

# PEP Review 2019

PEP'S END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER

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## Happy Anniversary, PEP!

By Micah Stein-Verbit, PEP Coordinator

Happy 5th anniversary, PEP! We have experienced another fantastic year of workplace readiness opportunities for our PEP interns! Over the course of the school year, we added 11 new internships to our growing list of partnerships. Some of our new partners included three APS elementary schools, Lost Dog & Cat Rescue, Goodwin House Alexandria, PEP PERK (at the ACC), EduFuturo and the Arlington Community Federal Credit Union.

We are extremely grateful to our community partners for the time and energy they put forth semester-after-semester! We simply could not do what we do without them and we are already looking forward to adding some exciting new internships for the 2019-2020 school year!

### PEP Review Contributors & Editors

Michelle Villanueva

James Crandall

Andrew Hay

Will Waddell

Alex Heil

Clay Nagel

Sarah Cornett

Micah Stein-Verbit

Laura DiNardo

# New Kids on the Block

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW PEP STUDENTS

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## KELLY

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: ACC  
Childcare with Ms. Pettiford

CTE Class: Early Childhood  
Education I

PEP Teacher: Ms. Donaldson



## MICHAEL

*Wakefield HS*

Favorite internship: Brown Box  
Kitchen

CTE Class: Automotive Collision  
Repair

PEP Teacher: Ms. Donaldson

## JESSICA

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: Brown Box  
Kitchen

CTE Class: Automotive Collision  
Repair

PEP Teacher: Ms. Hannon



# AMANDA

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: Goodwin House

CTE Class: Cosmetology I

PEP Teacher: Ms. Hannon



# JAMES

*Wakefield HS*

Favorite internship: Patrick Henry Library

CTE Class: Television Production I

PEP Teacher: Ms. Hannon

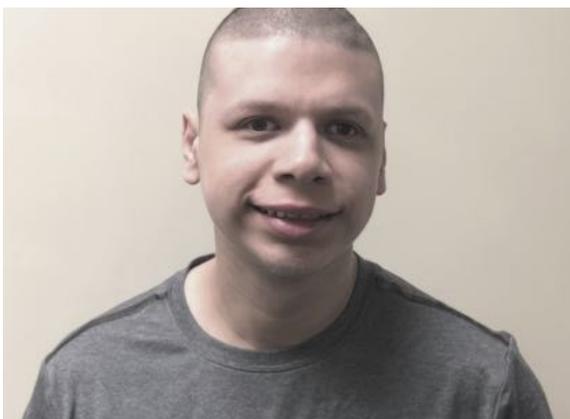
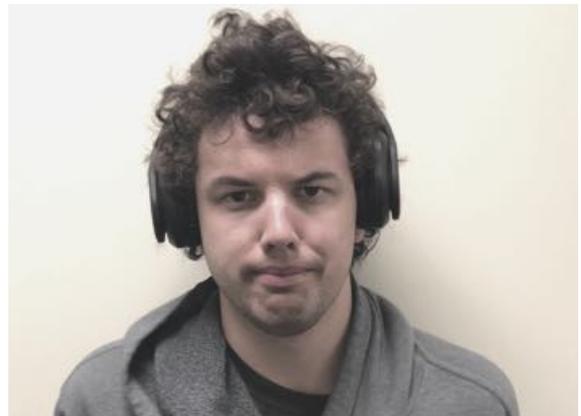


