JAS YouthBuild wins award at The Furniture Trust’s Eco-Carpentry Challenge

On Thursday, May 4, JAS’s YouthBuild students won the Best in Class, Small Shop award at 7th Annual Eco-Carpentry Challenge, sponsored by The Furniture Trust The Eco-Carpentry Challenge showcases projects designed and built by local high school students using recycled timber. The goal of the annual Challenge is to educate students and teachers about the value of recycling, while providing a creative opportunity for students to demonstrate their carpentry skills through sustainable design and build of their own products. After months of hard work, JAS YouthBuild students built an impressive drum set and robot out of old furniture, and won the Best in Class, Small Shop award as well as $2,000 prize money! Congratulations!

Biodite Company Tours

Just-A-Start’s Biodite Company Career Program class of 2017 is now on all-time high with the program from April through April they learned about cell and molecular biology, microbiology, general chemistry and the basics of organic and biochemistry while discovering their communication skills through group discussions, written reports, and presentations of scientifically relevant topics.

Students also gain exposure to the relevance of the science to their future careers through a weekly biochemistry seminar. The seminar features multiple guest speakers and tours of local academic and industrial labs. The seminar also provides an opportunity for industry professionals to learn about the program and get to know the students. Thus far, the students have visited Addgene Labs, Sanford Burnham, Indigo Agricute, labs, and the Koch Institute.

Support for JAS’s Workforce Development Efforts

JAS is very excited to build on our funding partnerships with Capital One and Vertex, demonstrating their commitment to place talented individuals in the communities in which they operate. As part of their Future Edge initiative, Capital One provides community grants to support entry into middle-skill jobs that require digital skills. The funding will support JAS’s new IT Training Program, being launched in 2018 to provide unemployed and underemployed individuals with the knowledge and skills to enter IT user support roles.

A grant from Vertex will support the Biodite Career Program, helping JAS to provide a diverse population of low-to-moderate-income adults with skills, education and career development to start them on a sustainable career pathway.

Bio Program 25th Anniversary Celebration

The JAS Biomedical Careers Program is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year as it builds its program has provided opportunities to hundreds of adults interested in successful careers in the life sciences, or healthcare. JAS is celebrating this exciting Anniversary with an event on Thursday, June 22 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Stamford/Bridgeport in Stamford.