

SHARE YOUR STORY EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR HIGH QUALITY CAREER PATHWAYS

Oklahoma State Department of Education New Skills for Youth Academic Affairs and Planning

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Best Practice

We have implemented a new internship program – Pathways to Future Careers. This program is available to high school juniors and seniors who are on track for graduation. Students are able to go and spend two class periods in a cooperating business in the career path they are interested in. Students must complete career aptitude assessments, soft skills training, Career Success training with Junior Achievement, and prepare a cover letter and resume before interviewing with the company. The business has the option of not allowing the student to intern with them if the business doesn't feel it is a good fit.

Purpose

This program allows students to try out a career field of interest before more time and possibly money are invested in pursuing this career.

Grade Level(s)

This program is only available to high school juniors and seniors who meet the criteria.

Expected Results

Students will have experience in the career field of their choice. Students will network and build relationships with more experienced people in their chosen career field. Some students may decide the career path they intern in is not the field they really should pursue. Some students may possibly continue working after graduation with the company they intern with. There may be students that connect with a business that will assist them in completing their education in the field of interest.

Evidence of Success

This is the first year the Pathways to Future Careers has been an option to Duncan High School Students. We do not have any concrete evidence of success other than the business owners and students are commenting about how well the program is going.

Training

No formal training other than meeting with other schools with similar programs and attending an OK Dept. of Ed meeting last spring. Continued evaluation of program and seeking out other resources for training.

Staff Needed

One full time certified teacher is on staff for this program at the current time.

Resources Needed

Time – lots of time is needed to contact and create relationships with the business community. This program also needs a supportive business community.

Other resources needed include salary requirements for one teacher and other expenses may include necessary work attire, i.e. safety boots or other work related items.

Contact Person(s)

Lesa Hefner, Internship teacher/coordinator

Mrs. Melonie Hau, Superintendent of Duncan Public Schools

Ms. Kelly Trinidad, Principal of Duncan High School

Research

Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation has been the leading entity in getting this program going in Duncan. They have research resources for workforce development. SREB Career Pathways reports.

Key Economic Networks August 2017

