



Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Partnership

Employer Lunch & Learn

Date: February 5, 2026

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Manufacturing Future Ready Center - 1435 N. Waco

Welcome & Purpose: (Mayor Wu, Board President Reeser)

The State of Youth Employment in Wichita (Amanda Duncan and Kelly Bielefeld)

Inside the HYPE Collaborative

- Overview of the HYPE network and partner roles
 - Job Prep: YMCA
 - Way to Work: City of Wichita
 - Youth Employment Project: Workforce Alliance

Employer Perspectives

- Examples from local employers currently hosting high school interns
 - Cheryl Childers, Human Resource Director, Cox Machine
 - Michele Gifford, Human Resource Director, Textron Aviation

Discussion: What's Possible for Summer 2026 (Mayor Wu, Board President Reeser)

- Open conversation with business leaders:
 - What types of roles or projects could work in your organization?
 - What support would make participation feasible?
 - Barriers the HYPE partners need to help remove to increase employer partnerships

Call to Action & Next Steps (Mayor Wu, Board President Reeser)

- How to get involved for Summer 2026

