

# Bridging the Gaps



## The Endeavor for Education and Employment

Student Interns: *Katherine Fesperman*  
*The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice*  
Academic Preceptors: *Dr. Zvi Gellis*  
*The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice*  
Community Preceptors: *Anthony Singleton*  
*CEO at Educators 4 Education*



### Educators 4 Education

Educators 4 Education (E4E) provides educational and professional services to at-risk youth ranging from ages 12-21. However, at their core, their mission is to empower young people- to take that leap of faith with kids who are looked down on, minoritized, and alienated from the services and resources they deserve. E4E offers a variety of services including, parental education workshops, technical assistance, school-based programming, job placements, career skills building workshops, and youth development programs (which is where I fit in).

Check out [educators4education.org](https://educators4education.org) to learn more!

@educators4educa @educators4education Educators 4 Education



### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Education is paradoxically the great equalizer and also one of the biggest contributors to the socioeconomic disparities in the United States. E4E recognize the pitfalls of America's educational system and works to provide services and resources to fill in those gaps. E4E has over 100 professional development, parent education, and youth achievement programs.

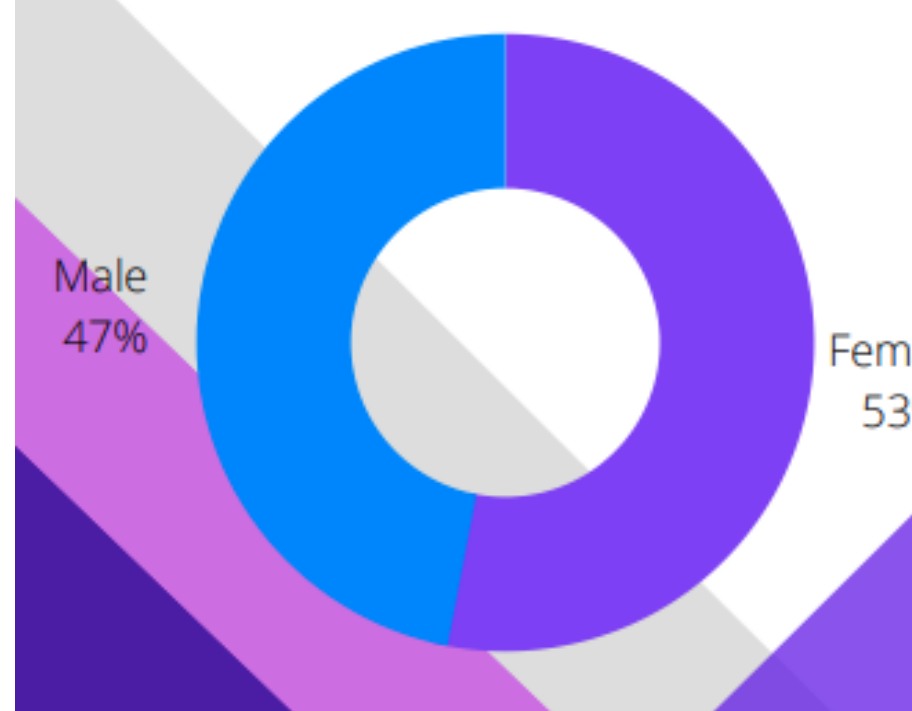
E4E partners with the Philadelphia Youth Network and WorkReady to promote a city-wide effort that helps young people gain the critical skills necessary to be successful in their professional and personal lives.

### MY EXPERIENCE

This summer, Katie has worked alongside E4E personnel to place over sixty youth at local organizations to assist them in finding financial opportunities, expand their professional skills, and broaden their future career options. Katie also assisted in developing a novel youth employment assistance program that provides job coaching in one-on-one sessions with the goal of creating a professional development program that caters to each youth's particular needs and interests. Much of Katie's work involved helping youth apply for jobs, filling out paperwork, collecting vital documents, coordinating with parents, collaborating with community worksites, communicating with youth, generating recruitment materials, and synthesizing the youth employment assistance program materials.

### ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

281 Total Applicants



Youth wages infused back into local economy: \$158,400

Gained hard & soft skills experience

Youth received \$150 incentive for early paperwork: 147

Work permits issued: 113

\*2023 E4E and WorkReady Summer Report is unfinalized. Figures reflect 2022 summer report, but may be representative of 2023 achievements.



### REFLECTION

As a future social worker, I am constantly trying to speak and work *with* communities rather than just *for* them. Bridging the Gaps (BTG) is an extension of that. My experience with BTG has supplemented my journey to becoming a trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, empathetic, and driven social worker and public health advocate. This kind of work is organized chaos and there are moving parts at every level. It involves interdisciplinary teams, micro and macro influences, bureaucracy, and humanity. BTG has shown me resources and given me support networks that can help me navigate the madness in this work, not only for myself, but also for the people I work alongside.