Information and Data Equity in Homewood

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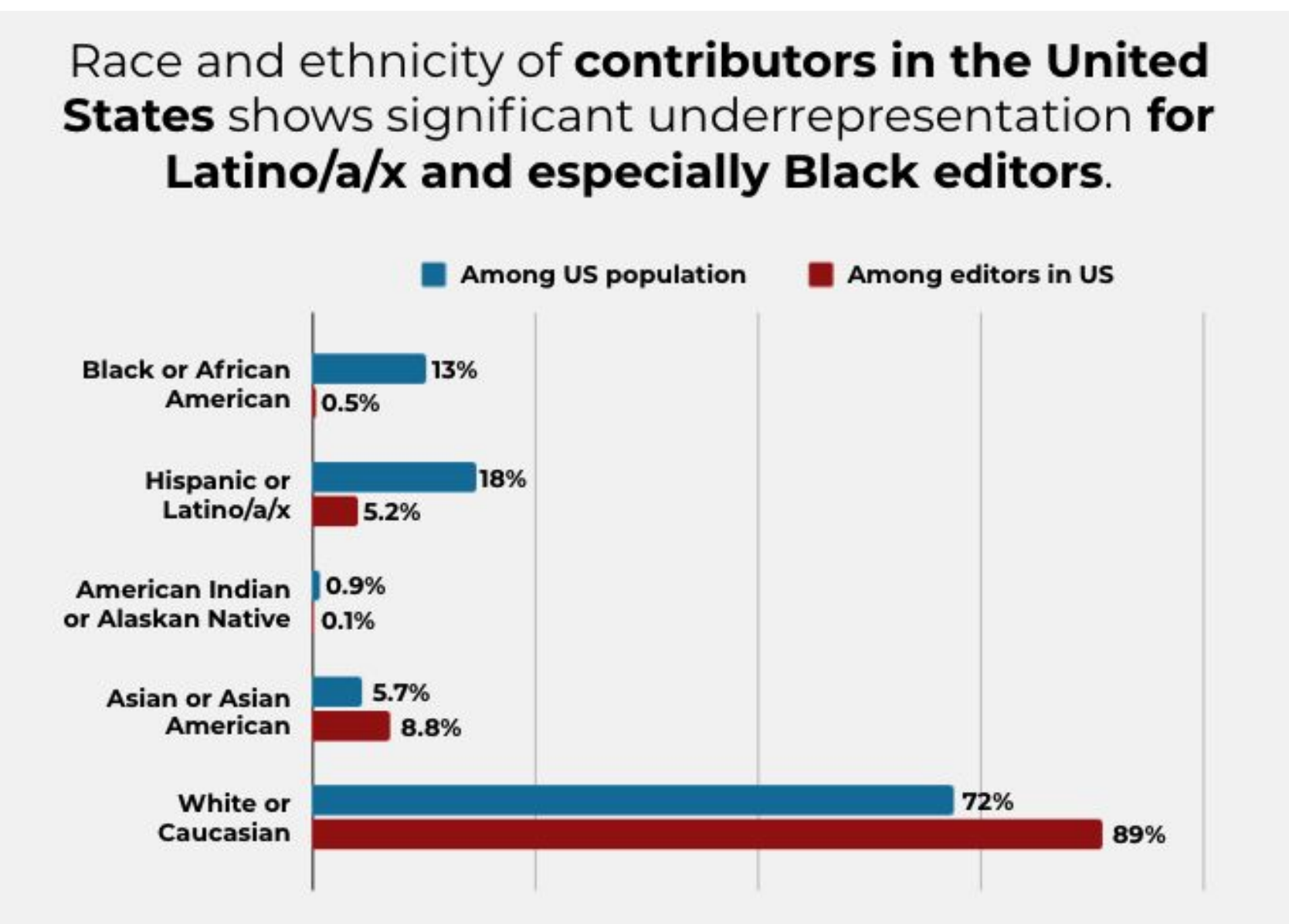
Project Overview

HYPE (Homewood Youth Powered and Engaged) Media is a critical media literacies out-of-school time program that centers the voices of Black girls from Westinghouse Academy in the neighborhood of Homewood, Pittsburgh.

