



STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH:

WHY WORK EXPERIENCES ARE IMPORTANT

Presented By:
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TODAY'S AGENDA

- NYATEP Fellowship Background
 - My Research
- Youth Outcomes
- Support for Youth
- Community Engagement via WIOA/SYEP programming
 - Work Experiences

WHO AM I?

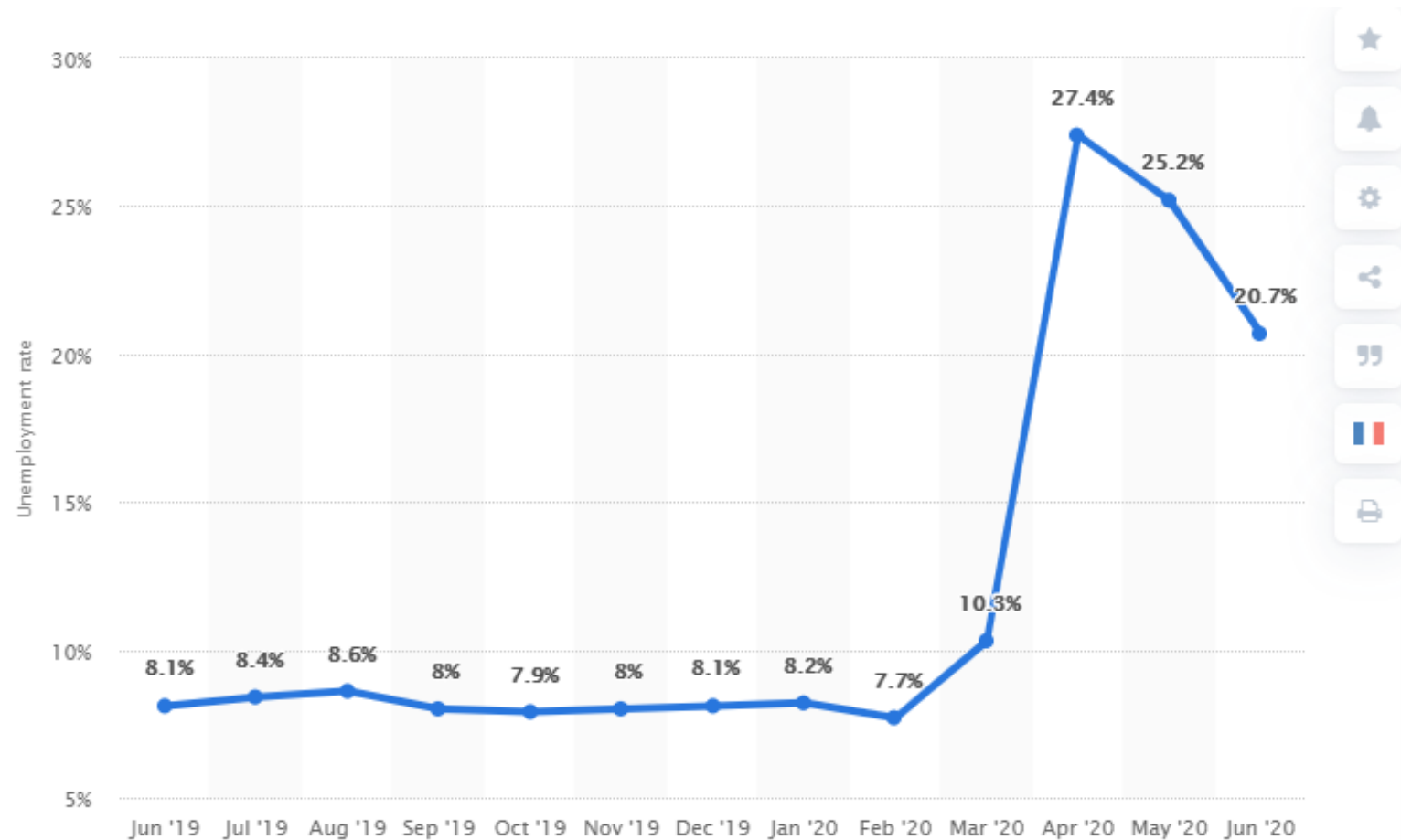


Stephanie Compasso was the Youth Services Coordinator for “Youth Connections” for 5 years prior to her role as the Director of the Rockland County Career Center. This WIOA funded “Youth Connections” program provides work experience, training, and counseling to Out-of-School Youth in Rockland County. Stephanie has her PhD in Family Science and Human Development from Montclair State University and her Master’s Degree in School Counseling from SUNY New Paltz. Stephanie was previously a Research Assistant for the Institute for Research on Youth Thriving and Evaluation and an Adjunct Professor at MSU, where she provided mentorship and workforce development training to undergraduate students. Currently, Stephanie serves as the inaugural Greg Newton Leadership Fellow with NYATEP.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

- National Average Graduation Rate: 84%
 - Black: 76% Hispanic: 79% White 88%
- Those who live in low income communities have the **highest dropout rates**
 - Majority-minority districts graduate less students
- Outcomes
 - 3.5 times more likely to end up in jail
 - Earn \$250,000 less in their lifetime
 - More reliance on government assistance programs
 - Lower reports of well-being; increased risk of suicidality and depression

