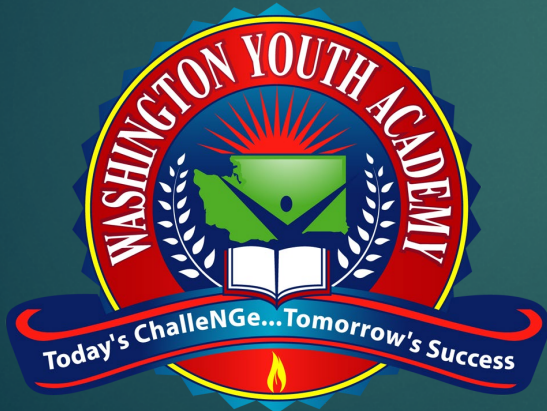


ChalleNGe History, Mission, And Overview

WYA MENTOR TRAINING



The Washington Youth Academy, in accordance with Title VI, the Civil Rights Act, Washington State law, and WA MIL Department does not discriminate based on age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, expression or gender identity, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin or disability.

Residential and Placement Team



**Residential and
Placement Coordinator**
Elizabeth “Liz” Bergmann



**Residential and
Placement Team Lead**
Jenn Bronaugh

Residential and Placement Team

1st Floor Case Managers “Wolfpack”



Case Manager - Alpha
Ben Mulkey



Case Manager - Bravo
Martha Dixon

Residential and Placement Team



**Case Manager – Charlie
*Alejandra Giron***



**Case Manager - Delta
*Zach Elliott***

2nd Floor Case Managers “Spartans”

Residential and Placement Team

3rd Floor Case Managers “Eagles”