# JESSE

*Wakefield HS*

Favorite internship: Lost Dog Rescue

PEP Teacher: Ms. Pollard



# JOSE

*Stratford Program*

Favorite internship: Ft. Myer Commissary

PEP Teacher: Ms. Rosario

## **TERRY**

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: Lost Dog Rescue

PEP Teacher: Ms. Donaldson

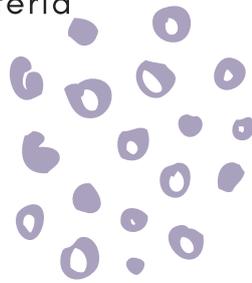


## **PAUL**

*Stratford Program*

Favorite internship: TJ Cafeteria

PEP Teacher: Ms. Rosario



## **LUWAM**

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: Brown Box Kitchen

PEP Teacher: Ms. Hannon



## **CLAY**

*New Roads School, NJ*

Favorite internship: Costco

PEP Teacher: Ms. DiNardo

## **WILL W.**

*Yorktown HS*

Favorite internship: Brown Box Sales

CTE Class: JROTC

PEP Teacher: Ms. DiNardo



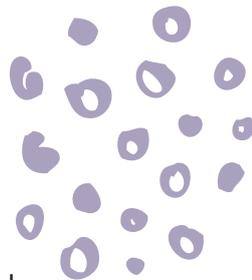
## **SARA R.**

*Washington-Lee HS*

Favorite internship: ACC Childcare

CTE Class: Early Childhood Education I

PEP Teacher: Ms. DiNardo



## **ANDREW**

*Yorktown HS*

Favorite internship: TJ Maxx

PEP Teacher: Ms. DiNardo



# WRITE ON!

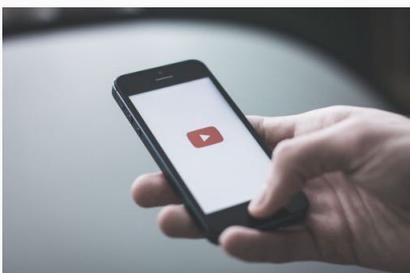
Original articles written by PEP students



## My Spring Break 2019

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE VILLANUEVA

My plans for this Spring Break are going to Six Flags and to have fun. I will ride the Batman one and the Wonder Woman Lasso Of Truth. And I probably will go to the pool. My second plan is going out to the park. My third plan is to go to the gym or stay home and watch my favorite youtube videos and those are my plans for this spring break.



# My Trip to the National Zoo

BY JAMES CRANDALL

On Friday, October 19, 2018, I went on a field trip with my class to the National Zoo in Washington D.C. The way we got there was by taking a school bus. We visited the animals and there were a lot of them. We saw pandas, elephants, lions, tigers, lizards, crocodiles, gorillas and many more.

Second, we visited the great ape house and saw gorillas and orangutans. There was an orangutan and gorilla family. We saw one male and female with a baby. The male gorilla was very large.

After visiting the animals, we ate lunch and went back to school by riding the school bus. That is the end of our trip. The zoo was so much fun!



## Stress Relieving Tools

BY ANDREW HAY

If you're ever needing people to talk to on how to reduce stress. I recommend that you try and talk to people in your community that you trust. You could also talk to your teachers and your counselors that you have at your school.

If you are not feeling comfortable about talking to someone you could just write it up on a diary or journal. You can also write about your day and why your feeling stressed. You can also talk to a therapist in your health care system that you use if it is a bad crisis that you can't solve yourself. They can also help you develop strategies for you if you have a problem.

# Movie Review: Smallfoot

BY WILL WADDELL

This movie that people call action and adventure has funny moments. The movie features a person that left a footprint. A yeti named Migo brings that person to the colony which is a group of yetis in a snowy mountain. The beginning of the movie takes place on a snowy mountain and Migo tries to prove that he saw a smallfoot, but his advice isn't trusted at all. In the middle of the movie, he tries to find his proof for the other yetis. Later, he takes the person into a cave and ties him up over the fire. Also, Migo gives the person an apple, and the person uses his camera on a stick to record videos and take pictures of Migo. In the end of the movie, the person is arrested by the police, looks at the photo of Migo and himself in the van, and the yeti people live happily ever after; Migo proves that he saw smallfoot after all.



# Movie Review: Venom

BY ALEX HEIL

The movie that critics called horrible is called Venom. It's a great action movie with hilarious moments and exciting fight scenes that will make you sit on the edge of your seat. There are parts that make no sense to long term marvel fans, but it is still a pretty great movie. All I have to say is make your own opinion and don't let critics tell you what to watch.





**PEP IS  
ON THE  
JOB!**



For the 2018-2019 school year, PEP had 10 new internship sites throughout the community, including...



PEP Perk - a new on-site coffee & snack delivery service...

3 APS elementary school sites...



Multiple positions at Goodwin House Alexandria, a senior living community...



and Lost Dog & Cat Rescue organization - just to name a few!



