During the 2018-2019 school year, the Madison CUSD #12’s Community Youth Employment Program collaborated with SIUE’s Conversations Toward a Brighter Future 2.0 Project to help high school students create appropriate, thought-provoking, inter-generational content in the form of digital storytelling. Daryl Williams, the Coordinator for Madison CUSD #12’s CYEP, met with high school students afterschool Monday-Thursday to help guide the youth through the process of creating this content. These sessions were held at Bernard Long Elementary School in the CYEP Wing (training room). Listed below is a brief list of the demographic information reflecting the students involved:

A. National School Lunch Program / Free & Reduced Lunch Program
B. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
C. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
D. Other risk factors:
   - At risk of involvement or further involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice system, including ex-offenders
   - At risk of involvement in the child welfare system
   - At risk of education failure (includes risk due to social conditions)
   - Education failure (Dropped Out, Expelled, etc., no GED)
   - Youth with no work experience
   - Youth with a history of employment failure
   - Homeless youth
   - Youth with a disability
   - Family income does not exceed 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
Participants must include documentation to support the above eligibility requirements as well as the following:
- Illinois residency

Students created a Podcast called, “C.H.E.S.T. The Podcast ( “C.H.E.S.T.” standing for “Community, Health, Employment, Spirituality and Therapy”), which were the main topics discussed throughout the school year. Students would meet with the Coordinator, Daryl Williams, to develop appropriate subjects to be discussed during the recording of the podcast. All podcasts were recorded via iPhone and converted on iMovie to put together cohesive episodes. From that point, the coordinator would decide which episodes were the best to publish. The topics discussed were, but not limited to:
Through the CTBF 2.0 Program, students were also able to learn about audio/video engineering, editing, recording, etc.