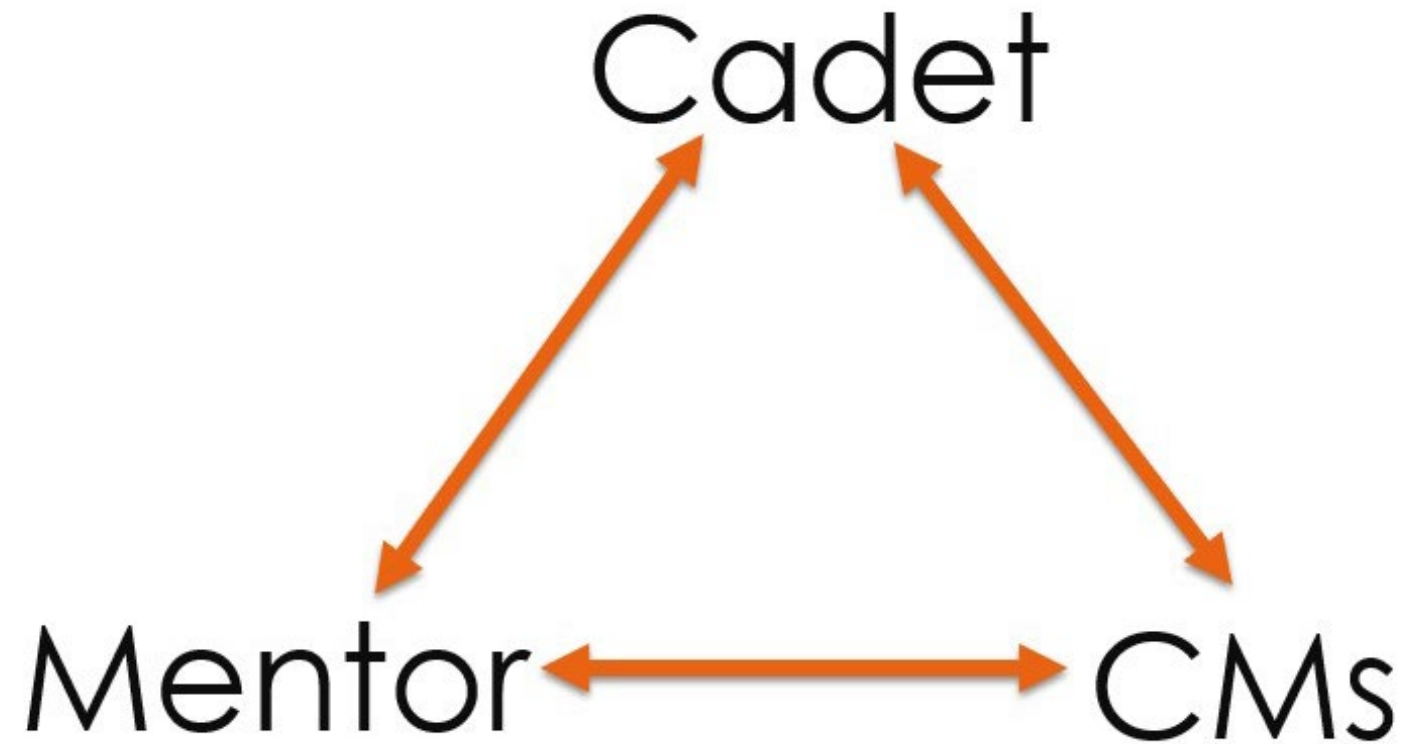
Case Manager – Echo
Spenser Parsley



Case Manager - Foxtrot
Ashley Borka

Case Manager Role

- ▶ Support
- ▶ Guide
- ▶ Teach
- ▶ Advocate
- ▶ Advice



Our Mission Statement

“The mission of the Washington Youth Academy is to provide a highly disciplined, safe, and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk youth to improve their educational levels and employment potential and become productive citizens of the State of Washington.”

History of the National ChalleNGe

- ▶ In the early 1990's, Congress recognized the inherent community strengths of the Guard as well as its ability to train, lead, and mentor young people in a caring yet disciplined environment.
- ▶ The original agreements allowed ten selected states to identify a targeted number of diverse at-risk youth and to conduct a seventeen-month ChalleNGe Program.
- ▶ By 1995, fifteen states were participating in the Youth ChalleNGe Program with another twenty-three states on a waiting list for a program.
- ▶ At this time there are 41 ChalleNGe programs in 30 states, Washington D.C., & Puerto Rico.

What is the National Youth ChalleNGe Program?

The **Youth ChalleNGe Program** is a multi-phased intervention program for at-risk youth run by the National Guard of the United States, which consists of Youth ChalleNGe Academies (known as YCA's) in each participating state. The stated mission of the Youth ChalleNGe Program is "to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults."

National ChalleNGe Results

The average per day program cost for ChalleNGe is about \$156 per youth, compared to \$407 for incarcerated youth.

Our Objective: Intervention & Prevention
Changing the trajectory of their life.



Local Scope

Established in 2009

- ▶ Collaboration between National Guard and WA state
- ▶ Funded through federal and state dollars
- ▶ Tuition Free to youth in the State of Washington

Staffing:

- ▶ Civilian state employees of the WA Military Department
- ▶ Academic staff – one principal and six certified teachers through Bremerton School District

How does the program operate?

Quasi-military format emphasizing

- ▶ Self-discipline
- ▶ Personal Responsibility
- ▶ Positive Motivation

Cadets must meet military grooming standards, wear military style uniforms and observe standard military customs and courtesies.

WYA is NOT – military academy, boot camp, juvenile detention center, drug or alcohol treatment center, professional childcare service, hospital, medical or dental clinic.



WYA ChalleNGe **Results**

2019 – Almost 2 grade level increase in Reading & Math.

2019 - Communities received 16,862 hours of volunteer service, an estimate value of \$534,863!

Almost all receive their HSD, GED, or have become productive members of the workforce within 12 months of completing the program.

ChalleNGe Youth – Criteria for Cadets

- ▶ Volunteer for the program.
- ▶ Between 16 and 18 years of age on the first day of the Residential phase. Applicants who are 15-years old and who will turn 16 during the Residential phase can attend if approved by the Program Director, but such applicants must be enrolled in a high school credit recovery track to allow for their eventual return to high school.
- ▶ High school dropout or at risk of dropping out due to credit deficiency.
- ▶ A resident of Washington State and U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- ▶ Unemployed or underemployed.
- ▶ Free of felony charges and no pending court proceedings.
- ▶ Will to be free from use of illegal drugs or substances while enrolled in the program.
- ▶ Physically and mentally capable to participate in the program with reasonable accommodation for physical and other disabilities.

