



2024 Youth Employment Project

Final Report
October 2024

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 of YEP focus on leveraging resources and aligning services to create significant community impact.

In 2024, YEP continued its collaboration with the City of Wichita, the Greater Wichita YMCA, and Wichita Public Schools 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 2024, and comparison to past years are below.

Overall, 2024 was a successful year, as most of the project goals were met or exceeded. There were a few exceptions and all of the outcomes will be analyzed. Highlights from 2024 include:

- Connecting with over 5,765 young adults
- **Employment opportunities for 2,893**
- **Over \$4.1 million estimated wages earned by young adults**
- Engagement with 430 employers
- Created a new Camp HYPE with Bombardier
- Over 695 High school Interns placed at:
 - Bombardier
 - Butler Community College
 - City of Derby
 - City of El Dorado
 - City of Wichita (Mayor Lily Wu)
 - Cox Machine
 - Dondlinger
 - Ennovar
 - Greater Wichita Partnership
 - Kansas Leadership Center
 - Kansas Department of Transportation
 - Romney Farms
 - Spirit AeroSystems
 - Textron Aviation
 - Wichita Business Journal
 - Wichita State University

2024 YEP Outcomes

Measure	2024 Actual	2024 Goals	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Total Young Adults Served	5,765	6,000	5,732	3,583
Total Employment	2,893	2,500	2,392	2,261
Wages Earned (estimated)	\$4,165,920	\$3,500,000	\$3,444,480	\$2,913,120
Workshop Participation	740	1,000	858	913
Badges Awarded	1,542	2,000	1,545	2,151
ESC Certificates Earned	514	800	515	717
Camp HYPE Participation	146	200	164	92
Employer Engagement	430	450	435	244
Job Fairs	18	25	20	11
Job Fair Attendance by Young Adults	2,403	3,000	2,653	1,833
Job Fair Attendance by Employers	320	250	248	207
Events (Outreach, Job Fair, Workshop)	141	150	115	42
Schools and Districts Engagement	31 schools in 15 districts	30 schools 16 districts	27 schools 16 districts	20 schools 14 districts
Counties Engaged	7	6	6	6
WIOA Referrals	30	50	30	N/A

The following is a breakdown of reported employment for 2024 by HYPE Partners:

2024 HYPE Employment Outcomes

Employment Type	Total
WIOA Subsidized (WA)	38
YEP Subsidized (WA)	147
YEP Employer Funded (WA)	2,288
The Way to Work (City of Wichita)	175
Job Prep (YMCA)	221
Youth Self-Reported (WA)	24
Total	2,893

Participants

In 2024, YEP served 5,765 young adults and engaged 430 employers, reflecting a .57% increase in youth served and a 1.1% decrease in employers engaged compared to 2023 totals.

Estimates Wages and Economic Impact

Wage estimates for 2024 YEP participants are \$4,165,920. This is calculated by taking the number of job placements with an estimated wage of \$9 per hour for 20 hours per week over eight weeks.

Outreach

Outreach sessions were conducted with area high schools and community partners. In total, 23 outreach sessions were held at 19 high schools in six school districts across three counties. These sessions were attended by 752 young adults. This is a 27% increase in the number of sessions held and a 9% increase in youth attendance at outreach events over 2023 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 attended and were awarded the ESC credential if they completed the entire series of YEP workshops. The ESC Workshop series was offered 25 times from January through July 2024, a 19% increase in the number of workshops compared to 2023; 740 participants attended YEP Workshops, and 1,542 badges were awarded for workshop participation. In total, 514 participants earned the Youth Essential Skills Certificate.

YEP Job Fairs

A total of 20 job fairs were held in 2024 and attended by 2,403 young adults and 320 employers.

Job Placements

The final outcome for YEP 2024 was 2,892 job placements. A list of participating employers is attached. The majority of job placements were for seasonal, temporary or part-time jobs, but the number of dedicated high school summer internships continues to increase; some participants also found employment outside of the program after completing a workshop and self-reported their jobs. Most wages earned by participants were directly funded by the employer, however some participants participated in subsidized wage programs.

Road Trip Nation

The Road Trip Nation documentary series "[Paths Across Kansas](#)" features a green RV as the backdrop for the journeys of local college students exploring career opportunities throughout Kansas.

