

TML YOUTH SUMMIT 2025

By Commissioner Jemima Ntoukap, Treasure

The Beaumont, TX TML Youth Summit was a three-day event filled with learning, networking, and unforgettable experiences. From the moment we arrived after a long road trip to the final goodbyes, each day was filled with activities that strengthened our leadership skills and connected us with other Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) across Texas.

On the first day, after a long drive, we checked into our hotel, settled into our rooms, and went out for lunch. Later, we visited Lamar University for a campus tour alongside the YAC commissioners from DeSoto, Texas. The campus was intriguing, but its low graduation rate made it an unlikely choice for me. Following the tour, we attended a meet-and-mingle reception in the ballroom, where we danced and met members from various YACs. Dinner was served in the dining hall, but we opted for seafood instead, leading us to Rock n' Crab after an extensive search, where I had seafood for the first time and enjoyed it. We wrapped up the day by chatting at the hotel before calling it a night.

The second day started great as we gathered our breakfast and received materials for the upcoming sessions. The morning opened with welcoming speeches and an inspirational session discussing life and success. I attempted to take notes but struggled to keep up, so I opted to record parts of the speeches instead. The first breakout session was a podcast that lacked engagement, making it hard to stay focused. However, I still took away valuable insights about key aspects of life leading to success. At the end of the session, we had lunch, which was followed by a fun team activity that connected us with YAC members from other cities. The second breakout session, which I found the most enjoyable, discussed personal goals, support systems, and strategies for achieving success, with one first-gen student's story standing out to me.

That evening, we attended a social event at the Jefferson Theatre, where we had dinner, danced, and enjoyed some free time. The night concluded with presentations from various YACs. While the other YACs used slideshows, our group created a video that we were proud of. Unfortunately, our presentation was briefly interrupted by someone announcing the DJ's departure, which I found very inconsiderate, but we carried on and finished strong. To celebrate, we treated ourselves to pizza and ice cream back at the hotel.

On the final day, we had breakfast before the youth participants engaged in a team-building activity where each group created a short video recap of the summit. Once the activity came to an end, we returned to our rooms for our final packing before embarking on the journey home, carrying not just our belongings but also great memories. The summit provided a great opportunity to develop leadership skills and build connections, making it an unforgettable experience.