CLEMSON

SHAPING THE FUTURE — HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEED





What would you call an organization that operates multiple residential summer camps, provides a home for teen mothers in foster care and their babies, offers science and technology field studies for students and teachers, and trains teams of professionals who serve youth? Clemson University calls it the Youth Learning Institute (YLI) – a name that doesn't begin to convey the depth and breadth of what YLI does.

The Youth Learning Institute is a vital component of Clemson's research, outreach and public service mission, charged with expanding upon the University's rich tradition of youth development programming since 1934. YLI draws on the research and knowledge of University faculty and staff to develop and deliver best-practice programs that reach over 10,000 individuals every year.

The work of YLI takes many forms and serves varied audiences, but all efforts are pointed toward the goal of helping young people succeed – the key to shaping the future.

Currently, the Youth Learning Institute comprises:

- Seven statewide sites in year-round operation
- Nearly 200,000 square feet of facility space
- 190 site- and community-based programs for youth and adults
- More than 200 highly effective, full-time and seasonal staff
- Dedicated partners who support and share a passion for helping young people succeed

Imagine the Faces of the Future

At YLI, the faces of the future are shaped through hands-on, front-line efforts that make a positive difference in the lives of young people. They might include:

- an international student who visits Clemson to study, practice English, visit advanced research facilities, and attend admissions sessions and cultural activities;
- a teenage girl in the state's juvenile justice system, who learns to control her behavior, develops vocational skills and returns to her community for a second chance at leading a productive life;
- parents and passionate community volunteers brought together to begin a charter school or an academy for children with autism; or
- professionals teaching online certification courses, leading a hike, preparing vegetables in a nutrition class or helping in a crisis.



Preparing Youth for the Workplace

The Youth Learning Institute invests in young people to help them realize their potential. When youth are prepared to take hold of their futures, they, in turn, affect their families, schools, communities and the global economy.

YLI believes that youth development is the foundation for workforce development. Introducing youth to career pathways early will help meet the growing global demand for highly skilled, well-prepared employees. YLI programs teach leadership, responsibility, communication, reliability and teamwork. These aren't *soft* skills; they are *success* skills!

Expertise with Strategic Impact

The Youth Learning Institute is recognized as a pioneer in the development of effective experiential learning programs. While the offerings are broad in scope, many years of practice and continual evaluation by seasoned YLI professionals ensure better, stronger and smarter programs and services to the people of our state. YLI's areas of emphasis include:

- Residential youth programming using camping model/philosophy
- Innovative academic programs with emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and career readiness

- Gender-responsive programming for girls
- Year-round residential programs for at-risk youth (juvenile offenders, teen mothers, troubled youth)
- Health and nutrition for youth, schools and families
- Behavior analysis, treatment and training for special needs populations (autism, learning delays, other emotional/neurological disorders)
- Professional development, teambuilding and leadership development for adults

You Can Join the Effort

As a self-supporting unit of Clemson, the YLI receives no appropriated or discretionary funding from the University, nor from state government. YLI's sustainability depends heavily on its ability to operate successful fee-based programs as well as to generate revenue through grants and private gifts. Collaboration with public agencies, private corporations, foundations and nonprofits that share a passion and mission for serving youth has resulted in hundreds of groundbreaking, life-changing programs.

To improve program offerings and expand to meet the growing needs of underserved populations, the institute needs your help. Providing effective programs and interventions *now* is not only smart, it is the most cost-effective means of reducing the long-term societal and economic effects that may result from failing to respond to the needs of young people.

Your support is important. For more information on how you can change the future by helping youth today, visit online at *clemson.edu/yli* or contact:

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ClemsonForward will position Clemson for the next 50 years and make an impact on real issues facing the people of our state and nation. Clemson Forever supports the goals of ClemsonForward through its unrelenting mission to strengthen the University by building a solid financial base of private giving, providing exemplary stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family.

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