



Monarch Academy



Monarch Academy

2211 Rayford Road Suite 111-407
Spring, Texas 77386

2023 Annual Report

The Message From Our Founder and CEO

The Importance of STEAM Education in Minority Communities



I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the critical importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education in minority communities. As a company dedicated to fostering innovation and diversity, it is imperative that we recognize the unique significance of equipping individuals from all backgrounds with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st-century economy.

First and foremost, STEAM education provides a pathway to opportunity and upward mobility for individuals in minority communities. By ensuring access to high-quality STEAM education, we empower young people to pursue careers in fields that are driving technological advancement and economic growth. This not only benefits the individuals themselves but also contributes to the overall prosperity of the communities in which they live.

Furthermore, fostering STEAM education in minority communities is essential for promoting diversity and inclusion in the workforce. By encouraging participation in these fields, we help to create a more diverse talent pool, bringing a wide range of perspectives and experiences to the table. This diversity of thought is not only beneficial for our company but for the broader industry as a whole, driving innovation and creativity.

Additionally, STEAM education nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, skills that are invaluable in today's rapidly evolving world. By ensuring that individuals in minority communities have access to these educational opportunities, we are investing in the future leaders and innovators who will drive progress and change.

As a nonprofit organization, we have a responsibility to support initiatives that promote equity and access to education. I am proud of the work we have done so far to support STEAM education, but it is clear that there is more to be done. I encourage all of us to consider how we can further contribute to this cause, whether through mentorship, partnerships with educational organizations, or other forms of support.

In conclusion, advocating for STEAM education in minority communities is not just a matter of social responsibility; it is an investment in our collective future. By empowering individuals from all backgrounds to engage in STEAM fields, we are not only creating opportunities for personal and professional growth but also driving innovation and progress for the benefit of all.

A Word From Our Chief Academic Officer



Your presence at this year's Monarch Academy Board retreat is greatly appreciated. At this juncture in our country's history, education is at the forefront of national conversations, especially among underrepresented groups. In the United States, a postsecondary education is pivotal to a middle-class lifestyle, and modern students must have a solid grounding in the fundamentals of primary and secondary education. One encouraging thing is that Monarch Academy values education for all of our community stakeholders. As educators, we confront the conundrum of rising public demands for accountability against little resources and high expectations. In order to achieve our shared purpose of providing every student with an excellent education, Monarch is knowledgeable of educational history, aware of the significant problems we confront, and committed to preparing the next generation of students and forming strong community connections. We cannot wait to teach the STEA2M (science, technology, engineering, arts, agriculture, and math) disciplines to the brilliant minds of tomorrow.

Our goal is straightforward: to help students become more well-rounded individuals by preparing them for success in STEA2M fields; to improve educational opportunities for students in grades K-12; and to encourage students to pursue careers in these fields through strengthening the three cornerstones of a child's development: leadership and character formation, academic acceleration, and family involvement. Our mission is to help students develop the leadership abilities, passions, and character traits they'll need to thrive in a STEA2M classroom.

While there is certainly cause for celebration, we must not lose sight of the fact that the strength of our system depends on our determination and capacity to ensure that all kids, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to an excellent education. Stakeholders will have a better understanding of the global significance of STEA2M education through our programs. Students will be ready to make a positive impact on the world regardless of the career route they select. Monarch Academy stands apart from the competition because of its dedication to providing students with an exceptional hands-on educational experience.

In addition to after-school and summer activities, we host quarterly webinars featuring well-respected experts in the STEM subjects to give students a taste of what it's like to work in the industry.

I am thrilled to see Monarch Academy making strides, and I can't wait to see how our educational organization continues to strive to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed. What excites me even more is anticipating our students' present and future achievements. Strong leadership is essential in education, and we at Monarch are thrilled to be a part of this journey with you.

Monarch's New Board President



ELIZABETH SIMS, MA, LPC
Board President

Meet me, Elizabeth Sims, the therapist with a heart for education and service. I'm a proud graduate of Texas Southern University, where I honed my analytical skills with a Bachelor's in Computer Science. But my thirst for knowledge didn't stop there. I ventured further into the academic world at Prairie View A&M University, earning a Master's in Counseling.

