



Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) programs are funded by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) and elevate expectations of personal success for youth ages 15-19 who have been involved in the criminal justice system. **exalt** provides a combination of structured classes for tangible skill development, individualized support to navigate the education and justice systems, placement in paid internships and an alumni network of resources that equips youth with the tools and experience to avoid further criminal justice system involvement. **exalt** empowers youth to see a future filled with hope—and provides the road map to get there.



Boxlymus Parker was accepted to **exalt** on November 20th, 2020. He was charged with two felonies in Supreme Court for robbery in the 1st and 2nd degree. Boxlymus’s participation and success in **exalt** would lead to a more favorable outcome in both cases.

Boxlymus met with **exalt**’s Program Coordinator and shared that he was interested in internship opportunities. During intake, Boxlymus shared that he was facing “a very bad case and was at risk of facing a lot of time.”

After being accepted, Boxlymus began **exalt**’s Pre-Internship Training. He created personal and criminal justice avoidance goals, which consisted of improving his decision- making skills, focusing on himself/inner growth, separating himself from problem crowds, and prioritizing his schoolwork. Boxlymus met weekly with his **exalt** team while participating in the program, which he believed helped him to stay focused on his priorities, avoid trouble, and advance in school.

He described **exalt** as “a very interesting learning experience and fun because he enjoyed doing projects with a group, strategizing, and building his own schools/programs.”

One of **exalt**’s training weeks focused on “Creative Problem Solving/Creative Solutions”, designed to help participants explore their capacities to “think outside the box” when solving personal, academic or professional challenges. During this week, Boxlymus created an innovative service that helped his community.

While **exalt**’s educational paid-internship program requires a serious commitment from its participants, Boxlymus shared that “he didn’t find any part of the program too challenging.” He completed the training before moving onto the Internship Phase. **exalt** matches its participants with internships across New York City, from art galleries and film production companies to law firms, tech companies, and social justice organizations. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, **exalt** created remote-based projects designed to prepare participants to transition into professional environments.

Boxlymus completed every remote-work project during his internship period. Boxlymus felt that the projects he was assigned helped prepare him for the world of work because most of the projects were relevant to his future.

In the final phase of **exalt**, Boxlymus shared that he felt positive about his progress. Now that he has graduated from **exalt**, his goals are to finish school and to learn a trade and become a skilled electrician. Boxlymus plans to stay out of trouble by surrounding himself with positive role models and by continuing to focus on his schoolwork.

As a result of his graduation from **exalt** on February 12th, 2021, one of Boxlymus’s cases was sealed and the other was moved to family court. Boxlymus offered a big thank you to everyone he worked with, specifically his Program Coordinator and Lead Teacher for helping him get on the right track. He also thanked his mother, his family, his lawyer from the Legal Aid Society, and other people who supported him during this journey.

You can learn more about [exalt](#) and the services it provides here.