



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONGRATULATES OUR 2022 GRADUATES!

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Today, 40% of New Orleans residents struggle with literacy. Further, more than 50% of today's jobs require some degree of technology skills, a number which is predicted to increase to 77% in the next decade. Yet, most adults struggling with literacy are unable to use even email. On an even smaller level, a lot of signage that people use to navigate their everyday lives are not at a level some can understand.

YMCA Educational Service (YES!) participated in the Greater New Orleans Adult Education Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 25th at the Senator Ted Hickey Ballroom at the University of New Orleans. Five YES! students completed the educational milestone of passing the HSET Exam high school equivalency test.

With the degree, YES! graduate Jessica Haddad was hired as a medical assistant and doing on-site training as a phlebotomist. Another graduate Brandon Cordier will be completing his culinary degree at Delgado Community College.



Amy Leggette is the Director of YMCA Educational Services. She joined the YES! team in June 2022. Leggette is a versatile educator with over 15 years of teaching experience. She began her career in higher education, then chose a different path, moving home to Louisiana and finding adult ed.

Three of the YES! staff members participated in the ceremony. Coordinator of Instruction Andrea Gazaway gave the Sister Lilianne Flavin Honorary Address while service corp member Sarah Warner sang the national anthem and service corp member Cassie Oliver did the invocation.

YES! is the only agency in Greater New Orleans with a special focus on helping the city's lowest-level readers -- those who are functionally illiterate and those who cannot read at all -- to complete their education, achieve employment, and access our social services network. YES! primarily serves students in Orleans Parish, operating out of the main branch of the New Orleans Public Library in the CBD.

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Many students come to YES! with different goals in mind. Some want some sort of benefit for employability and access to family sustaining wages. Others go into postsecondary or want the high school diploma because of what it opens up for them.

List of 2022 YES! Graduates:

Brandon Cordier

Jessica Haddad

Daniel Potts

Kera Newman

Raymond Roberts

The 15th annual Greater New Orleans Adult Education Graduation was hosted in partnership with the Youth Empowerment Project, Hope House, Delgado Adult Education Program, YMCA Educational Services, the New Orleans Public Library, One Book One New Orleans, Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans, Greater New Orleans Writing Project, National Council of Jewish Women, Common Ground Relief Wetlands, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Melba's, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust, Gambit Weekly, Work Ready U, and University of New Orleans.

For more information about the YMCA of Greater New Orleans and to stay up-to-date with community programs and events, join our mailing list or follow us on social media:



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