CAREER ACADEMIES

2017 UPDATE

PROGRAM GOALS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your investment, Career Academies is fast becoming a collective movement of educators, employers, government, and community organizations dedicated to reimagining education across the state. Greater Twin Cities United Way has partnered with over 40 organizations across multiple sectors – including K-12, post-secondary, employers, nonprofits and government – to further develop a sustainable career pathways ecosystem that will prepare the next generation for career success in an ever-changing world. Launched during United Way's Centennial in 2015, the Career Academies model has expanded across the Twin Cities and will soon be implemented in two regional communities in Greater Minnesota.

YEAR 2 RESULTS
2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

- 26 career pathways launched
- 3,300 students engaged (surpassing our 2020 enrollment goal faster than anticipated)
- **Enrollment:** Students of color represented 48% of students reached as compared to an average of 13% of students of color engaged in concurrent enrollmentopportunities
- **College Savings:** Students earned 1,668 college credits and 90 industry credentials, saving over $393,948 in tuition
- **Career Readiness:**
  - 100% of students received direct career exposure through internships, mentorships, workplace tours and guest lectures
  - 87% of students demonstrate strong critical thinking skills

YEAR 3 PROGRESS TO-DATE
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

- 27 career pathways launched with 6 more pathways in planning for next school year
- 4,000 students engaged to-date
- 40+ local and statewide partners that include school districts in theTwin Cities metro and Greater Minnesota, community colleges, nonprofit organizations, & government agencies
- Pathways include: Healthcare, Manufacturing/Engineering, STEM/IT, Construction/Building Trades, Education/ Public Service, Business/Marketing/ Finance, Automotive, and Agriculture

NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

United Way is expanding Career Academies by leveraging a set of interconnected strategies to create a sustainable career pathways ecosystem across a network of multi-sector partners. Our efforts include:

- **Program Investments:** We're continuing to scale career pathways in school districts throughout the metro while strengthening a broader range of nonprofit, workforce development, and career pathways efforts.

- **Partner Capacity-Building:** We're supporting our partners in the field by:
  - Providing technical assistance to grantees around topics like pathway and curricula development.
  - Fostering cross-sector partnerships across K-12, post-secondary, employers, and nonprofits.
  - Conducting evaluation for continuous improvement through customized technical assistance and hosting regional convenings to foster interconnectivity and collaboration across career pathways efforts.

- **Systems Change:** We're partnering with MN State, the Minnesota Department of Education, and others to form a statewide coalition that will seek to elevate the collective progress of career pathways to inform policy and funding decisions as well as school systems change across the state.

With promising momentum in the Twin Cities, United Way has recently expanded Career Academies into two communities in Greater Minnesota (South Central and Southwest Minnesota) with support from the Bush Foundation. This strategic expansion will test the evidence-based model in rural communities, informing career pathways work across the state and establishing the case for continued investment and education systems change in Minnesota.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

"Career Academies pushed me to take classes that I may not have tried before."

"I like how students can choose the classes they are interested in. The element of freedom coupled with a focus on potential career paths makes for a good opportunity for students."

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING:

"If United Way did not provide these opportunities … I wouldn't even know where to start. They are doing a fantastic job of pulling all the right people together."