

In the Defense of AASuccess

By: Allyson Nguyen, 15 (Level 1 Student)

More than 16 years ago, AASuccess was established with a goal in mind: to be a product of leadership and a catalyst for such. Now that so much time has passed, inevitably, criticism and confusion have arisen from the outside. *A student-run organization? What about the structure? Why are we changing everything just now? Why again? Where's the consistency, and why is growth so nonlinear and messy?*

Many people join with the hindsight of a business opportunity, the gateway to scholarships, and recognition of something greater. The thing is, we're just as human as the applicants, and our constant metamorphosis lacks a perfect goal. AASuccess is always changing; it'll never stop. Its aimlessness makes for a unique experience, bound to be welcoming and truly what it is: a catalyst of leadership.

We have no unified goal for where we want to be; if we're somewhere, anywhere, let it be a place never unheard of. We aren't here to leave an impact on the world, but on our students. That channels through all the volunteering and for-profit activities we execute. Programs like LSA and our operations team are a part of that, in fact, the main part of it. AASuccess can be easily misunderstood, but it also requires deep reflection on its foundation and principles. That means it has every right to be unpredictable.

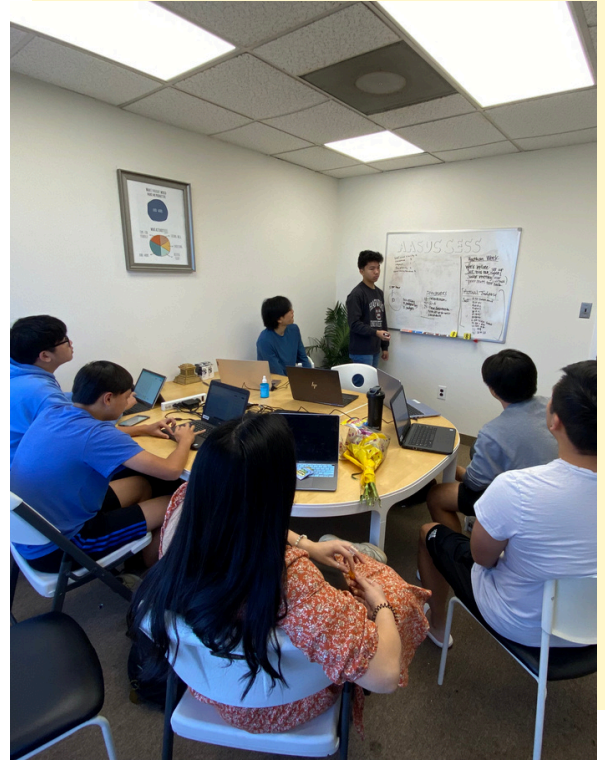


YouthCon's Progression Without Purpose

Liem Nguyen, 20 (Level 2 Student)

Youthcon originated as a way for us to help cultivate the youth in our community. Over the years, although its form and shape have changed, this ideal remains an important cornerstone not just of the Youthcon Scholarship, but of AASuccess as a whole. One thing I have noticed is that each year, a new AASuccess student takes on the role of coordinating Youthcon, and as a result, the "shape" of the Youthcon Scholarship changes permanently.

Whether or not that was the intent is something I used to ask myself. However, the important thing is that these changes stick with the scholarship, and every year we improve and change it even more. Each Annual Youthcon Scholarship reflects the efforts of the students, mentors, participants, and volunteers who were part of it before.



As new people experience Youthcon, either as candidates or on the coordination end, I believe that we add to it and perfect it, molding it like clay. Every year, we chip a piece off that rock, like a statue.

The Scholarship not only reflects AASuccess today, but also all the ideas that came before. It is an immense privilege to see this change happen in real time. Whether or not there is purpose or intent behind it, I do not think about that as much. I am just glad to see it.

A big thank you to Eden Center for being the continuous YouthCon scholarship sponsor and supporting our youth.

Connecting with Operations

Emerging in May

As the school year comes to a close, we're excited to celebrate the great achievements of our students, who have admirably been able to balance their AAS responsibilities alongside their academic pursuits. With the support of our dedicated adult volunteers, all of our students have successfully completed their Quarter 3 assessments. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work and growth and look forward to seeing all their continued progress throughout the next quarter.

Additionally, as May quickly ends, the Operations team has been working hard to kick start planning for our annual AASuccess Gala. This year's Gala, "Beyond the Horizon", will be held on **Saturday, August 3, 2024 at the 1960 Chain Bridge Rd, Tysons, VA 22102**. During this year's gala, we plan on celebrating the many successes and positive changes within our organization and would be honored to have you all there with us. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to continue updating you all next month!

Best,
Angela Le
AAS Operations Team