



J'mal Christmas

J'mal was a co-author of the book, "Pittsburgh's East End: Then, Now, and Later," while a student at Peabody High School. He now works at UPMC Mercy and goes to school at CCAC.



At 17 years old, Peabody high school senior J'mal Christmas became a published author. He was part of a group of students who wrote "Pittsburgh's East End: Then, Now and Later," under YPA's Youth Main Street Advisors Program.

The year-long program enabled the students to conduct interview workshops, do research about the history of the school and the community, and write creatively. It also enabled the students to work together collaboratively in a team.



An aspiring chef, YPA's project also enabled J'mal to envision other career paths. He writes in the book, "If I don't become a chef when I get older, I would like to be a photographer/cameraman. I have lived in the East End all my life and I still don't know much about all the different neighborhoods around here. I think that, this is the reason why this project with YPA interests me so much."

J'mal and his colleagues were among the winners of the Michael Eversmeyer Promise Award, YPA's emerging leader award, in May 2011. At the event, J'mal had the opportunity to interact with political and business leaders that may one day benefit his career.

J'mal recently enrolled in Community College of Allegheny County and took a job at UPMC Mercy. He said that he was considered for the job because he listed "published author" on his resume.