PEP OUT & ABOUT!

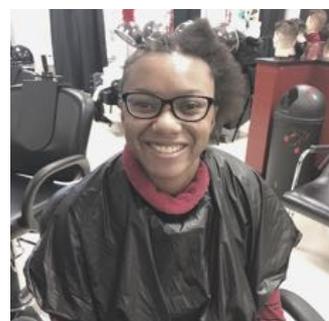


This year, PEP students learned travel and community exploration skills through outings to...

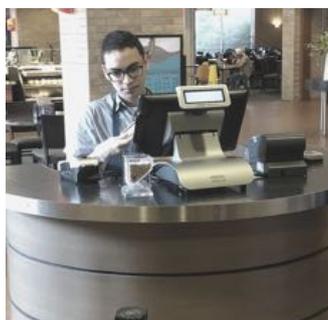


- The Ritz Carlton
- The Pentagon
- Arlington Community Federal Credit Union
- The Columbia Pike fire house
- Tysons Corner

- The Smithsonian Air & Space Museum
- The Outdoor Lab
- MOM's Organic Market
- The Avalon Columbia Pike



- Idido's Coffee Social House
- Ballston Quarter
- Job / Hiring fairs
- Union Station
- NVCC Alexandria
- Silver Diner
- Bluemont Park



#TRAVELTRAININGROCKS

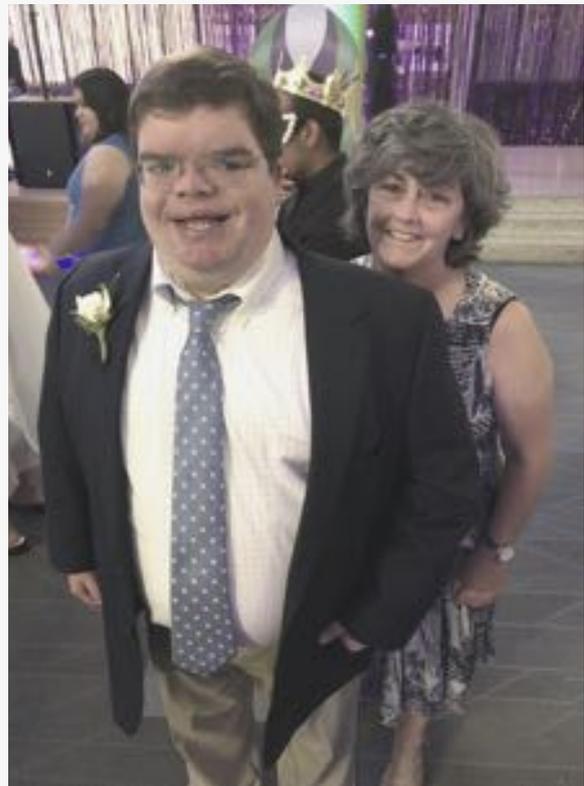
# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

## 2019

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This year, PEP is saying farewell to 13 amazing young people. These men and women have participated in internships at:

- Columbia Pike Animal Hospital
- EduFuturo
- Long Branch Elementary School
- Ft. Myer Commissary
- Ft. Myer Bowling Alley
- Ft. Myer Officers' Club
- Ft. Myer Fitness Center
- Better Business Bureau
- TJ Maxx
- TJ Cafeteria
- APS HR Offices
- AFAC



- Brown Box Lunch Program
- ACC Greenhouse / Sustainability
- Office Squad
- APS Language Services Registration Center

Just to name a few! They have increased their independence and become advocates for themselves. We are so proud of them and excited to see what they do after they transition to their next adventures. Keep reading below to learn a bit more about each of our graduates!



# JASON

Jason's favorite experiences in PEP were learning how to use public transportation and traveling to and from field trips and his internship on the bus. He says that the program has taught him how to better adjust to the outside world's ways of living and becoming independent. His favorite internship was at EduFuturo. He says that this internship helped and continues to help him become an interpreter, which is his dream and goal. We will miss you, Jason!

