



2023 Youth Employment Project

Final Report

October 2023

The Youth Employment Project (YEP) assists young adults in finding a first job or work experience opportunity. YEP activities include resume creation, job search, interview preparation and job fairs. Educational opportunities for participants include soft skills, customer service, and financial literacy. The Workforce Alliance (WA) has led a summer youth employment program since 2009. The goals focus on leveraging resources and aligning services to create significant community impact.

In 2023, YEP continued its collaboration with the City of Wichita, the Greater Wichita YMCA, and USD 259 through the Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) youth employment network. These partners each have well-established youth employment programs and cooperate to create multiple opportunities for youth in the community. The outcomes from YEP are combined with HYPE partners to create a total community impact measure. Goals and outcomes for 2023, and comparison to past years are below.

Overall, 2023 was a successful year, most of the project goals were met or exceeded. There were a few exceptions and all of the outcomes will be analyzed. Highlights from 2023 include:

- Connecting through YEP with over 5,700 young adults
- Employment opportunities for 2,392
- Engagement with 435 employers, a 56% increase from 2022
- Over \$3.4 million earned in wages
- Created three new Camp HYPEs to generate increased career awareness opportunities
 - Financial Services (Sponsored by AGH, Bank of America, FORVIS and Meritrust Credit Union)
 - Public Safety (Sponsored by the Wichita Metro Crime Commission)
 - Camp McConnell (Sponsored by McConnell Air Force Base)
- Over 200 High School Aviation and Manufacturing Interns placed at:
 - Textron Aviation
 - Spirit AeroSystems
 - Cox Machine

2023 YEP Outcomes

Measure	2023 Actual	2023 Goals	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Total Young Adults Served	5,732	3,800	3,583	1,918
Workshop Participation	858	1,000	913	136
Badges Awarded	1,545	2,000	2,151	408
ESC Certificates Earned	515	750	717	136
Total Employment	2,392	2,300	2,261	710
Camp HYPE Participation	164	100	92	55
Employer Engagement	435	250	244	72
Job Fairs	20	10	11	5
Wages Paid	\$3,444,480	\$3,000,000	\$2,913,120	\$1,929,600
Job Fair Attendance by Young Adults	2,653	2,000	1,833	682
Job Fair Attendance by Employers	248	225	207	50
Events (Outreach, Job Fair, Workshop)	115	50	42	6
Schools and Districts Engagement	27 schools 16 districts	24 schools 16 districts	20 schools 14 districts	20 schools 14 districts
Counties Engaged	6	6	6	6
WIOA Referrals	30	N/A	N/A	N/A

The following is a breakdown of reported employment for 2023 by HYPE Partners:

2023 HYPE Employment Outcomes

Employment Type	Total
WIOA Subsidized (WA)	38
YEP Subsidized (WA)	164
YEP Employer Funded (WA)	1,691
The Way to Work (City of Wichita)	175
Job Prep (YMCA)	300
Youth Self-Reported (WA)	24
Total	2,392

Participants

In 2023, YEP served 5,732 young adults and engaged 435 employers, reflecting a 60% increase in total youth served and a 78% increase in employers engaged compared to 2022 totals.

Outreach

Outreach sessions were conducted with area high schools and community partners. In total, 18 outreach sessions were held at 17 high schools in six school districts across three counties. These sessions were attended by 689 young adults. This is a 63% increase in the number of sessions held and an 8% increase in youth attendance at outreach events over 2022 totals.

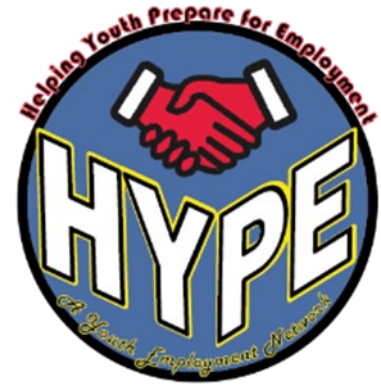
Youth Essential Skills Certificate and Workshops

The Youth Essential Skills Certificate (ESC) was created to help address the issue of “soft skills” or work ethic. The curriculum includes workplace etiquette, customer service, money handling and financial literacy. Young adults earn an electronic badge through the Accredible system for each workshop they attended and were awarded the ESC credential if they completed the entire series of YEP workshops. The ESC Workshop series was offered 21 times from January through July 2023, a 90% increase in the number of workshops compared to 2022; 858 participants attended YEP Workshops, and 1,545 badges were awarded for workshop participation. In total, 515 participants earned the Youth Essential Skills Certificate.

