Galveston Career Connect
Galveston, Texas

Program Model: Grades 9 – 12

Industry Focus: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Patient Care Technician (PCT); Information Technology; Engineering; Welding; Electronics

Overview of the Galveston Career Connect YCC Program
The mission of Galveston Career Connect (GCC) is to provide students with the opportunity to gain college credits, job training, work experience, and industry-recognized certifications through individualized advising plans that are tailored to each student.

GCC prepares students for their post–secondary years by offering them:

1) the opportunity to earn 15 to 45 college hours through Galveston College;
2) the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications in six different career pathways; and,
3) the skills necessary to enter higher education or the workforce earning a living wage.

Students receive intensive support through the implementation of wrap–around services, internships, world-of-work experiences, and continuous advising services provided by GCC Career Advising Specialists.

Program Highlight
Galveston Career Connect has highly dedicated partners who follow through on their commitments to our program. These include:

- Galveston College
- The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)
- Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)
- The City of Galveston
- Workforce Solutions
- Odyssey Academy
- Gilbane Building Company
- The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce
- The Galveston Educational Foundation
In addition to attending monthly meetings, these entities drafted a sustainability plan for the grant and served as mentors for GCC students. Two of our partners, Galveston College and UTMB, allowed their grant representatives to travel with our Grant Coordinator to the YCC National Grantee Conference for three years. The loyalty and dependability of these organizations has been a major factor in our success.

**Success Story**

The City of Galveston Fire Department has been a key partner since the beginning of the grant. The department has worked with our grant staff to provide monthly opportunities for our GCC students to learn about serving in the EMT/firefighter field. Students can familiarize themselves with the hiring process and are introduced to working with fire and emergency equipment. They travel to a nearby fire training academy and take part in the same drills used to instruct firemen and fire department trainees.

As a result of this collaboration, this pathway has grown to have one of the largest enrollments in the GCC program.

**Community Impact**

YCC has opened the doors of higher education to our students and has prepared them for the workplace. Additionally, our students have shown improved graduation rates, better attendance, and stronger discipline in their high school and college classes. Our YCC students have earned more than 200 industry-recognized certificates during each of the past two years, and we have been able to help some of them obtain quality jobs as soon as they graduate from college. Our success has been so substantial that a local foundation has provided funding so that the program can continue to operate for the next five years.

**Galveston Career Connect**

**Contact:** Bob Brundrett, Ph.D., 512-965-1257, bobbrundrett@gisd.org


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