



IMAGINE

THAT!

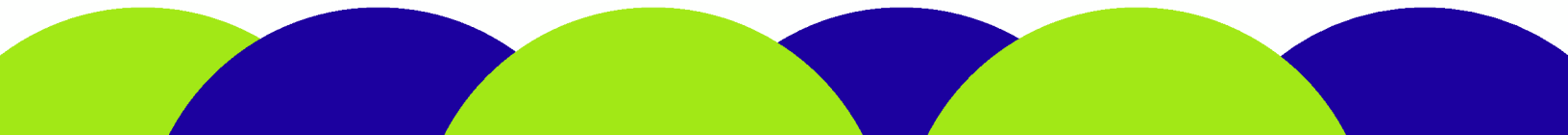


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THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IMAGINE THAT!

Imagine That! builds on past efforts to provide structured mentorship, professional, and holistic development, ensuring a greater reach and impact. While these efforts were already making an impact, creating a structured initiative has allowed for greater reach and effectiveness.

Imagine That! was founded on the belief that young people need more than inspiration—they need access to structured, community-driven support to navigate their futures. By providing a comprehensive framework that integrates mentorship, career development, leadership training, and wellness, the program ensures that young people receive the guidance and tools they need to succeed.



MEET THE FOUNDER

Gernisha Parnell is a faith-driven leader, educator, and advocate passionate about empowering young people to envision and pursue a future beyond their circumstances. With firsthand experience in education, youth development, and mentorship, she has dedicated her career to breaking down barriers that prevent young individuals from reaching their full potential.

A native of Waycross, Georgia, Gernisha relocated to Dayton to further her career in higher education and community engagement. She is a proud HBCU graduate of Albany State University and earned her Master's degree from Georgia Southern University. With a heart for service, she has worked to create pathways that provide young people with the guidance, resources, and networks they need to thrive.



Driven by the belief that success isn't just about ambition—it's about access to the right support systems—Gernisha founded Imagine That! to provide structured mentorship, increase awareness and exposure, and holistic development. She is not just leading an organization; she is spearheading a movement that bridges the gap between potential and opportunity, ensuring that every young person has access to the tools needed to achieve success.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Imagine That! is an innovative youth development program dedicated to empowering individuals through mentorship, education, personal & professional development, and holistic well-being. The program integrates mental health resources, career readiness training, and leadership development to equip participants with the tools they need to succeed in education, career paths, and life.

Mission

To provide young individuals with transformative opportunities that foster leadership, resilience, and success through structured mentorship, personal & professional development, and community engagement.



Vision

A future where every young person has the resources and support needed to imagine, create, and realize a life of purpose and fulfillment.



GOALS & NEEDS

Why Imagine That! Matters

Imagine That! is dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges that young people in Dayton face, including mental health concerns, lack of structured mentorship, career barriers, and social instability. Our goal is to serve 150 students in the first year by providing mentorship, holistic development, wellness resources, and leadership development, ensuring a well-rounded approach to youth empowerment.

GOAL #1



Provide structured mentorship and support to 150 students in the first year, integrating career, social, and wellness development, with a goal of increasing program participation by 25% annually.

GOAL #2



If participants engage in mental health workshops, counseling, or wellness activities to promote overall well-being.

GOAL #3



Establish five strategic partnerships with local universities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and wellness providers to expand career, social, and health resources for participants.

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- Over 6 million young individuals in the U.S. are neither in school nor employed, increasing their vulnerability to substance abuse and criminal activity.
 - Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth in Montgomery County, emphasizing the urgent need for mental health support.
 - Mentorship programs reduce drug initiation and improve academic performance, making Imagine That! a crucial intervention strategy.
 - Substance use among Dayton youth is rising, with many young people citing stress and lack of support as contributing factors.

By integrating these insights into Imagine That!’s programming, the initiative ensures that young individuals have the necessary tools to succeed in education, career development, and overall well-being. Through mentorship, career preparation, leadership training, and wellness support, Imagine That! directly addresses barriers to success by equipping participants with practical skills, fostering resilience, and connecting them to meaningful opportunities. For instance, a recent program graduate secured a competitive internship after participating in the career readiness workshop, while another overcame academic struggles through mentorship and successfully enrolled in college.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- **The Visionaries** (*March - May*) – A mentorship and personal and professional development program. Participants receive structured mentorship, career exposure, and strategies for building resilience and mental health.
- **Imagine U Summer** – A structured summer experience focusing on exposure to opportunities, health & wellness, social skills, STEM, team-building, and cultural awareness.
- **Pathways to Success Initiative** – A year-round support program for at-risk college students struggling with engagement, academic performance, and career planning.
- **Fresh Start Initiative** (Future Implementation) – This program is designed to support individuals who have recently been incarcerated or have disengaged from education in successfully reintegrating into society and school through structured community-based support. Fresh Start offers one-on-one coaching & mentoring, career readiness, and mental health resources to ensure a smoother transition and long-term success.



CORE COMPONENTS

01

Mentorship & Coaching – Connecting participants with mentors who provide guidance, career exposure, and personal development support.

02

Wellness & Mental Health Support – Providing resources and strategies for emotional well-being, stress management, and self-care.

03

Career & College Readiness – Offering workshops on career exploration, resume building, interview skills, and educational planning.

04

Entrepreneurship & Leadership Training – Equipping individuals with leadership skills, financial literacy, and business-building knowledge.

05

Community Engagement & Service Learning – Creating real-world learning experiences through service projects and civic leadership opportunities.

SUPPORT & FUNDING



Funding and Sustainability

Imagine That! seeks funding through a combination of grants, sponsorships, and strategic partnerships.

These include local, state, and federal grants, private foundations, corporate sponsorships, and community collaborations, with current and potential partners such as local universities, workforce development agencies, and corporate funders dedicated to youth advancement, ensuring program sustainability and long-term impact.

Long-Term Strategic Partnerships: Imagine That! will continue to develop partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to create sustainable opportunities for mentorship, career training, and funding support.



Get Involved

Participant Enrollment: Individuals interested in joining Imagine That! can apply through an online portal or attend an informational session.

Mentorship and Volunteer Opportunities: Professionals, community leaders, and former participants are encouraged to mentor young individuals and provide career insights.

Sponsorship and Funding Support: Businesses and organizations can contribute to Imagine That! through sponsorship packages, grant partnerships, or in-kind donations.

Community Partnerships: Imagine That! actively seeks collaborations with schools, local businesses, and government agencies to maximize impact and ensure sustainability.

Investing in Imagine That! is investing in the future of young leaders. We invite sponsors, partners, and donors to join us in providing mentorship, education, and leadership opportunities for the next generation."

FOUNDERS CONTACT INFO



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