For 17 years, I've navigated the dynamic landscape of education and mental health, using my unique blend of knowledge and counseling expertise to make a difference. Today, I wear the hat of a Licensed Professional Counselor, helping individuals navigate their personal journeys while also leveraging my educational and corporate background to bring strategic solutions to the counseling field.

I'm not just looking forward to the future, I'm actively shaping it. I'm committed to bridging the gap between education, counseling and humanity, fostering an environment where STEM education is accessible, inclusive, and empowering. So, buckle up and join me on this exciting journey where we code, counsel, and change the world, one STEM initiative at a time.

Leadership Team



Dr. Joynell Bean,
Director



Laquetta Kennedy
Director



Elizabeth Sims,
President



Jelela Curvey,
Treasurer



Jason Wyatt,
Secretary

Report on Successful Conclusion of Louisiana STEM Camp



We are thrilled to report that our recent Louisiana STEM camp, held from June 5th to July 14th, was a resounding success. The purpose of the camp was to educate and inspire young minds in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and we are pleased to say that it exceeded all of our expectations.

Enrollment and Participation:

We received an overwhelming response to the STEM camp from students at both New Orleans campuses and Spring ISD campus sites, with a total of 133 students aged 9 to 12 participating in various activities and workshops throughout the program. The camp was designed to be inclusive, and we ensured a diverse group of participants from different backgrounds and schools.

Curriculum and Workshops:

The curriculum was thoughtfully designed to provide a comprehensive learning experience while fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. The camp featured a wide range of workshops, including robotics, coding, videography, astronomy, and environmental science. Our expert instructors provided hands-on training and engaged the students in interactive sessions, allowing them to explore and experiment with real-world applications of STEM concepts.

Collaborations and Field Trip Engagements:

We fostered strong collaborations with local businesses, universities, and STEM professionals to enhance the camp's educational value. We invited a guest instructor from Nicholls State University from the engineering industry who shared experiences and insights, inspiring the camp participants to pursue careers in STEM fields. Additionally, we organized field trips to the local Global Wildlife, Stennis Space Center, and Westbank Bowling, giving students a glimpse into the practical applications of their learning.



Report on Successful Conclusion of Louisiana STEM Camp



Team and Staff:

We would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated team of camp coordinators, instructors, and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the camp's success. Their commitment, expertise, and passion played a pivotal role in creating a positive and enriching environment for the participants.

Feedback and Impact:

At the conclusion of the camp, we collected feedback from both the students and their parents. The overwhelming response was highly positive, with participants reporting increased interest and confidence in STEM subjects. Many students expressed a desire to pursue further education and careers in STEM fields, a testament to the camp's effectiveness in inspiring young minds. Several parents praised the quality of the program and its impact on their child's personal and academic growth.

Future Initiatives:

Building on the success of this STEM camp, we plan to expand our offerings and explore new avenues to engage and inspire young learners. We will continue to refine our curriculum, establish partnerships with leading institutions, and leverage emerging technologies to provide the best possible educational experience for our future STEM camps.

In conclusion, the STEM camp was a remarkable success that would not have been possible without the board's support. Together, we have cultivated a passion for STEM education among our young participants, empowering them to become the innovators and leaders of tomorrow.



Embracing the Future: The Importance of Exposing Students to AI



As we stand on the cusp of a new era driven by technological advancement, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to redefine the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. From revolutionizing industries to augmenting human abilities, the future of AI holds tremendous promise. In this landscape of rapid change, it becomes increasingly important for students to be exposed to AI and its applications from an early age. By integrating AI education into the curriculum, we can empower the next generation to understand, embrace, and shape the future of this transformative technology.

The future of AI is one of unprecedented innovation and progress. As AI continues to evolve, it will permeate every aspect of our lives, from healthcare and transportation to entertainment and education. Advanced AI systems will enable more efficient and personalized learning experiences, enhance medical diagnoses and treatments, optimize resource allocation, and drive the development of new technologies and industries. Moreover, AI has the potential to address some of the most pressing global challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and healthcare disparities, by providing data-driven insights and solutions.

In this context, exposure to AI at an early age is crucial for students to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the future. By understanding the fundamentals of AI, students can cultivate computational thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a deeper understanding of data and algorithms. These skills are not only essential for future careers in AI and related fields but also for making informed decisions as responsible citizens in an AI-driven society. Moreover, exposure to AI can inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), thereby contributing to the growth of the workforce in these critical areas.