Camp HYPE

Camp HYPE is a week of career exploration that combines ESC workshops with tours to local employers by industry.

- Eight Camps were held weekly from June 6 – August 10
- USD 259 provided four staff to assist with operating the camps and delivering the workshop curriculum.
- Students ranged between the ages of 14-18, must have completed their freshman year of high school and yet to graduate to attend.
- Students who successfully completed a camp earned \$200.
- Attendance rates were up substantially compared to 2022.



Camp HYPE Weekly Summary

Date	Camp Sponsor and Theme	Registered	Attended
June 5-8	Trade Skills	40	23
June 19-22	Textron Aviation	42	22
June 26-29	Healthcare Sponsored by Ascension Via Christi	40	22
July 7-13	Spirit AeroSystems	40	23
July 17-20	Tech sponsored by FlagshipKansas.Tech	40	19
July 24-27	Financial Services sponsored by Bank of America and Meritrust Credit Union	40	23
July 31- Aug 3	Public Safety sponsored by The Wichita Metro Crime Commission	40	20
Aug 7-10	Camp McConnell sponsored by McConnell Air Force Base	8	12

YEP Job Fairs

A total of 20 job fairs were held in 2023 and attended by 2,653 young adults and 248 employers.

Job Placements

The final outcomes for YEP 2023 include 2,392 job placements. A list of participating employers is attached. The majority of job placements were tailored as needed by the employer and included temporary and part-time jobs. Most wages were directly funded by the employer, and

some participants found employment outside of the program after completing a workshop and self-reporting their jobs.

Additionally, 91 employers hired young adults for temporary and or part-time jobs in 2023.

Wages

Wage estimates for 2023 YEP participants are \$3,444,480. This is calculated by taking the number of job placements with an estimated \$9/hr wage for 20 hours per week in eight week placements.

YEP Participant Feedback

Comments are below, and the overall feedback was very positive.

- The YEP program helped me get the confidence I need to go to an interview and land a job. I also learned how to apply for a work position. It was very helpful.
- I got this job because I worked at Textron last year as a YEP intern then WSU hired me because of that
- I got help with my resume from Chelsea at my school in a workshop
- This program helped me get my job on my own
- I have never been to a job fair but that would have made searching for jobs much easier. I would recommend attending for people looking for jobs
- I think it's amazing! I did job prep and Always got jobs that worked for me and they were amazing!
- I was pleasantly surprised when I saw their notebooks they brought home at the end of the week. Camp Hype discussed how to fill out applications, write a resume, interview tips, interview suggestions, budgeting, and much more. The speakers that they invited and the tours they set up really engaged my kids and held their interest. These camps exposed my kids to careers I have never discussed with them and they now show interest in learning more about those wonderful career paths. They were able to participate in hands on activities and meet professionals from many different types of industries. This camp takes such great care of our kids, teaches them so much, and transports them to all the tours. I feel very fortunate that my kids were able to participate in such a wonderful program led by such a hardworking, helpful, and responsive leader.
- It's a unique experience that challenges what people might think jobs are with what jobs actually are shown in the reality of it with workplace tours. Personally, I learned a little bit about cyber security and that caused me to want to become a cyber security consultant after learning more about the profession. The camp is run by very nice lady named Chelsea. She's been nothing but helpful and all around nice.
- It was a good experience. I enjoyed seeing different career options and what they entail. I also enjoy the sun and the hands-on activities such as riveting. I also like the instructors they were very friendly and very well spoken.

2023 YEP Employer Participation

A total of 91 employers hired young adults through YEP 2023, including 33 employers who provided a placement site for 38 youth that was subsidized through WA agency funds.