In 2024, YEP integrated comprehensive curriculum from Road Trip Nation, designed to inspire students to explore their passions and discover potential career paths. Through engaging video content, interactive activities, and personal reflection, students are guided on a journey of self-discovery. Key components of the curriculum include:

- Self-reflection and goal setting: Students are encouraged to identify their interests, values, and aspirations.
- Career exploration: The curriculum introduces students to a diverse range of careers, providing insights into different industries and job roles.
- Interviewing skills: Students learn how to conduct effective interviews, gaining valuable communication and interpersonal skills.
- Storytelling and presentation: Students develop their storytelling abilities and learn to present their ideas confidently.

Throughout the year the overall analytics and engagements with Road Trip Nation curriculum was:



Metrics	Totals
Total Users	648
Sessions	1,208
Views	1,979
Engagement Rate	67%
Video clicks	212
Resources clicks	114

Transfr Virtual Career Exploration

In 2024, YEP integrated Transfr Virtual Reality Career Exploration headset in classroom experiences and at outreach events. Transfr is an innovative platform that provides students with immersive experiences to explore various career paths. Through virtual reality simulations, students can virtually step into different professions, gaining firsthand insights into daily tasks, responsibilities, and the overall work environment.

Key features of Transfr VR Career Exploration include:

- Immersive experiences: Students can experience a wide range of careers, from healthcare to engineering, in a realistic virtual setting.
- Hands-on simulations: The platform offers interactive activities that allow students to practice skills and tasks related to specific professions.
- Career guidance: Transfr provides personalized career guidance and support to help students identify their interests and make informed career choices.



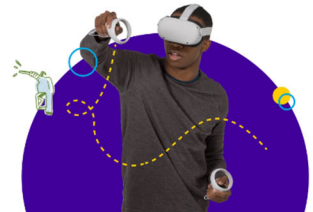
Automotive



Aviation



Construction



Diesel



Electrical Construction



Manufacturing



Health Sciences

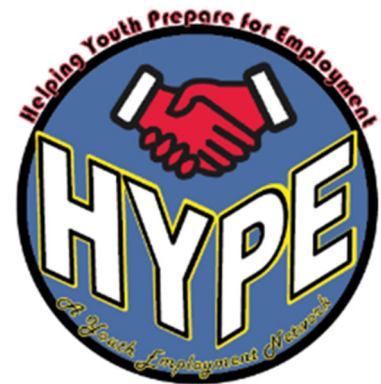
A summary of the Transfr activity for YEP students includes 228 simulations in the following areas:

Cluster and Simulation	Total Views
Architecture & Construction	75
Demolish an Overpass	3
Drill an Underground System	12
Fix Power Outage at a Hospital	17
Install a Solar Panel on a Home	11
Rebuild a Destroyed Communication Tower	7
Rebuild a Historic Bakery Roof	1
Restore Power to a Neighborhood	9
Restore Power to an Entire Town	15
Construction: Skilled Trades: Prepare a Pipe for a Commercial Building	3
Health Science	76
Assist with an Electrocardiogram (EKG)	2
Assist with Knee Surgery	39
Help an Emergency Patient	33
Prepare an Intravenous (IV) Infusion	2
Information Technology: Fix an App Service Outage	10
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security: Help at a Car Crash	32
Manufacturing	20
Find the Contaminated Microchips	9
Fix a Broken Assembly Line	9
Repair an Industrial Cooker	2
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	12
Change the Oil in an Automobile	5
Replace an EV Battery	3
Service a Commercial Airplane	4
Total	228

Camp HYPE

Camp HYPE is a week of career exploration that combines ESC workshops with tours to local employers by industry. It is structured as an “employment opportunity” and students who successfully completed a week of camp earn a \$200 stipend.

- Nine Camps were held weekly from June 6 – August 10
- Wichita Public Schools provided eight 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 had access to laptops and every student was able to create a resume.