Furthermore, integrating AI education into the curriculum can foster a culture of ethical and responsible AI usage. Students will learn about the ethical considerations, biases, and societal impacts of AI technologies, empowering them to become conscientious users and developers of AI systems. By instilling a sense of ethical awareness and critical thinking, students can help mitigate potential risks and ensure that AI is leveraged for the greater good of humanity.

Exposing students to AI also promotes diversity and inclusivity in the tech industry. By encouraging students from all backgrounds to engage with AI, we can cultivate a more diverse talent pool, fostering innovation and creativity in the development of AI technologies. This inclusivity will be essential for addressing a wide range of societal challenges and ensuring that AI solutions are representative of diverse perspectives and experiences.

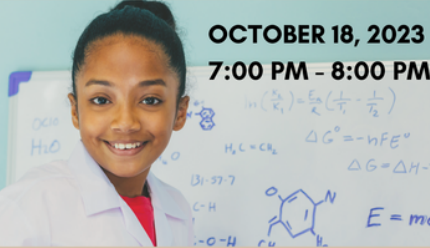
In conclusion, the future of AI holds immense potential to transform the world as we know it. By exposing students to AI and integrating it into educational curricula, we can equip them with the skills, knowledge, and ethical awareness needed to thrive in an AI-driven future. Embracing AI education not only prepares students for the evolving job market but also cultivates a generation of responsible and empowered individuals who can harness the power of AI to create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

STEM FORUMS

Monarch Academy continues to embrace the future by exposing students to AI from an early age. This exposure is crucial for students to develop skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the future, promote diversity and inclusivity in the tech industry, and foster a culture of ethical and responsible AI usage. This is why Monarch must continually offer educational Forums like the two offered below. These forums are aimed at students from 6th to 12th grade and provides an opportunity to meet with STEM career professionals.




MONARCH ACADEMY
PRESENTS
STEM CAREER FORUM
SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. MATHEMATICS




OCTOBER 18, 2023
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

6TH - 12TH GRADERS
MEET WITH STEM CAREER PROFESSIONALS


FREE VIRTUAL EVENT
ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE
ENTERED FOR A RAFFLED PRIZE



Guest Speaker,
Dr. Lori Banks, Ph.D
Asst. Prof. of Biology
Prairie View A&M



www.monarchk12.org



Ivy Curtis, MBA
CEO & Founder



MONARCH ACADEMY
PRESENTS
WINTER TECHNOLOGY FORUM



DECEMBER 8, 2023
7:00 - 7:30 PM

GRADES 6th - 12th
MEET WITH STEM CAREER PROFESSIONALS

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT
ALL REGISTERED
PARTICIPANTS WILL BE
ENTERED FOR A RAFFLED PRIZE



www.monarchk12.org



STEPHEN ALBERT
IT INFRASTRUCTURE
CITY OF HOUSTON



IVY CURTIS
CEO
MONARCH ACADEMY

Parent Empowerment Night with Governor Abbott

Governor Abbott Addresses Parental Empowerment Night at R.O.C.K Church

On Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023, Governor Abbott headlined a Parent Empowerment Night with over 380 Texas parents, students, and advocates at Central Texas Christian School in Temple. The event, hosted by the R.O.C.K church, highlighted the need for education freedom and parental rights in children's education.

"Public schools play an essential role in our state," said Governor Abbott. "They educate our future entrepreneurs, scientists, and leaders. We must ensure that our education system works for every child. Parents also deserve education freedom. Without it, some parents are hindered in helping their child succeed. That must change this year."

During the event, Governor Abbott spoke about collaborating with the Texas Legislature to expand school choice options available through state-funded Education Savings Accounts to all Texas students. He emphasized the importance of parents being able to access their child's curriculum, school libraries, and what is being taught.

Jason Wyatt, Board Secretary and Ivy Curtis, CEO, were in attendance.



