healthier campus environments. Throughout this project, participants applied the skills gained from the SPARK program to demonstrate strong youth support for tobacco free policies across all CSN campuses and contributed meaningfully to an important public health effort.



HEALTH is for YOUTH

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL,
2025-2026



WHAT'S NEXT FOR SPARK?



Across the SPARK Youth Advisory Council, participants consistently shared a clear vision for their futures rooted in education, leadership, and community impact. Many students see themselves pursuing degrees and careers in public health, healthcare, government, and advocacy, all with a shared goal of serving and strengthening their communities.

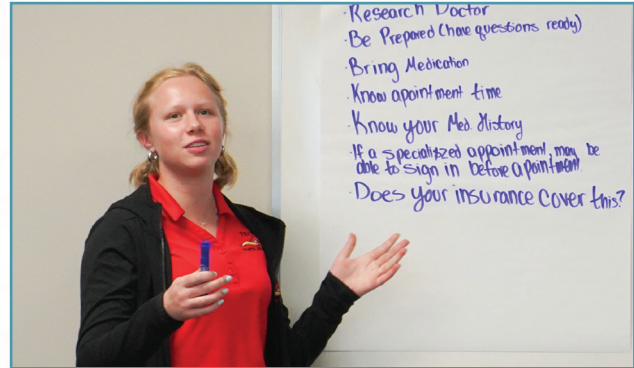
Through hands-on projects and real world experiences, students developed essential skills such as **communication, collaboration, leadership and advocacy** that they plan to carry into college, careers, and civic life. Participants also reported increased confidence and clarity about their goals, describing YAC as a pivotal experience that empowered them to find their voices and believe in their ability to create change.



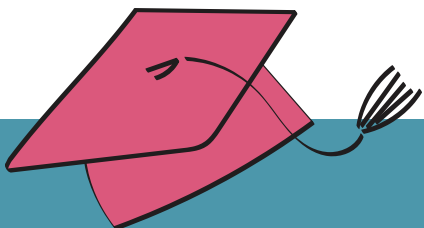
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The launch and establishment of SPARK's pilot program was made possible with support from members of the District Board of Health, Southern Nevada Health District's leadership, staff and supportive programs, and most importantly the participation of all the Youth Advisory Council members!

Thank You!



**FUTURE ME WILL READ THIS, SO
MAKE ME LAUGH WHEN I READ IT LATER?**



**SPARK
CLASS OF 2026**

Youth Advisory Council Orientation

JULY 30TH, 2025
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH

Youth Advisory Council Orientation

JULY 30TH, 2025
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT

Youth Advisory Council Orientation

JULY 30TH, 2025
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH



