

YOUTH CAREER CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

CONNECTING INDUSTRY TO THE CLASSROOM STRENGTHENS COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS.

The majority of California jobs require education and training beyond high school, yet less than half of the state’s high school students are college- or career-ready. Our county’s future economic competitiveness and long-term success relies on the strength of our educational pipeline.

For this reason, United Way’s commitment to student success doesn’t end with a high school diploma—we want to ensure local graduates are prepared for lifelong success. United Way’s Youth Career Connections is the next evolution of the Destination Graduation program that works with high schools’ Career Technical Education classes to provide work-based learning opportunities to both students and teachers to better align classroom curriculum with 21st century workforce needs.

By collaborating with industry partners, we are working toward our FACE 2024 goal of cutting the high school dropout rate in half

and addressing the skills gap by placing students on the path toward academic and economic success in the following sectors:

-  Arts, Media and Entertainment
-  Business, Finance and Marketing
-  Engineering and Architecture
-  Health Services and Medical Technology
-  Information and Computer Technology



“The program brings together CEOs and kids because there is a shared future. Anaheim, like many other communities, is only going to be as strong as its kids.”

—Superintendent Michael Matsuda of Anaheim Unified School District.

“It was a really good program. I’m more prepared for college now as well as my next job. I’ve been getting hands-on experience that prepared me. The support from United Way and my teachers gave me consistent motivation to continue working hard.”

—Bao Van, SM&A student intern.

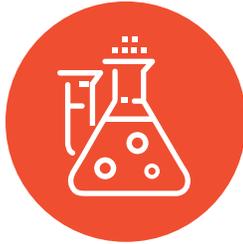
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United Way Youth Career Connections' integrated, work-based learning initiative infuses classroom learning with real-world career experiences by connecting students directly to employers so they graduate college-, career- and life-ready.



GOOD FOR STUDENTS

Students engage more in class when they are able to see how their curriculum is connected to the real world. They also develop soft skills that allow them to grow their personal and professional networks.



GOOD FOR SCHOOLS

Teachers develop curriculum that aligns with 21st century career needs to support career pathways and ensure the economic vitality of our community. Students are more driven by hands-on projects and both attendance and graduation rates improve.



GOOD FOR EMPLOYERS

Employers meaningfully engage with students and teachers to better educate the next generation of employees about their business and the skills required while fostering the company's commitment through civic engagement in the community.

KEY PARTNERS

Educational Partners

- Anaheim Union High School District
- Garden Grove Unified School District
- Orange County Department of Education – OC Pathways

A Few of Our Corporate Partners

- Alcon
- CHOC
- Disneyland Resort
- Eaton Aerospace
- Edward Lifesciences
- Google Fiber
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kelley Blue Book
- LITTLE
- L3 Harris
- Opus Bank
- PBS SoCal
- SM&A
- St. Joseph Hospital
- Sunwest Bank
- UCI Health
- Ware Malcomb

Youth Career Connections provides a full spectrum of work-based learning experiences with different levels of engagement.

1. ARRANGE VIRTUAL CORPORATE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS for industry leaders to share personal experiences and professional insight on specific academic and career technical standards to add dimension to student learning.

2. HOST VIRTUAL INDUSTRY SITE VISITS to companies that are aligned with students' career pathways and interests. Students are encouraged to ask employees questions and observe various occupations, equipment, practices and policies in action that may be covered in classroom learning.

3. PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL TEACHER LEARNING PANELS that allow educators to consult with 3 to 4 industry professionals about the curriculum and/or project design to strengthen industry rigor and relevance.

4. HOST A VIRTUAL INTERN and offer virtual career readiness training for 4 weeks at a company aligned with the student's career interest. Students gain school credit, build a professional network and receive a scholarship upon program completion.



Orange County United Way

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#UNITED4OC
#DoingMore4OC

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