

#inspiranj



**YOUTH INSIDER:
EMPOWERING
#INSPIRANJ Q1
NEWSLETTER**

We are passionate about creating access to quality education for underserved communities! Join our mission by becoming our board member today!

Rosa Zaremba-BOD

Vilma Sierra-BOD

Michelle Saavedra-BOD

Yamillet Febo-Gomez-BOD

Cleopatra Jones-BOD

Katherine Rodriguez-Student Ambassador

Johnathan Conaghan- Consultant

Daisy Saavedra- Consultant

Naydelin Benitez- Intern

Each Newsletter will have two key individuals highlighted.

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Vilma Sierra

Can you briefly introduce yourself and your background? What inspired you to become an Inspira board member?

My name is Vilma Sierra, and I am a Growth Team Operations Coordinator at the National Foundation. I have a Masters degree in Science of Communication from Purdue University. I am a firm believer that everyone deserves access to higher education. Therefore, I joined Inspira NJ's mission to help provide those educational opportunities that are lacking for high school and college students.

Could you share a memorable or impactful moment from your involvement in the organization?

There are so many that it takes a lot of work to choose from. However, working closely with every student ambassador, volunteer, and intern has been rewarding because we provide the mentorship and opportunity to help the community that I would have loved to have as a student. It's great to know that we provide those opportunities through volunteering and internships.

What do you find most rewarding about being a Board Member and what challenges have you encountered in this role?

Meeting board members with the same passion and interest is the most rewarding thing. The most challenging is completing my tasks as a board member while having a full-time job and a 10-month-old baby. However, the desire to help students has motivated me to keep going. We are a small nonprofit now, but the growth that we have been having has been happening very fast during the last few years. That's also another reason to get myself motivated.

How can our newsletter readers get more involved or support Inspira's mission, and what message would you like to convey to them as a board member?

Subscribe to learn more about our webinars, workshops, and other opportunities. Here at Inspira NJ, we always need interns to enlighten us with their unique skills. We always seek student ambassador volunteers to help spread the word about our mission.

Can you briefly introduce yourself and your background? What inspired you to become an Inspira board member?



Cleopatra Jones

My name is Cleopatra Jones, I am an alumna of The College of New Jersey and Kean University. I have an extensive background in education, assisting learners as young as pre-k up to college/adult learners. I have a deep-rooted love and passion for learning and I uphold the belief that Education is Key. Part of my life's mission is to positively impact as many individuals as possible and to help bridge the educational gap along the way. Inspira's mission and dedication to reaching underserved students and providing educational opportunities aligns with my beliefs. The opportunity to be part of Inspira has become a pivotal moment and a platform to continue giving back to the community and promote education right in our beautiful State of New Jersey.

Could you share a memorable or impactful moment from your involvement in the organization?

As a nonprofit organization, funding is significant to our organization. We are always striving to foster relationships and partnerships with the community as well as the generosity of donations and grants. The hard work that goes into applying for grants and the excitement of being approved knowing that it will help our organization continue to thrive would be an impactful moment for me.

What do you find most rewarding about being a Board Member and what challenges have you encountered in this role?

Being a Board Member and Volunteer has its challenges. I would say one of our challenges is finding ways to continue reaching all entities in NJ and spreading educational opportunities throughout the state. Hearing a 'no' for various reasons can be disheartening because we have so many underserved students in NJ that Inspira can assist and provide services to them. Hearing a "YES" fuels us and continues to give us hope and encouragement that we can continue to help make a difference.

How can our newsletter readers get more involved or support Inspira's mission, and what message would you like to convey to them as a board member?

Our newsletter is a fantastic resource for students, administrators, families, educators, counselors, and EVERYONE. The newsletter has useful information to keep EVERYONE updated with the latest "in the know". Our newsletter also shares information on how the reader and community can become involved as well as support Inspira's mission. There is strength in numbers and we would love everyone to be inspired by Inspira.

