Prince George’s County – Youth CareerConnect Program
Prince George’s County, Maryland

Program Model: Grades 9 – 12

Industry Focus: Information Technology and Healthcare & Biosciences

Overview of the Prince George’s County YCC Program
The Prince George’s County Youth CareerConnect Program (PGC-YCCP) is a national initiative led by Employ Prince George’s, Inc. and supported with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. YCC provides high school students from grades 9-12 in Prince George’s County with education and skills training, internships, college prep and dual enrollment, mentoring, and job readiness training to help them excel in the high-growth industries of healthcare and Information Technology (IT).

PGC-YCC is a collaboration among the Prince George’s County Public Schools, Prince George’s County Community College, The Maryland Center at Bowie State University, Hillside Work Scholarship Connection, the Latin American Youth Center, and two business partners at Lockheed Martin and University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

PGC-YCC focuses on helping Prince George’s County students enrolled in four high school Career Academies in the district to:
- graduate high school successfully;
- earn an industry credential or certification and gain college credits; and
- provide internships and work-based learning opportunities to equip them with the skills for future jobs in the IT and healthcare sectors.

Program Highlights
PGC-YCC has successfully helped students enroll in college and has provided them with hands-on work experience at several multi-million-dollar IT and healthcare corporations. In 2016, 95% of our first graduating class went to college. In 2017, 93% of our students pursued college degrees.

Overall, we’ve had the following post-high-school outcomes:
- 87% of YCC graduates have enrolled in college since 2016.
- 612 YCC students have participated in an internship or work-based learning component since 2015.
- $5,762,896 in scholarships were awarded to YCC students since 2016, with $44,500 of the scholarships awarded with grant funds to 23 students since 2017.
75% of YCC graduates in 2018 are attending college in Maryland.
52% of the 2018 YCC graduates attending college will go to school in Prince George’s County.
$768,819 in wages were earned by YCC students from 2015-2018.

Success Story

A’sharia U., a rising junior at our Fairmont Heights IT Career Academy, worked as a beta tester for our Benton Technologies employer partner. A’sharia was testing a mobile game app that was a prototype of an educational tool developed for school districts across the country. Within the first week of A’sharia’s internship she “broke the code” for the mobile app and detected several bugs in the software. At that time, A’sharia was only 15 years old; she turned 16 during her internship.

Nahjae W., also a rising junior at Fairmont Heights, made a powerful impact in the American Job Center of Largo during her 6-week internship there. When the regularly scheduled math instructor from the community college didn’t show up, Nahjae stepped in to tutor participants from ages 19 to 66 for three different sessions. There were a total of 8 to 10 students per class. Despite the fact that Nahjae is just 16 years old, the participants wanted her to stay on as their tutor for the duration of the course!

Community Impact

The following outcomes from the PGC-YCCP initiative demonstrate the positive impact of the program on the community:

- 947 students have been served by the initiative.
- 87% of YCC graduates have enrolled in college since 2016.
- 612 YCC students have been placed in an internship or work-based learning opportunity since 2015.
- $768,819 in wages were earned by YCC students from 2015-2018.
- $5,762,896 in scholarships was awarded to YCC students since 2016, with $44,500 of the scholarships awarded with grant funds to 23 students since 2017.

Most notably:

- 75% of YCC graduates in 2018 are attending college in Maryland.
- 52% of the 2018 YCC graduates will remain in Prince George’s County to attend college.
- 20% of the 2018 YCC graduates will attend an HBCU.
- 64% of YCC students participated in work-based learning and internships since 2015.
- 42 local employer partners have provided internships to YCC students.

Prince George’s County – Youth CareerConnect Program

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