The Information and Data Equity project seeks to co-create inclusive narratives online. Recognizing that Black people have the expertise to write about Black spaces, and that Black female editors are severely underrepresented on Wikipedia, Facilitators and participants are working together to change the perception of Westinghouse Academy by editing Wikipedia. They are:

- Learning about racial and gender representation on Wikipedia
- Finding secondary sources
- Practicing synthesizing information
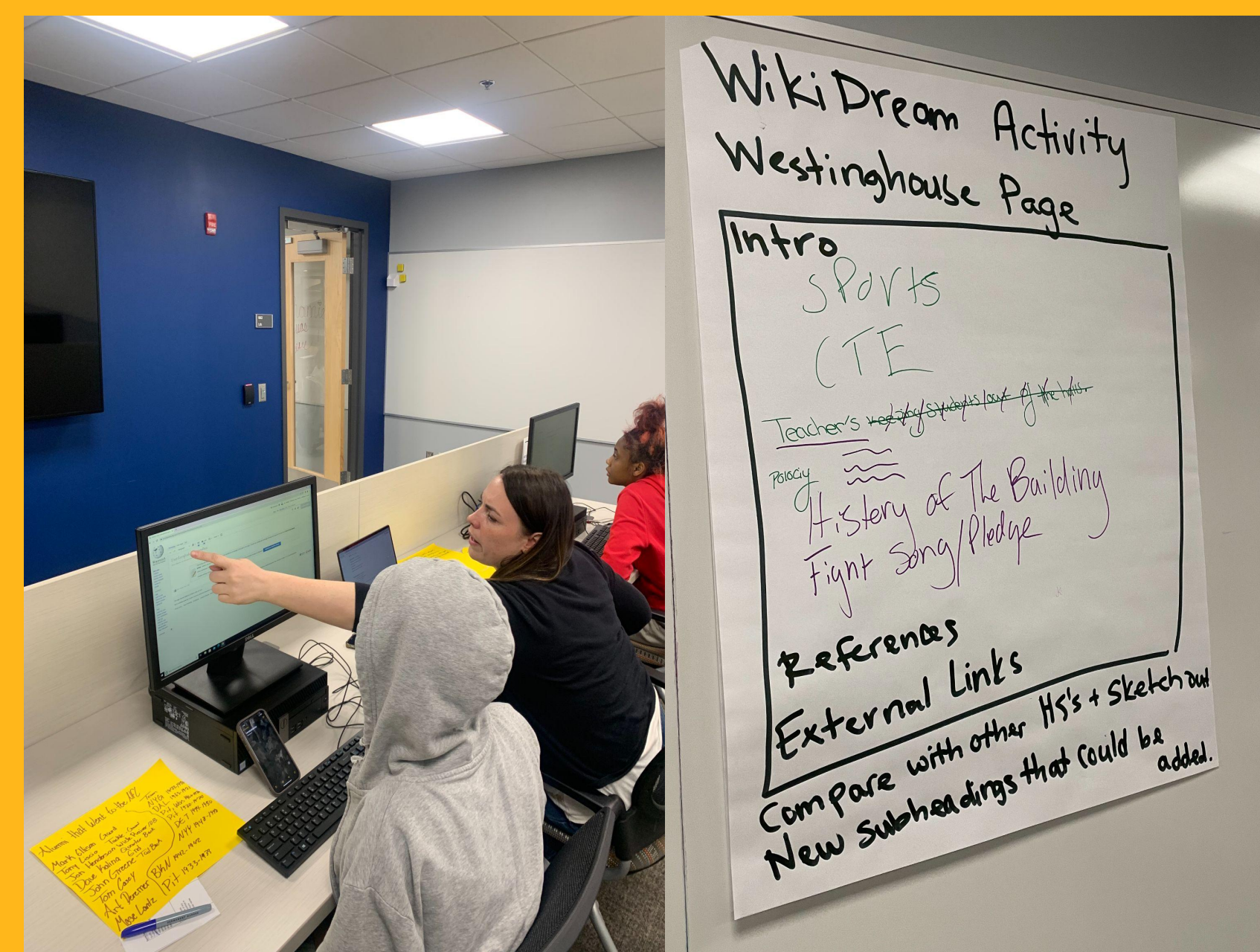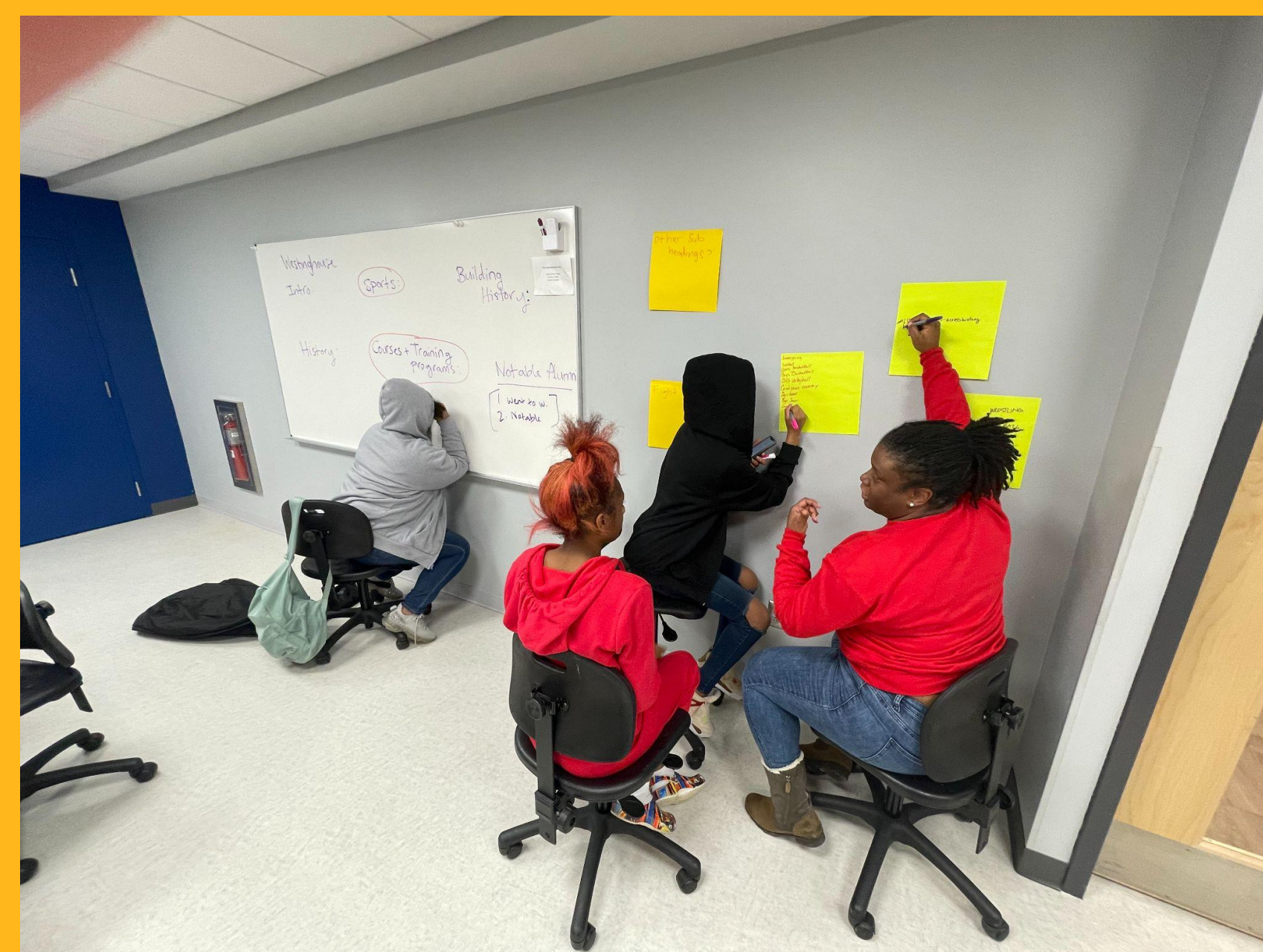- Revising the Westinghouse High School Wikipedia page

