



Greetings,

The Erie City Mission's Urban University Youth Program empowers 7th-12th grade students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, mentorship, service learning, and faith formation.

Thank you for considering investing here as a lead teacher, support mentor, dinner chef, or van driver.

Steps to apply:

- Review the course schedule and program contract (see below).
 - So that our adult leaders are modeling commitment to our students, please carefully consider the schedule of each course you are applying for as you will be expected to be in attendance for every class.
- Complete mentor registration process at this [link](#).
- Schedule an interview with Program Director.

We look forward to having you help shape our future leaders,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Marie Croce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
814-572-2365 Cell
rmcroce@eriecitymission.org



2025 Winter After School Course Schedule:

Erie Otters/Professional Student Internship:

Fridays and Saturdays/7 sessions total (January 11, 24, 25, February 8, March 7, 15, 22)

In this hands-on sport management experience, students will have the opportunity to be immersed in the areas of “promotion and game day operations” and “media and communications” for the Erie Otters.

**To be considered for this course, prerequisite is Leadership In Action and a commitment to attend orientation session and all game dates, as listed above. SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS.*

Course Lead: Shawn Bednard and Haleigh Giebel, Erie Otters

Location: Erie Insurance Arena (1017 French Street)

Time: 5:00p.m. – 10:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

DSLR Photography:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions total (January 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30)

We will be taking photography beyond the level of a cell-phone camera and introduce the mechanics of a digital single lens reflex camera and professional photographic techniques. Learn how to utilize manual settings of a DSLR camera to apply them to creative photography, including basics of composition to create well-balanced images. Student’s photos may be selected for professional mounting to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Jessica Crossley, Owner, Joyful Expressions Photography

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

Leadership In Action:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27)

Build your leadership and professional mindset as we learn from top leaders within our community and the regional Charter Foods/Taco Bell organization. Develop self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, effective social skills, decision making, and personal responsibility as we discover our personality strengths and how best to work within a team.

**Students accepted in this course will be required to watch the movie “Hidden Figures” in advance. There will be a special Family Showing on January 31 to view this film in community.*

**Students accepted in this course will be required to serve at ECM’s Knock Out Homelessness event on Tuesday, February 18th (5-9PM).*

**This course is a prerequisite to be considered for the Professional Student Internship with the Erie Otters.*

Course Lead: Cindy Heintz, Professional Leadership and Certified DISC Trainer

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Marketing & Graphic Design/Youth Commerce:

Mondays/8 sessions total (February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7)

Learn the concepts behind marketing and the basics of good design. Using 'Procreate' software students will combine typography and images to create inspiring logos that convey Urban University’s culture of leadership. Designs may also be selected to be featured and available for purchase online at Erie City Mission’s merch shop.

Course Lead: Tracey Berger, Graphic Designer and Andy Muscella

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Cost: \$30.00

Handbuilding Ceramics & Pottery/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (March 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27)

Learn clay hand-building and mold techniques such as pinching, coiling, and slab rolling, as well as applying textures to create functional and decorative pottery to keep and to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd. Pieces will be complimented through glazing and finishing techniques that add color and design to each creation.

Course Lead: Eliza Wolfe, Artist In Residence and Owner, Main Street Arts

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

DIY Soap Making/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (April 1, 3, 8, 10)

Learn the art of natural soap making and the science behind it while creating unique formulas with customized colors, exfoliants, and scents. You will make some for yourself as well as some to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Chelsea and Mackenzie Ackerman

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Sour Dough Baking/Youth Commerce

Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (April 22, 24, 29, May 1)

Learn the art of baking with sour dough and the science behind it in making breads and other delectable baked goods. You will make some for yourself as well as some to sell at our UU Gallery Shop on May 2nd.

Course Lead: Chelsea and Mackenzie Ackerman

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Pickleball

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions total (May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22)

Learn or improve your skills through drills, games, and competitions in this professional and rising sport. There is no dinner for this course.

Course Lead: RoseMarie Croce

Location: Church of the Cross (5901 Millfair Road)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 5:45p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Each course accepts between 6-10 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- Please note that our program meets regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you consider dates such as vacation, family events, appointments, etc. against our schedule so that you may ensure your attendance for every session, unless they are sick.
- We ask that mentors arrive early and stay later for support in set-up and clean-up when necessary.
- Family Semester Celebration and UU Gallery Shop will be Friday, May 2. More details TBA.

[APPLY HERE](#)



Mentor Program Contract

Our Mission:

Urban University (UU) seeks to develop junior high and high school students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, commerce, service learning, mentorship, and faith formation.

Mentor Expectations:

Through intentional and authentic mentorship, we hope to make an eternal impact in the lives of our participating youth. We believe that if we give respect and our very best, we can rightly ask for respect and their very best in return.

Please carefully consider the following expectations before making this commitment.

1. Commitment is number one. “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’” (Matt. 5:37 NKJV)
Our students are counting on you to be there each week. We exemplify and model this without words.
2. Exercise a humble and teachable attitude. Our goal is to model for our students what authentic respect and teamwork look like. We value everyone’s ideas; however, please note that there are appropriate times and ways to communicate them.
3. Model respect for the property and materials we have the privilege to use.
4. Use appropriate and encouraging language.
5. Unless it is an emergency, do not check or use your cell phone or other media devices during program hours. Our complete attention honors our students.
6. Do not friend or exchange personal information with any student, or post or share any pictures of UU students or events on any of your personal social media pages or other communication platforms.
7. Whenever traveling in our program vehicles, you must follow our “Rules of the Road” policy: proper use of seatbelt, maintaining an appropriate noise level, and keeping hands to yourself.
8. Dress code is neat and modest—no tank tops or camisoles, no visible undergarments, pants must be pulled up to waist, shorts must be at least fingertip length, closed toe shoes are required.

UU Staff are always available to discuss and assess best approaches to any situation not specified in these guidelines.

I understand that if these expectations are willfully disregarded, or if any of the following misconduct occurs, it will result in my immediate dismissal as a mentor with the Urban University program.

1. Behavior that threatens any person’s right to feel and be safe.
2. Behavior that includes inappropriate touching of a person’s body, and/or using disrespectful or sexual language, inferences, or actions.
3. Behavior involving purposeful destruction of property, or theft.
4. Disrespect or disregard of Urban University staff and/or guidelines.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE by Dorothy Lew Nolte

*If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.
If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.*

**“Watch your thoughts, they become your words;
watch your words, they become your actions;
watch your actions, they become your habits;
watch your habits, they become your character;
watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”
~Frank Outlaw**

WHAT WILL MATTER by Michael Josephson

*Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.
There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours, or days.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.
Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.
It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.
So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.
It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.
It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.
Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.
So, what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought but what you built; not what you got but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage,
or sacrifice that enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.
What will matter is not your competence but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.
What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom, and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.*

Thank you for choosing to invest in Urban University.