# ALEX

Alex's favorite experiences during his time in PEP were going on trips. He says that PEP has taught him how to live and work independently. Alex's favorite internship in PEP was working on the Brown Box Sales Table. Good luck next year, Alex!



# KENDALL

Kendall's favorite experiences in PEP were the internships and some of the field trips. He says that PEP has taught him that he needs to take his time before going into the real world. Kendall's favorite internship was WOW Cafe because he liked some of the prepping tasks and washing the dishes. We wish you luck, Kendall!





## KAHDER

Kahder's favorite experience during his time with PEP was the fact that PEP actually cares about your life after highschool & PEP. He says that PEP has taught him personally to stop complaining and just get it done! His favorite PEP internship was at Synetic theater. Good luck next year, Kahder!

## JASPER

Jasper's favorite experience during PEP was going to T.J. Recreation Center to play basketball with his friends. He says that PEP has taught him his job skills. His favorite internship in PEP was working in the Brown Box Kitchen. Best of luck with your next steps, Jasper!



## OWEN

Owen's favorite experience in PEP was every time he went to his favorite internship at the Ft. Myer Bowling Alley. He says that PEP taught him to go on outings with more independence. Owen's favorite internship was the Bowling Alley because he loves cleaning the glass windows. Good luck, Owen!





## AMBAR

Ambar's favorite experience in PEP was reading books. She says that PEP has taught her how to deal with her issues better and has helped her to become more independent. Ambar's favorite internships were working in the Brown Box Kitchen and working at Long Branch Elementary School. Good luck next year, Ambar!

## EMMANUEL

Emmanuel's favorite experience in PEP was delivering food in Brown Box. His favorite internship was TJ Maxx, because he liked the predictable type of work they did there. Good luck with your next steps, Emmanuel!



## ERICA

Erica's favorite experience in PEP was working in Brown Box with her teachers and with her friends, Alexis and Keili. She says that PEP has taught her many words that she finds useful at her job at Subway, and that it also helped her learn how to interact with others. Her favorite internship was working in the Brown Box Kitchen. We will miss you, Erica!





# EMELIO

Emelio's favorite experience during his time in PEP was having an internship at Columbia Pike Animal Hospital. He says that PEP taught him how to take the bus. His favorite internship was at the Columbia Pike Animal Hospital. Good luck next year, Emelio!

# AUSTIN

Austin's favorite experience in PEP was getting to try out different CTE classes. He says that PEP taught him to reach out to people to get support when you need it. Austin's favorite internship was working at the Better Business Bureau. Best of luck, Austin!



# MARLENA

Marlena's favorite experience in PEP was going on outings with her class. She says that PEP taught her how to be more independent at home. Marlena's favorite internship was at the Ft. Myer Commissary. Good luck with your next steps, Marlena!





## RAUL

Raul's favorite experience during his time in PEP was being able to study for and pass his last SOL test. He says that PEP taught him that the teachers and the program are going to fight for you to keep you on the right path. Raul's favorite internship was the ACC Greenhouse. Good luck next year, Raul!

*Congratulations, PEP  
class of 2019!*



# Thank you, Staff!

By Laura DiNardo

PEP is only able to run thanks to the hard work of our staff. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the 2018-2019 school year a huge success!



## *Our Phenomenal Assistants*

Ms. Nakia Arnold  
Ms. Dalis Williams  
Ms. Javonia Hill  
Ms. Kayana Jones  
Ms. Elizabeth Key  
Ms. Letecia Poliquit  
Mr. Aaron Herrera  
Ms. Carmen Labrador  
Mr. Oumer Jarso

## *Our Fearless PEP Coordinator*

Mr. Micah Stein-Verbit

## *Our Dedicated Transition Coordinator*

Mrs. Christina Eagle

## *Our Amazing Administrators*

Mr. Erik Healey  
Ms. Jessica Baker  
Ms. Margaret Chung

## *Our Incredible Teachers*

Ms. Erin Hannon  
Ms. Rosemary Donaldson  
Ms. Natasha Pollard  
Ms. Megan Wright  
Ms. Mili Rosario  
Ms. Laura DiNardo

And of course, we also thank the families, friends, and supporters of our students who help encourage them to be the best they can be every day!

