Overview of the Westside CAPS YCC Program

Westside Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) programs are nationally recognized, innovative high school programs that help students fast-forward into their futures. Becoming fully immersed in a professional culture, students solve real-world problems, use industry standard tools, and receive employer mentoring, all while receiving high school and college credit.

CAPS is an example of how business, community, and public education can partner to produce personalized learning experiences that educate the workforce of tomorrow, especially in high-skill, high-demand jobs.

Program Highlight

Personalized Learning is a Westside Community Schools district goal, and we are proud of our individualized programming. We have learned to listen to our students, taking their needs and interest assessments into account and tying these into their academics. In the process, we guide them toward a greater awareness of their personality traits and talents. The Youth CareerConnect (YCC) grant’s required Individual Development Plan was an invaluable tool in this area.

As a result of this kind of customization, our senior students in the CAPS Seminar course have:

- completed and polished their professional portfolios;
- arranged and participated in numerous job shadows and internships;
- and have each built a relationship with a professional mentor.

The personalization of our programming has resulted in a greater confidence and clarity in our students about their future education and career plans.
**Success Story**

Our YCC work has led to the creation of CAPS specific, post-secondary scholarships for our students who graduate with an interest in serving the aging population. This is through Home Instead Senior Care, a worldwide senior care organization founded by Paul and Lori Hogan here in Omaha, Nebraska.

In October of 2016, two students received the first Home Instead Senior Care Foundation Care for America Scholarships, and three additional CAPS graduates received the awards in August 2018. All three of the latter are attending area colleges or universities, working and studying in the healthcare field.

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**Community Impact**

As a result of our YCC work, CHI (Catholic Health Initiative) Health, will begin sponsoring our students to earn Certified Nursing Assistant, Sterile Processing, and Phlebotomy certifications beginning Summer 2019. We are currently in the process of finalizing the MOU between Westside Community Schools and CHI Health. This win-win partnership both extends our program funding and provides CHI with work-ready employees.

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**Westside CAPS**

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