

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT LUNCHEON OF CHAMPIONS

Ochsner Health / Pete November

When we talk about the health of a community, we aren't just talking about what happens inside the walls of a hospital. We are talking about opportunity, education, and the belief that every child, regardless of their zip code deserves a fair shot at a bright future.

Ochsner Health understands this on a foundational level. As the state's largest nonprofit healthcare provider and leading healthcare educator, they are a literal engine of opportunity for Louisiana, investing in the workforce of tomorrow to ensure our state's youth have a clear path to high-wage, high-impact careers.

But for YEP, this partnership is deeply personal. Over the last two years, Ochsner has provided extraordinary levels of investment in our mission. They have also shared their most valuable asset with YEP, their people. We see this in Emily Arata, who brings her wealth of knowledge and energy to our Board of Directors, and we felt it when Stephanie November graciously chaired our 20th Anniversary event, helping us mark two decades of impact with grace and vision.

We see this in the incredible work of the Ochsner Health Education Outreach team, which has partnered with us to collaboratively deliver a wide range of events and experiences for YEP participants, not only to enjoy themselves but to be exposed to new opportunities. From hosting on-site cooking classes within YEP programs, to leading a hands-on STEM Fest for two consecutive years at the New Orleans Pelicans practice facility, reaching hundreds of participants, to bringing medical screenings directly to families at our New Orleans East Opportunity Center during Back-to-School events, Ochsner consistently shows up where the needs are greatest. They have also hosted summer field trips to Ochsner facilities, giving young people firsthand exposure to real-world careers in healthcare.

All of these experiences culminate in deeper opportunities for YEP and Ochsner to work together in supporting young people in our region. We have witnessed this commitment through YEP young people's participation in the STEM Pathfinder program, which provides exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the front lines of medicine, from facility tours to immersive clinical skills training.

Whether they are preparing for their upcoming staff volunteer day later this month at our Central City Youth Center or inspiring our students to become the next generation of doctors and innovators, Ochsner is helping us build a New Orleans where every young person is equipped and ready to lead.

Please join us in honoring a leader who champions the vitality of our entire region, the CEO of Ochsner Health, Pete November.