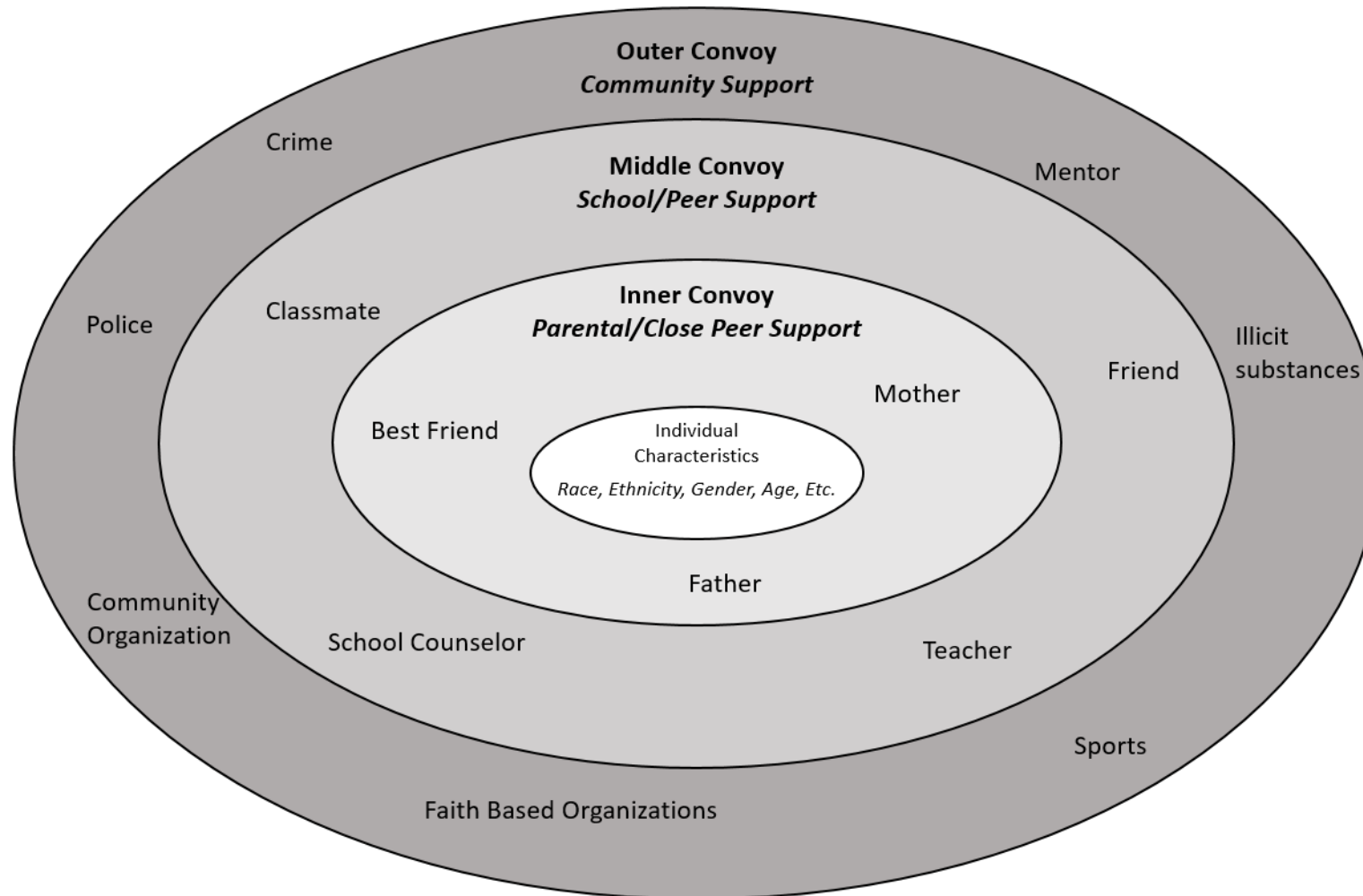
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT 2020



YOUTH SUPPORT

- Youth in Urban communities
 - Less likely to be engaged in community activities
 - Normalized culture of drug use and violence
- Support via **parents, peers, schools, and communities** has been linked to positive youth development
- Social support models suggest that social networks play a critical role in building social capital for at-risk populations
 - Convoy Model of Social Networks
- Risk and prevention models highlight importance of positive support
 - Social Development Model

SUPPORT MODELS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Areas of high poverty and crime: Community engagement opportunities build coping skills
- Successful youth cited community members who advocated for them and provided mentorship
- Developing a safe space in the community helps youth feel like they belong
- Engaging youth within the community = less likely to drop out
- 3 Areas of Community Support:
 - Neighbor Support
 - Community Disorganization
 - Perception of Drug & Alcohol Use

FOSTERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Social Development Model:
 - Human beings, particularly adolescents, seek out things that will fulfill their self-interests
 - Behaviors are transactional and based on repetitive social interactions
- 4 ways to keep youth engaged in positive behaviors:
 - Providing them with the opportunity to engage in positive activities with others
 - The degree in which they interact with others in positive experiences
 - Providing them with the skills necessary to participate
 - Positive reinforcement for positive behavior

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCES

- How do we make work experiences a positive community engagement activity?
 - Bring on employers who are active in the community
 - Include a mentoring component
 - Match youth participants with a work experience that is meaningful to them
 - Make sure they are prepared
 - Incentivize their progress!

WORK EXPERIENCES DURING A PANDEMIC

- Follow local guidelines
 - <https://forward.ny.gov/>
- Aim for remote work experiences
- Look for local non-profits
 - Confirm that they are following guidelines
- Offer training programs in lieu of employment

QUESTIONS?

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