Racial Breakdown of Wikipedia Editors

Race and ethnicity of **contributors in the United States** shows significant underrepresentation **for Latino/a/x and especially Black editors**.

	Among US population	Among editors in US
Black or African American	13%	0.5%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	18%	5.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.9%	0.1%
Asian or Asian American	5.7%	8.8%
White or Caucasian	72%	89%

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University of Pittsburgh

Using **critical information literacy** skills, youth from **Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy** are learning how to gather info and data about their community to **change narratives online.**

The HYPE team members brainstorm what could be added to the Westinghouse Wikipedia page, find secondary sources, and begin to create a sandbox article. Next steps: copyediting, publishing, and editing different articles!

Project Outputs
- Add new sections to the Westinghouse High School Wikipedia page: History, CTE, and Sports, Alma Mater, Fight Song, etc
- Gather data that can be used to update the "Notable Alumni" section
- Edit out-of-date statistics on Westinghouse Wikipedia page
- Create TikTok content about why Wikipedia needs more diversity

Impact
- 8 new registered Wikipedia editors
- Meaningful use of the Homewood CEC
- Increased collaboration between faculty at Pitt, community partners, and Westinghouse High School administrators and students
- Increase diverse perspectives on Wikipedia
- Increase visibility of Westinghouse online and change perception of the school

DEI Values
- Centering the voices, abilities, and knowledge of Black girls from Westinghouse high school contributes to increased representation of marginalized groups in hyper-visible information-finding platforms like Wikipedia.
  - Wikipedia is the third most-visited website in the United States

Further Reading
Lockett, A. (2020). "Why do I have authority to edit the page? The politics of user agency and participation on Wikipedia. ::*Wikipedia @ 20*.

Year of Data and Society