

## **TML YOUTH SUMMIT 2025**

### **By Commissioner Cami Wilton, Secretary**

The TML summit in Beaumont, Texas was an unforgettable experience. I have never experienced anything like the YAC TML summit before. During the summit, I learned about leadership skills, overcame my fears, and found inspiration for future YAC projects- all while meeting some amazing new people and making memories!

The YAC TML summit showed me that there is so much that goes into youth leadership skills. I learned developmental skills, how to communicate better with others, and most importantly made memories that will never be forgotten.

During the breakthrough leadership and development class I learned to take every opportunity that is given to you. Some key takeaways from the class were that once you start you have to commit, learn how to be a good follower before you become a good leader, define your path, and have a vision.

In the inspiration session, Planning and Supporting Your Path, I learned that it is important to build a good support system, develop resilience to not give up no matter what, know that you can do anything you put your heart into, and most importantly to thank yourself for being who you are. All the breakthrough sessions that the TML summit offered were truly eye-opening and introduced me to many new things.

While at the TML summit, I overcame some of my fears! I usually don't like volunteering up on stage or speaking in front of new people, but I had the best team to encourage me through it. Ms. Yalondra kept reassuring me that it was going to be okay and I knew she was there clapping the loudest for me. The encouragement and support from my team made me realize that public speaking wasn't so bad.

We heard several project ideas from other youth advisory committees that were very inspirational. Hearing what other groups planned and seeing how they worked together was a great learning experience! We shared some of our plans with the other YACs as well, and everyone was so supportive and kind. They gave us feedback, tips, and words of encouragement.

I am so incredibly grateful to have been a part of the TML Youth Summit. We are so excited to use the skills and knowledge that we gained, and apply them to our ideas for the Manor community. I truly believe that we will achieve wonderful things, especially with the ongoing support from our city council and community. We are so honored to be a part of such an amazing community and can't wait to see what the future holds!

Ms. Yalondra could not have been a better role model to me and it showed on this trip. Everywhere we went Ms. Yalondra made sure we were safe, fed, and having fun. I felt so safe on this trip because of Ms. Yalondra. As soon as I got homesick and started to miss my mom, I looked at Ms. Yalondra and it felt like home. I knew that Ms. Yalondra wouldn't let anything happen to us.

I appreciate every opportunity that the MYAC has given to me so far. I am incredibly grateful to the Manor City Council, my fellow YAC commissioners, and most importantly, Ms. Yalondra and Mayor Dr. Christopher Harvey for making it all possible and supporting the youth!