YEP Employer Sponsors (Direct Hire or Financial Sponsors)

Across the Hall Boutique	Home 2 Suites	Project Independence
AGH	Home Plus Care	Reflection Living
Alloy Architecture	Homestead Assisted Living	Roxy's
Anthony Elementary	Homewell Healthcare	Rusty Eck Ford
Assisted Living Locators	Ideal	Sedgwick County Zoo
Assurance Community Care	Integra Technologies	Sheet Metal Workers Local 29
Balderas Legal Group	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Sojourners Coffee Shop
Bank of America	Irwin Potter Drug	Spirit AeroSystems
Bill's American Muffler	KAKE	Starkey Inc
Bin Shop'n	Kansas Trap Association	Tanganyika Wildlife Park
Black Hills Energy	Kaw Valley	Textron Aviation
Bombardier	KGD	The Arnold Group
Carrington at Cherry Creek	KS Diabetes & Endocrinology	The Lois House
Child Start	KWCH	The Salvation Army
City of Derby	Manpower	T-Mobile
City of Wichita	McConnell Airforce Base	United Way of the Plains
Cox Machine	Mel Hambleton Ford	US Airforce
CPRF	Meritrust Credit Union	USD 259
Crown Uptown	MSE Foods	Vornado
DCF Janitorial	National Electrical Contractors Association	Vintage Stock
Dillard's	NIAR	Walden Staffing
Dillions	O.J. Watson Park	Walk-ons Bistro
Epic Sports	Old Cow Town Museum	Wendy's
Exploration Place	Patterson Health Center	Wesley
Fire Point	PEC: Professional Engineering Consultants	Wichita Art Museum
Flagship Kansas	PeopleReady	Wichita Manufacturers Association
FORVIS	Platinum Health	Wichita Metro Crime Commission
Foulston Attorneys at Law	Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 441	Wichita State
Goodwill Industry	Presbyterian Manor	WSU Tech
Greater Wichita YMCA		WSU Molecular Lab
Green Acres Market		
Heartland Veterinary		
HM Dunn		

YEP Supporting Community Partners

Airforce National Guard
Dondlinger Construction
Groover Labs

Kansas Dept. of Children & Families
Kruse Industries
Let's go full STEAM
NTXUS
Regional Forensic Science Center

Sedgwick County Court 18th District Court
Sedgwick County Emergency
Communications Center
Sedgwick County Jail
The Urban League of Kansas
Waldinger Corporation
Wichita Police- K-9 Unit
Wichita Transit

YEP Participant Self-Reported Employers

Advanced Physical therapy
All-Star Adventures
Arby's
BDs Mongolian Bar and
Grill
Bella Vita Bistro
Bliss Climbing and Fitness
Bluefin Sake Bar
Braums
Cargill
Chicken N Pickle
Chipotle
Church's Chicken
City of Bel Aire
Davis-Moore
Dollar Tree
Dutch Bros
Ella Baker Freedom
Schools Summer Program
Freddy's

Fuzzys Taco Shop
H Tea O
Hamptons
Marshall's
McDonald's
McPherson Health and
Rehab
Mitchell Theater
Nail Elements
Nifty Nut House
On the Border
Orr Nissan
Otter Creek Landscapes
Pizza Hut
Prairie Station Vet Clinic
Premier Food Services
Primrose of Wichita West
Public at the Brickyard
QuikTrip
Quivira Scout Ranch

Red Lobster
Red Rock
Roller City
Rolling Hills Country Club
Sakura Japanese Cuisine
Scooter's Coffee
Shoe Carnival
Spirit Halloween
Starbucks
Subway
Sutherland Lumber Co.
Taco Bell
TJ Maxx
Tropical Smoothie Cafe
Tutor's Pizza
Ulta Beauty
West Wichita Optometry
Wichita Sports/Stryker
Soccer Complex

Workforce Alliance YEP 2023 Participant Demographics

In 2023, 957 of the 5,732 young adults who participated in YEP through the Workforce Alliance formally registered for the program. Data has been compiled on those participants and is listed below:

Age	Participants	Percentage
14	176	9.90%
15	139	18.10%
16	230	29.95%
17	190	24.74%
18	100	13.02%
19	24	3.13%
20	4	.52%
22	1	.13%
23/24	4	.52%

Gender	Participants	Percentage
Female	352	36.78%
Male	397	41.48%
Prefer not to Answer	208	21.73%

Race	Participants	Percentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	24	2.51%
Asian or Asian Americas	77	8.05%
Black or African American	144	15.05%
Ethnic Hispanic or Latino	148	15.46%
More than One Race	31	3.24%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	.73%
Not Identified or Prefer not to Answer	31	21.53%
White or Caucasian	450	47.02%