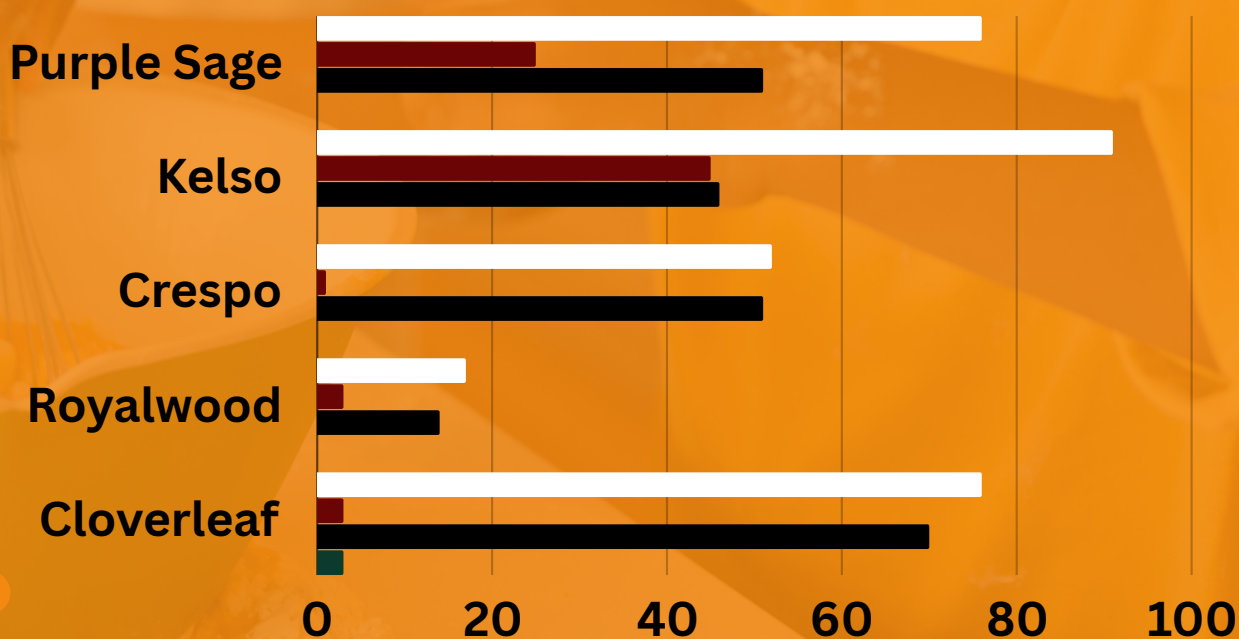
Harris County Department of Education Contract

We are delighted to announce our recent contract with the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) to provide enrichment and academic support services to 10 school sites. This partnership is a significant milestone for our organization, and we are thrilled about the opportunity to make a positive impact on the community.

Our tailored programs will foster personal development while enhancing academic performance for students beyond the traditional curriculum. Our highly experienced instructors will provide academic support services such as tutoring, homework assistance, and exam preparation, with personalized strategies to help students overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.

Our services include:

- **Enrichment Programs:** Our range of enrichment programs includes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), arts and culture, sports and physical activities, and leadership development. These programs are designed to engage the students, promote critical thinking skills, and encourage overall personal growth.
- **Academic Support:** Our team of experienced instructors will provide academic support services, including tutoring, homework assistance, and exam preparation. We will work closely with the students to identify their academic challenges and develop personalized strategies to help them overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.
- **Workshops and Seminars:** We will conduct interactive sessions on topics such as study skills, time management, goal setting, and career exploration. These workshops and seminars will equip students with essential life skills and empower them to make informed decisions about their education and future career paths.



Monarch New Enrichment Program

Culinary Arts



As we wrap up another incredible year of Monarch's afterschool programming, we can't help but reflect on the amazing journey our elementary students have embarked upon in our enriching CULINARY program. This year, our young learners have delved into the captivating worlds of food, farming, math, and science, and the results have been nothing short of extraordinary.

In our culinary enrichment, students have not only honed their cooking and baking skills, but they have also discovered the intricate ways in which math and science intersect with the culinary arts. From mastering the art of measurement and precision in recipes to unraveling the scientific principles behind food preparation, our students have embraced the role of mathematics in creating delectable dishes. They've explored the chemical reactions that occur during cooking, uncovered the secrets of taste and flavor, and connected the dots between the ingredients they use and the scientific properties that make each recipe a culinary masterpiece.



"We had a blast yesterday, the kids enjoyed very much the cooking class. They really participated. Believe it or not, some of them had never had French toast before and others never with whipped cream and toppings. I feel blessed to have the opportunity of having a conversation specially this age when some are starting to get on the pre-teenage attitude and they don't want to participate and they are the one's that are more helpful like my friend in the red shirt...I had an awesome time and the kids too...thanks for this opportunity again..."

