

## Staff of Philadelphia Youth Network show their true colors at the Dash for Democracy!

On Saturday, November 4, volunteer staff members of Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) participated in Philadelphia's first ever "Dash for Democracy," showcasing their commitment to preparing youth for employment and addressing Philadelphia's drop out crisis.

The Dash was not an ordinary 5K, but rather a platform for individuals and groups to "run" or walk for issues that were important to them. In addition, the Dash also included a "Democracy Your Way" Expo inside the National Constitution Center from 7 a.m. until noon that showcased 30+ area nonprofits with information on how to get involved in the community.



PYN's Nakeia Smith and Randall Sims represented PYN at the Dash for Democracy

PYN was well-represented at both events. In the 5K "Dash," PYN staff members Nakeia Smith, Randall Sims, Yolanda Medina, and Channel Bates won second prize in the "Creative Expressions" contest, wowing the audience with costumes representing PYN's values. The costumes, caps and gowns and business suits, represented PYN's commitment to preparing youth for the workforce and addressing Philadelphia's drop out crisis. Nakeia, in fact, is a former WorkReady intern herself!

Inside the Constitution Center, Stephanie Gambone and Tenly Pau distributed information about PYN's mission and activities to interested community members and other organizations, spreading the word about important PYN initiatives like WorkReady and Project U-Turn.

In all, the Dash for Democracy was a great opportunity to show Philadelphia what the Philadelphia Youth Network is all about!