



Millie Brickhouse, Psychology, YES, WCU 2015

My name is Amelia Brickhouse also known as Millie, and I am a recent graduate of West Chester University! I am so grateful to have been a part of the Youth Empowerment and Urban Studies program. It was an experience that I am so glad that I was able to partake in. All of the pioneering and trailblazing that went on within the last couple years as the program was starting up were all worth it! The program has set forth to change the dynamic of West Chester University but more importantly to give hope to youth that are already counted out by the system. I loved the hands on experience because it felt like I was able to actually use what I was learning and directly apply it to my life.

The YES program created a learning space that allowed me to learn about myself. They say you come to college to find yourself and that is absolutely true. By participating in this program I found out that I had unknown biases and that I at one point was an oppressor and have been oppressed in the past, that I have a voice and it should be heard; so many things were uncovered. We dove into many areas of life that are not usually touched upon in a regular lecture class.

The small classroom size really emphasizes the one-to-one connection. My cohort of classmates—we still are in contact today, which strengthens the mission statement of YES and still amazes me almost two years later, how close we are. My advisor throughout the program was extremely helpful; thank you for your diligence and perseverance with this program. If there is anyone out there looking for a minor to join that will challenge and grow them, this is THE one!

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