Camp HYPE Weekly Summary

Date	Camp Sponsor and Theme	Attended
June 3-6	Sumner County	5
June 10-13	Public Safety Sponsored by Wichita Metro Crime Commission	23
June 17-20	Healthcare Sponsored by Ascension Via Christi	13
June 24-27	Trade Skills	15
July 8-11	Tech sponsored by FlagshipKansas.Tech	14
July 8-11	Financial Services sponsored by Bank of America and Meritrust Credit Union	19
July 15- 18	Spirit AeroSystems	20
July 22- 25	Bombardier	16
July 29-Augt 1	Textron Aviation	21

HYPE/YEP Participant Feedback

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

- This is a great program and I learned a lot of valuable things. I never would have spoken in front of group but working with Chelsea over these years I was able to come back and speak with other HYPE Campers about my experience at boot camp, which I never would have been brave enough to do beforehand.
- Love the working environment! Would like to have more work next time. Felt like I could have done more for the company. Love the out of work activities.
- YEP helped me learn how to handle and manage my time in looking for jobs. I learned a lot of people skills through icebreakers and simply talking to people I have never talked to before.
- The YEP people at the fair were very supportive
- Sarah has a great time in the workforce camp, it is really quality time with great people. She has more ideas about job and career also she makes new friends. She wants to do that camp again next year
- Thank you for helping Sarah join the CAMP... We really appreciate
- I got to see a lot of planes. I got to go inside the global 8000. I made some friends. I got some career development.
- The trips and being with my friends
- I liked the field trips we went to different businesses
- The field trip experiences
- Meeting new people and learning about finance
- The relaxed atmosphere, exposure to different industries and hands on experience with job seeker task.
- The kids like the building and the net app visit
- hanging out
- I like meeting the people that worked in these services it helped me learn a lot and I got a new perspective about the variety of jobs that exist within banks and that not everyone has to be a teller.
- Staff is polite
- Being able to operate Astro
- Friendship and interesting topics.

2024 YEP Employer Participation

A total of 95 employers hired young adults through YEP 2024.

YEP Employer Sponsors (Direct Hire or Financial Sponsors)

Across the Hall Boutique	HM Dunn	Rusty Eck Ford
Allen Gibbs & Houlik	Homestead Assisted Living	Sedgwick County
Alloy Architecture	Homewell Healthcare	Sedgwick County Zoo
Anthony Elementary	Ideal	Sheet Metal Workers Local
Assisted Living Locators	International Brotherhood	29
Assurance Community	of Electrical Workers	Skyward Credit Union
Care	Irwin Potter Drug	Sojourners Coffee Shop
Balderas Legal Group	KAKE	Spirit AeroSystems
Bank of America	KS Diabetes &	Starkey Inc
Bill's American Muffler	Endocrinology	Star Lumber
Bin Shop'n	KWCH	Tanganyika Wildlife Park
Bombardier	Manpower	Textron Aviation
Center Industries	McConnell Airforce Base	The Arnold Group
Church's Chicken	Mel Hambleton Ford	The Lois House
City of Derby	Meritrust Credit Union	The Salvation Army
City of Wichita	MSE Foods	T-Mobile
Computer Depot	Music Theatre of Wichita	United Way of the Plains
Cox Machine	National Electrical	US Airforce
CPRF	Contractors Association	Wichita Public Schools
Criss Optical	NIAR	Vornado
DCF Janitorial	NORC	Vintage Stock
Dillard's	O.J. Watson Park	Walden Staffing
Dillions	Old Cow Town Museum	Walk-ons Bistro
Dynamic NC	PEC: Professional	Wendy's
Epic Sports	Engineering Consultants	Wesley
Exploration Place	PeopleReady	Wichita Art Museum
FlagshipKansas.Tech	Platinum Health	Wichita Manufacturers
FORVIS	Plumbers and Pipefitters	Association
Goodwill Industry	Local 441	Wichita Metro Crime
Greater Wichita YMCA	Presbyterian Manor	Commission
Green Acres Market	Project Independence	Wichita State University
Habitat Re-Store	Reflection Living	WSU Tech
Heartland Veterinary	Roxy's	WSU Molecular Lab

YEP Supporting Community Partners

Airforce National Guard
Dondlinger Construction
Groover Labs
Kansas Dept. of Children & Families
Kruse Industries
Let's go full STEAM Ahead
NTXUS
Regional Forensic Science Center

Sedgwick County 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
Mark Arts
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 Canyon Grill
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 2024 Participant Demographics