*sincerely,
Claudia Mendez,
Monarch Instructor*

Monarch New Enrichment Program

Agriculture

Meanwhile, in our Agriculture enrichment program, students experience the wonders of nature firsthand, witnessing the magic of growth, sustainability, and environmental interconnectedness. Through hands-on activities such as planting and tending to a garden, our students are able to apply mathematical concepts and scientific inquiry to understand the complexities of agriculture. They measure, estimate, and calculate in the garden, learning the importance of precision and accuracy in nurturing plant life. They explore the life cycles of plants, delve into the composition of soil, and gain a deeper appreciation for the scientific and mathematical principles that support sustainable agriculture.

*Students from Crespo Elementary enjoying a lesson on growing hybrid tomatoes!
Monarch Instructor: Yvonne Stevenson*



Moreover, our Agriculture enrichment program instills in our students a sense of responsibility towards the environment and the community. Our students learn about sustainable agriculture practices that minimize the impact of farming on the environment while also producing nutritious and healthy food. They learn about the importance of biodiversity in agriculture and the role of pollinators in food production. Our students also get to interact with local farmers and learn about the challenges they face in producing food sustainably. By the end of the program, our students not only gain a deeper understanding of agriculture but also develop a sense of empathy and respect for the environment and the people who work to feed the world.



*****NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD*****

Project Title: CASE for Kids City Connections 2023-2024
Serving District B and I : Grant Term: November 13, 2023 – April 12, 2024
Center for Afterschool, Summer, and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids)
Harris County Department of Education

Monarch Academy Ivy Curtis
2211 Rayford Road, Suite 111-407 Spring, TX 77386

Dear Monarch Academy,

The Harris County Department of Education (“HCDE”) hereby awards a grant to Monarch Academy (“Grantee”) in support of the above-referenced project. This award is subject to the terms and conditions specified herein (“NOGA”), in HCDE’s CASE for Kids Youth Services for Afterschool and Summer Request for Proposals 23/0061A-4 (“RFP”), HCDE’s City Connections Request for Grant Applications (“RFGA”), and the Interlocal Agreement between HCDE and City of Houston for Implementation and Administration of the City Connections for 2023 (“ILA”). Acceptance of this award, including the terms and conditions detailed in this NOGA, is acknowledged by the Grantee by returning (1) one signed original to HCDE CASE for Kids via Adobe Sign, no later than November 12, 2023.



“SPARK is a week-long program designed to provide middle aged students in Houston, Texas, with an immersive and inspiring experience in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture and Mathematics. The camp aims foster a love for STEAM, develop critical thinking skills, and provide mentorship opportunities to empower students to pursue future careers in these fields. The program includes a carefully curated curriculum, hands-on activities, engaging workshops, and two STEM-related field trips to enhance the learning experience”

Kanika Simmons, CAO.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service Funding Opportunity for Monarch Academy

Monarch Academy
30931 North Head Dr.
Spring, TX 77386
icurtis@monarchk12.org

Dear Monarch Academy,

Congratulations! We are delighted to share that your application for the Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreements funding opportunity has been accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Subject to negotiations with NRCS to develop a statement of work and associated budget, your organization is expected to receive \$300,000 in Federal funds.

To discuss the details of the potential agreement, an NRCS Outreach and Partnerships Division representative will contact you to schedule a meeting. Once an authorized NRCS official signs the Notice of Grant and Agreement Award, it will serve as the authorizing and fully executed document.

Thank you for your application, and we are eager to work with you on this project.

MONARCH ACADEMY PRESENTS
EXPLORING AGRICULTURE

ENROLLING NOW
STUDENTS 6TH-8TH

- INTRODUCTION TO GARDENING
- FARMING WITH TECHNOLOGY
- HANDS ON EXPERIMENTS
- MEET REAL- LIFE FARMERS

SIGN UP WITH YOUR 21ST CCLC COORDINATOR AT OMA

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grants and Agreements Services Branch
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

MONARCH ACADEMY

Preparing students to be solutions for our world.



