



## **NINA IMANI INSTITUTE**

**STEAM • Education • Entrepreneurship**  
**Workforce Development • Leadership**

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Nina Imani Leadership Institute is a STEAM, educational, entrepreneurship, workforce development and leadership program established through a partnership between The State of Ohio Collective, The Taskforce for Best Academic Practices for African American Students of The Ohio Department of Education, Ohio State University, Maveryk, The Ohio Black Media Collective, The Ohio Black Expo, Columbus City Schools, Akron Public Schools, The NAACP, Walsh University, Youngstown City Schools, and Youngstown State University.

### **CAMPUSES**

Central State University | Ohio State University | Walsh University | Youngstown State University

Hybrid programming occurs throughout the year. The campus experience during the summer is 24/7.

### **ABOUT THE INSTITUTE**

The main objective of the Institute is to offer rising middle and high school students an intensive hybrid year long experience. The program is designed to immerse students in an environment that will enhance their academic, workforce, and leadership skills. They will develop problem-solving, critical thinking, character through project based learning, hands-on experiences, entrepreneurship and ideation modeling, and service to others. The Nina Imani Leadership Institute provides educational and social transformative opportunities for students and their families with the opportunity for them to focus on comprehensive student development.

### **PRIMARY GOALS FOR INSTITUTE PROGRAMMING**

- Improve gap closure strategies and academic performance for students, schools, and districts.
- Educate students through transformational virtual experiences related to historic and cultural influences in order to awaken their understanding of the world outside of their day-to-day realities
- Increase students' safety, education, and workforce development skills by cultivating their awareness and capacity to function as effective citizens who become assets to their communities
- Improve civic and community engagement
- Improve prevention support and strategies for dealing with pregnancy prevention, drug, sex, and alcohol healthy decision making
- Students will start real companies. As leaders, entrepreneurs and educators, success metrics is the creation of entrepreneurs. We will help cultivate and nurture entrepreneurial mindsets

## Activities include:

- Problem solving Enhanced reading, math, tech/computer literacy skills and aptitude. Prepare for standardized test success. Socioeconomic awareness, community service, project - based problem solving
- Create company marketing and branding strategies and work through the feedback process from clients and customers
- Create and develop a personal and company branding, marketing, and sales strategy and understand the need for marketing material. Pitch their business and be able to respond to questions. Identify and understand their ideal client and target customers
- Enrichment activities engaging public speaking, civic duty, activism
- Base level coding skill enhancement

## Goals & Program Objectives

**Goal 1:** To assist students in successfully passing all components of the Ohio state testing requirements.

**Objective 1:** 85% of students involved in the NII program will pass all components of their required tests.

**Goal 2:** To assist students in graduating from high school.

**Objective 2:** 85% of students participating in the NII program will graduate from high school.

**Goal 3:** To assist students in succeeding after high school through participation in post-secondary education, advanced training, military, employment, or apprenticeship training.

**Objective 3:** 85% of those who complete the NII program will be involved in post-secondary education, advanced training, military, employment, or apprenticeship training in the third quarter after they exit the program.

The program will work with members of the Ohio Department of Education Taskforce for Best Academic Practices for African American Students in the following areas:

- Implement strategies from Taskforce research to help address the achievement gap for students
- Be willing to change strategies to meet desired performance expectations and outcomes by recognizing that implementing change is the greatest challenge. The program will evidence high-quality change and improvement management
- Develop and implement solutions. Measure and gauge progress and wrap-around program and app success
- Create a unique expectation of academic achievement for each program participant and a personalized plan

## Learning Through The Blueprint 2.0, Black Studies Club, and Maveryk

Learn from business executives and successful entrepreneurs. Students obtain hands-on knowledge with product development, process mapping, customer and stakeholder engagement, IT, STEM initiatives, academic performance, and professional and personal branding. Instructors are experts in their fields, including guests from tech, arts, business, academic, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. The workshops and simulations are interactive—students engage during the sessions and apply the lessons directly to their school work and business endeavors.

## Personalized Support for Student Academic and Workforce Success

Students have weekly check-ins with staff to ensure high performance through effective communication and collaboration strategies. Real world experiences, including mock board meetings and trials with guest presenters and mentors, provide students with individualized and direct feedback.

*“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”*