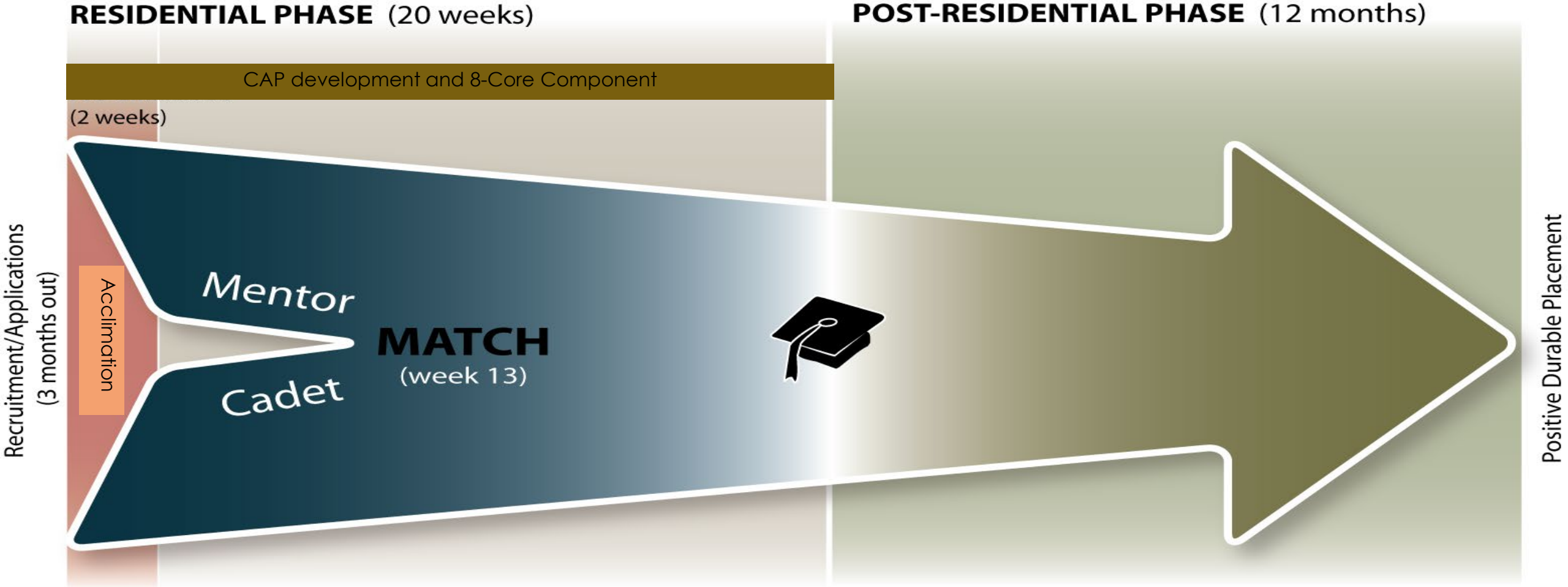
The Academy Experience

Three Phases

- ▶ Acclimation
- ▶ Residential
- ▶ Post-Residential

17 ½ Month Commitment
for Mentor and Cadet





ACCLIMATION

- Structured screening
- Physically and emotionally tested
- Candidates demonstrating motivation and ability are formally accepted

RESIDENTIAL PHASE

- Cadet status
- Core components:
 - Academic Excellence, Physical Fitness, Job Skills, Community Service, Health/Hygiene, Responsible Citizenship, Leadership/Followership, Life-coping Skills
- Preparation of the Post-Residential Action Plan

POST-RESIDENTIAL PHASE

- Graduates are in a mentoring relationship
- Graduates are employed or back in school
- Execute personal Post-Residential Action