May 1, 2023

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure as the President and CEO of Monarch Academy, Inc to write a letter of support for Prairie View A&M University College of Agriculture and Human Sciences and their application for the USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities. PVAMU has been vital in its efforts to provide information, guidance and assistance to the minority and underserved communities of small acreage producers, farmers, and ranchers, throughout the state of Texas. Through educational workshops, seminars, farm site demonstrations and best practices are several mechanisms in which the CAHS has provided innovative and environmentally sound climate smart partnerships.

Monarch Academy STEAM Ag is an educational after school enrichment program that provides students, community-based organizations, small scale farmers, urban farmers with hands on agriculture educational experiences. The purpose of Monarch STEAM Ag is to increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education. Combining traditional STEM programs with Agriculture programs improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, technology, engineering, arts, math and regenerative agriculture with emphasis on nutrition.

It is our pleasure to partner with PVAMU to widen our reach to producers and also educate a generation of students who are passionate about climate issues as it relates to agriculture.

It is our hope that this proposal will provide the funding which will further the goals of equitable learning opportunities for our students, families, community organizations and producers to be strengthen community partnerships with PVAMU and the USDA.

Warm Regards,

Ivy L. Curtis, MBA

CEO, Monarch Academy

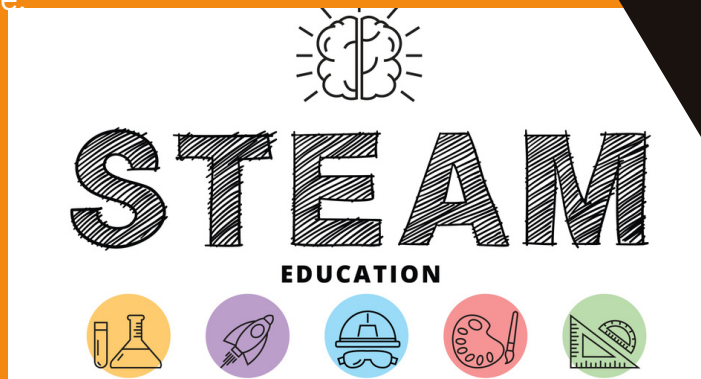


Final Thoughts from our CEO

Representation matters for minority communities for a multitude of compelling reasons. When individuals from minority backgrounds see people who look like them in positions of influence, success, and leadership, it has a profound impact on their sense of belonging, self-worth, and aspirations. This visibility validates their experiences, cultural identities, and potential, serving as a powerful source of inspiration and empowerment.

First and foremost, representation in various fields and sectors provides minority individuals with relatable role models and mentors. Seeing individuals from similar backgrounds achieve success sends a powerful message that their goals are attainable, and that they too can aspire to similar heights. This visibility helps to dispel stereotypes and barriers, instilling a sense of possibility and ambition within minority communities.

Moreover, representation fosters a greater sense of inclusivity and belonging within society. When people from minority backgrounds see themselves reflected in diverse roles and positions, it sends a message that their voices are valued and their contributions are integral to the fabric of society. This inclusivity is vital for building cohesive and equitable communities, as it acknowledges the richness and diversity of human experience.



Final Thoughts from our CEO

In addition, representation in leadership and decision-making roles is essential for advocating for the needs and concerns of minority communities. When individuals from these communities are present in positions of authority, they bring unique perspectives and firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by their communities. This can lead to more informed and empathetic decision-making, as well as policies and initiatives that address the specific needs of minority populations.

Furthermore, diverse representation serves to challenge and reshape prevailing narratives and stereotypes. By showcasing a wide range of experiences and talents, representation helps to break down harmful misconceptions and biases, fostering a more nuanced and accurate understanding of diverse communities. This, in turn, promotes empathy, understanding, and solidarity across different segments of society.

Beyond its social impact, representation also has economic and professional implications. Encouraging diversity in various industries and sectors not only benefits the individuals from minority communities, but also drives innovation, creativity, and productivity. Diverse perspectives and experiences lead to more comprehensive problem-solving and innovation, ultimately contributing to the success and competitiveness of organizations and industries as a whole.

In summary, representation matters for minority communities because it validates experiences, fosters a sense of belonging, challenges stereotypes, and promotes inclusivity and empathy. It empowers individuals to pursue their aspirations, while also driving positive social, economic, and cultural change. By recognizing the importance of representation and actively working to promote diversity and inclusion, we can create a more equitable and vibrant society for all.





Monarch Academy