YEP Participant Residence by Zip Code		
Zip Code	Participants	Percentage
67203	211	22.47%
67042	54	5.75%
67207	40	4.26%
67212	39	4.15%
67226	38	4.05%
67205	34	3.62%
67216	31	3.30%
67230	27	2.88%
67217	26	2.77%
67144	25	2.66%
67208	25	2.66%
67003	24	2.56%
67214	23	2.45%
67219	22	2.34%
67218	21	2.24%
67213	19	2.02%
67004	18	1.92%
67037	18	1.92%
67002	17	1.81%
67220	15	1.60%
67058	15	1.60%
67204	15	1.60%
67235	13	1.38%
67101	13	1.38%
67211	13	1.38%
67152	12	1.28%
67210	11	1.17%
All Others	138	14.4

YEP Participants by County		
County	Participants	Percentage
Butler	129	13.5%
Cowley	6	0.62%
Harper	45	4.7%
Harvey	10	1%
Sedgwick	715	74.7%
Sumner	52	5.4%

**All Other includes zip codes account for less than 1% of total participants per zip code including 67017,67052,67010, 67114, 67206, 67209,67110,6706091, 67067, 67146,67133, 67228,6721,67074, 67202,67031, 67147, 67009, 67013,67049, 67232, 67135, 67223, 67120,67726, 67036, 67150, 67229, 67022, 67070, 67076, 67502, 67039, 67103, 67005*

YEP Participant Previous Participation History

Participation	Participants	Percentage
First Time YEP Participant in 2023	913	95.4%
Returning YEP Participant	32	3.34
Previous Participant with HYPE Partner	30	3.13%

YEP Participant Barriers to Employment

Barrier*	Participants	Percentage
Have never been employed or limited work history	250	34.32%
Family receives Free/Reduced Lunch	190	24.74%
Family receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	50	6.51%
Need assistance to access transportation	33	4.30%
Disability	40	5.21%
Family receives Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	18	2.34%
Foster Child	15	1.95%
Family receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	12	1.56%
Pregnant or Parenting Teen	3	0.39%
Homeless	0	0.28%
Justice Involved	1	0.13%
High School Drop Out	9	1.17%

**Participants could identify more than one barrier to employment, if applicable. On average, there were 1.16 barriers to employment per participant.*

YEP Participant Employment Area of Interest*

Industry	Participants	Percentage
Banking or Finance	161	20.96%
Clerical or /Office	97	12.63%
Construction	115	14.97%
Customer Service or Retail	174	22.66%
Food Service or Hospitality	137	17.84%
Healthcare	189	24.61%
Information Technology	197	25.65%
Janitorial or Maintenance	48	6.25%
Manufacturing	202	26.30%
Other**	396	53.66%

**Participants could select more than one area of interest if applicable. On average, there were 2.7 areas of interest per participant.*

***Participants could write in industries or occupations not listed. Other areas identified include the following and account for less than 1% of participants per industry: Accounting, Aeronautical Engineering, Agriculture, Athletics, Business, Communications, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Digital Marketing, Early Childhood Development, Education, Film Making, Game Design, Graphic Design, Human Resources, Military, Music, Photography, Psychology, Real Estate, Robotics, Social Work, Welding, and Zoo Keeping.*

Participant Education Level Data

School Status	Participants	Percentage
Attending High School	893	93.31%
Attending College	14	1.46%
Attending Middle School	24	2.31%
Not Attending School	47	4.91%

Participation by High School

School	Participants	Percentage
Maize South	11	1.49%
Maize	21	2.19%
Attica/Chaparral	69	7.21%
Circle	94	9.8%
Wichita East	49	5.1%
Wichita North	33	3.44%
Wichita South	30	3.13%
Wichita Southeast	55	5.74%
El Dorado	21	2.2%
Maize Complete	30	3.13%
Wichita Northeast	20	2.1%
Derby	25	2.61%
Wichita Heights	28	2.9%
Wichita West	17	1.8%
Other*	457	47.75%

**Other high schools, which represent less than 1% of the total per school include the following in descending order: Wichita Northwest, Haysville Campus, Valley Center, Goddard Eisenhower, Goddard, Newton, Andover Central, Andover, Argonia, Acceleration Academy, Rose Hill, Clearwater, Salina Central, Sedgwick, The Independent School, Wichita Alternative, Goddard Academy, Heritage Academy, Kapaun Mt Carmel, Mulvane Homeschool, Sowers Alternative*

Participation by College

School	Participants	Percentage
WSU Tech	6	.62%
Kansas State University	1	.1%
Wichita State University	4	.41%
Butler Community College	2	.20%
Pittsburg State University	1	.1%