

Summer 2023 Newsletter



Happy Summer! We hope your summer is getting off to a great start. The ***I Challenge Myself*** team is busy preparing to welcome new school partners and new students in the fall. Below are a few updates:

- Students get an audience with the NYC DOT Commissioner
- Spotlight on our wonderful Youth Cycling Apprentices
- Century Ride (yes, some students biked 100 miles!)
- Thank you to our generous donors

GW Students Hit The Big Leagues

Our students from George Washington Educational Campus had a BIG DAY. These smart and talented students had the opportunity to present their ideas for creating safer roads for bicyclists around their school to Ydanis Rodriguez, the NYC Commissioner for the Department of Transportation. Rodriguez “oversees over 5,500 employees, an annual operating budget of \$1.4 billion, and a 10-year capital budget of \$33 billion. Rodriguez is the first Latino and only the second person of color to serve in the position.*”

Rodriguez was kind enough to give the students a tour of the department and shared some of the transportation improvement projects on which they are working. Sincere thanks, Commissioner Rodriguez!



YCA Spotlight

We so appreciate our Youth Cycling Apprentices (YCA). Our energetic fitness enthusiasts share their perspective on the impact of being a YCA.

Anjelica: "I choose to become a YCA as it offers a safe (employment) opportunity to do what I really like, cycling. My favorite part of the ICM program is that biking gives me a little (safe) freedom and I get to be around awesome people."

Alex: "I chose to be a YCA because I absolutely love cycling. It has been so fun for me over the years and has been great for developing my confidence and grit (especially on the tougher rides). Becoming a YCA allowed me to share that love with others and appreciate cycling more.

My favorite part has been the weekend rides. I really appreciate how weekend rides ramp up in difficulty over time. It gives a real sense of progress. Furthermore, we get to see such amazing scenery and visit parts of NYC that we have never been to before.

Being a YCA has helped me develop leadership skills that are invaluable for my future. I have become much better at communication and am also more confident. Additionally, being a YCA has imparted a sense of responsibility and community involvement that has deepened my friendships and other relationships with my peers who are cycling participants."



Century Ride

They did it! Our students completed 45-, 65-, or 100-mile loops in early June!

We could not be more proud of the work they've put in! ***Congrats to all riders!***



THANK YOU!

Thank you to three generous families, the DeSimones, the Feits, and the McCormicks, who matched *EVERY DOLLAR* donated in June so that we could expand our programs into middle schools in Harlem, the Bronx, and Washington Heights.

We have so much gratitude for your continued support.