In 2024, 1,265 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	144	11.31%
15	230	18.18%
16	315	24.09%
17	332	26.24%
18	195	15.41%
19	34	2.68%
20	8	.6%
22	1	.13%
23/24	6	.52%

Gender	Participants	Percentage
Female	563	34.43%
Male	779	47.64%
Prefer not to Answer	293	17.92%

Race	Participants	Percentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	45	3.7%
Asian or Asian Americas	175	8.05%
Black or African American	366	12.41%
Ethnic Hispanic or Latino	293	19.93%
More than One Race	65	4.28%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	15	1.34%
Not Identified or Prefer not to Answer	250	21.53%
White or Caucasian	426	47.02%

YEP Participant Residence by Zip Code		
Zip Code	Participants	Percentage
67203	357	28%
67042	56	5.75%
67207	76	4.26%
67212	49	4.15%
67226	45	4.05%
67205	41	3.62%
67216	23	3.30%
67230	37	2.88%
67217	42	2.77%
67144	1	2.66%
67208	29	2.66%
67003	12	2.56%
67214	1	2.45%
67219	11	2.34%
67218	29	2.24%
67213	14	2.02%
67004	18	1.92%
67037	33	1.92%
67002	36	1.81%
67220	29	1.60%
67058	19	1.60%
67204	18	1.60%
67235	18	1.38%
67101	9	1.38%
67211	41	1.38%
67152	3	1.28%
67210	10	1.17%
All Others	138	14.4

YEP Participants by County		
County	Participants	Percentage
Butler	142	11.22%
Harper	32	2.5%
Harvey	6	.47%
Reno	3	.23%
Sedgwick	761	60.15%
Sumner	28	2.21%

**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 2024	1,123	88.77%
Returning YEP Participant	73	5.77%
Previous Participant with HYPE Partner	69	5.45%

YEP Participant Barriers to Employment

Barrier*	Participants	Percentage
Have never been employed or limited work history	320	25.29%
Family receives Free/Reduced Lunch	250	19.76%
Family receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	95	7.50%
Need assistance to access transportation	28	2.2%
Disability	55	4.3%
Family receives Social Security Disability Income	34	2.6%
Foster Child	22	1.73%
Family receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	13	1.02%
Pregnant or Parenting Teen	2	0.15%
Homeless	1	0.07%
Justice Involved	7	0.55%
High School Drop Out	12	.94%

**Participants could identify more than one barrier to employment, if applicable. On average, there were .66 barriers to employment per participant.*

YEP Participant Employment Area of Interest*

Industry	Participants	Percentage
Banking or Finance	263	20.79%
Clerical or /Office	153	12.09%
Construction	135	10.67%
Customer Service or Retail	215	16.99%
Food Service or Hospitality	172	13.59%
Healthcare	268	21.18%
Information Technology	292	23.08%
Janitorial or Maintenance	81	6.40%
Manufacturing	253	20%
Other**	198	15.65%

**Participants could select more than one area of interest if applicable. On average, there were 1.6 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	1,156	93.38%
Attending College	29	2.2%
Attending Middle School	30	2.37%
Not Attending School	50	3.95%

Participation by High School

School	Participants	Percentage
Wichita East	97	7.60%
Wichita Northeast	55	4.34%
Andover Central	50	3.90%
Wichita North	47	3.71%
Wichita West	46	3.63%
Wichita Heights	43	3.39%
El Dorado	42	3.32%
Wichita Southeast	42	3.32%
Derby	39	3.08%
Kapaun Mt. Carmel	35	2.76%
Maize South	34	2.68%
Attica/Chaparral	32	2.52%
Wichita South	29	2.29%
Maize	26	2.05%
Wichita Northwest	23	1.81%
Andover	21	1.60%
Eisenhower	16	1.26%

**Other high schools, which represent less than 1% of the total per school include the following: Augusta, Belle Plaine, Bishop Carrol, Brooks Middle School, Campus, Clearwater, Coleman Middle School, Complete High School Maize, Conway, Curtis Middle School, Education Imagine Academy, Independent School, Garden Plains, Goddard, Holy Savior, Home School, Hutchinson, Life Prep, Mulvane, Newton, Rose Hill, Sowers, Valley Center, Udall, Wellington, Wilbur*

Participation by College

School	Participants	Percentage
WSU Tech	3	.62%
Butler Community College	4	.20%