



## TJ Maxx Interns Explore the Retail Industry



*YCCS students Gifted Mullens of YCLA (Left) and Katrina Kirkwood of Ada S. McKinley (Right) take a break from their internships to take a photo outside the TJ Maxx State Street store in Chicago*

For twenty year olds Katrina Kirkwood and Gifted Mullens, newly landed internships at the TJ Maxx store on State St. has opened their eyes to the complexities of retail.

“I love it!” said Katrina, a senior at the Ada S. McKinley campus. “I’m learning new things everyday and I love moving around to different departments and meeting new people!”

“This is the first real job that I’ve had,” said Gifted Mullens, a senior at Youth Connection Leadership Academy campus. “Already I’m more focused and disciplined about being punctual and how I use my time. I like retail and I’m definitely interested in this becoming a part-time job.”

Katrina is also interested in on-going employment at the store. “I’m learning so much that I’m even willing to come in on the days that I’m not scheduled or being paid just so I can learn more,” she said. “I also can see myself in a career in retail.”

While Gifted is interested in a career as a CSI medical examiner, she said the skills she is learning in retail are skills she can teach her daughter. “My daughter is one years old, but when she’s old enough to work I can teach her the good work ethic practices I’ve gained.”