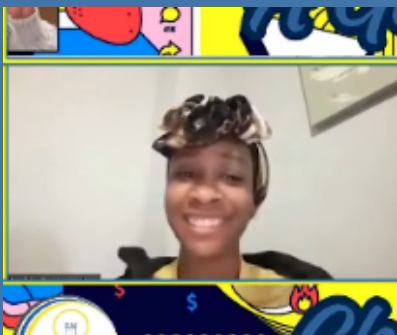
Financial Literacy

The financial literacy webinar was a success! Students and young professionals participated in this webinar that covered the fundamental concepts of budgeting, saving, and investing, supplemented with real-life examples to enhance their understanding and awareness of spending habits. We extend our gratitude to the expert from Zaremba Data Analytics for conducting an informative webinar, contributing significantly to the program's efficacy. Furthermore, to support ongoing learning, we will soon make available a live example budget on our website for student reference.



A Chat with A Gen. Z

Experience the world through the lens of Generation Z, engaging in insightful conversations that explore their unique challenges, successes, and evolving trends. We extend our appreciation to our intern Naydelin Benitez for her valuable contribution and perspective to the dialogue.



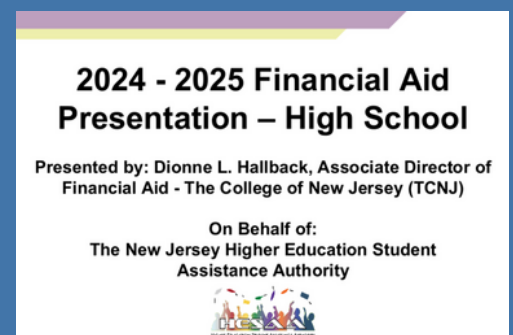
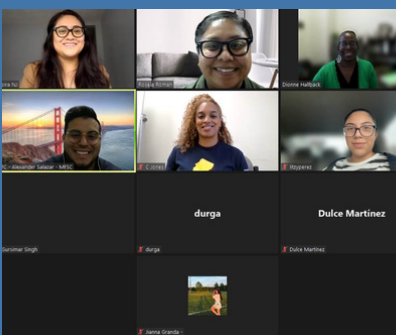
Engage Conference

Inspira had a very successful turnout at the 2024 ENGAGE NJ Thrive Student Conference hosted at Middlesex College. The event, attended by over 180 students from various institutions such as Brookdale, Essex County College, Fairleigh Dickinson, Hudson County College, Kean University, Stockton, NJCU, Passaic County Community College, Ramapo College, Rutgers University, and many more, was made possible through an invitation from Dr. Saul Petersen, Executive Director of EngageNJ.



Financial Aid

Inspira, in collaboration with The College of New Jersey and the Mobile Family Success Center of Middlesex County, hosted an informative financial aid workshop via Zoom. Dionne L. Hallback from TCNJ delivered an excellent presentation covering the application process, financial aid awards, and more.



Inspira Live! #STEMEDU

Student Ambassador Katherine and Board Member Michelle teamed up for our second Instagram Live session to conduct a science experiment. This initiative aims to raise awareness among students who may not be exposed to science, technology, and engineering. Through fun and easy experiments, Inspira hopes to spark curiosity among students.



Ignite Impact: Your Turn to Get Involved!



Hey there, change-makers! Are you ready to join us on an epic journey to spread positivity and make a real difference in our communities? We're rallying the troops and calling on YOU to be a part of this incredible mission! Whether you're able to contribute a little or a lot, your support matters BIG time. Let's team up, roll up our sleeves, and dive into action to create a brighter, better future for our youth! No matter the size of your contribution, YOU have the power to ignite major change. Together, we've got this!

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Become Inspira



Board of Directors: Passionate about leadership and governance? Consider joining our Board of Directors. Shape the future of our organization and contribute to meaningful initiatives.

Committee Members: Make a difference in your community by joining our volunteer team. Whether it's lending a helping hand at events or contributing your skills, every bit counts.



Internships & Student Ambassadors: Unlock valuable experiences and skills through our internship program. Gain hands-on knowledge in a dynamic environment and be part of positive change. Students, become ambassadors for change! Join our team to inspire and engage your peers in impactful projects. Make your university experience even more meaningful.



Sign up & Blog with Us: Express your thoughts, share experiences, and showcase your expertise. Sign up to be a guest blogger and contribute to our platform. Your voice matters!

**TAKE
ACTION**



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Inspira's NEW Resource Center

Visit our website & check out our brand new resource tab. You'll find a plethora of invaluable information & resources including different types of resumes, common interview questions to help you land that dream job, scholarships, internships & student ambassador opportunities & much more!

Check out all of our amazing resources! Go to the website at www.inspiranj.org/resources for all the details!



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