YOUTHFORCE NOLA
CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAREER SUCCESS

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
REAL-WORLD SKILLS. REAL-LIFE SUCCESS.
EMPLOYER PARTNERS


From our 2015 inception to December 2018, these employer partners have provided learning experiences for our students and educators, from student internships and educator externships to site visits and exhibitions at the YouthForce Career Expo. Bolded organizations have participated in more than one of these opportunities.
WHO WE ARE

YouthForce NOLA is a civic, education, and business collaborative that works in service of New Orleans’ youth. The organizations and individuals listed throughout this report represent our full network of vision-aligned partners. We are building relationships, informing policy, and creating opportunities across the city and region to connect our in-school youth to future career success. Through strategic alignment across our network of schools, employers, training providers, and communities, we offer a well-rounded student experience that features career awareness, soft skills development, job-specific and technical skills training, and meaningful work experiences to open enrollment public school students.

SCHOOL NETWORK

Abramson Sci Academy | Collegiate Opportunities Academy | Edna Karr High School
Einstein Charter High School | Eleanor McMain Secondary School | G.W. Carver High School
John F. Kennedy Senior High School at Lake Area | KIPP Booker T.Washington High School
KIPP Renaissance High School | L.B. Landry-O.P. Walker College and Career Preparatory High School
Livingston Collegiate Academy | McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School
Morris Jeff Community School | New Harmony High
New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School (Sci High)
New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy (NOMMA) | ReNEW Accelerated High School
Rooted School | Sophie B. Wright Charter School | The Net Charter High School
Walter L. Cohen College Prep | Warren Easton High School

As of December 2018, these schools represent 84% of New Orleans’ open enrollment public high schools. Italicized schools have received funding from YouthForce NOLA to implement career pathway programs of study.

TRAINING PROVIDER PARTNERS

Gateway EMS | New Orleans Career Center (NOCC) | New Orleans Technical Education Provider (NOTEP)
New Orleans Video Access Center (NOVAC) | Operation Spark | Per Scholas
Delgado Community College | Nunez Community College | Northshore Technical Community College
OUR VISION
New Orleans public school graduates are thriving economically, and are the most sought after talent for hiring and advancement in the region’s high-wage, fast-growing industries.

OUR WORK
Together with our business, civic, and education partners, we are creating a more educated, prosperous, and equitable future for our entire city.

SCHOOLS
We help school partners expand their educational capacity to include career programming through our workshops, Soft Skills Teacher Fellowship, externships, employer connections, and other opportunities.

EMPLOYERS
We integrate employers’ hiring needs into our educational and training programming and help employers productively host young people and educators in their workplaces.

TRAINING PROVIDERS
We provide new and existing training providers with the resources and connections needed to deliver robust technical and soft skill training programs to students.

STUDENTS

COMMUNITY & FAMILIES
We foster and amplify the voices of families as we prepare their youth for successful futures, and we ensure that they, too, have access to quality information about our region’s career opportunities.
To reach our vision of economically prosperous graduates, we remain focused on ensuring our students have the technical abilities, meaningful work experiences, and soft skills required to make our vision a reality. We have already made tremendous progress against all of these goals.

**Technical Skills**

- **20% of the Class of 2020** will earn industry-recognized credentials that will place them on the path to high-wage, high-demand careers.
- **Priority Skills Clusters:**
  - Digital Media/IT
  - Health Science
  - Skilled Crafts
- **Progress:**
  - **825** Seniors have earned industry-recognized credentials since 2015, against a cumulative 2020 target of 1,475.

**Meaningful Work Experience**

- **10% of the Class of 2020** will complete meaningful work experience.
- **Placement Industries:**
  - Architecture
  - Construction
  - Engineering
  - Graphic Design
  - Healthcare
  - Hospitality
  - Public Service
  - Web and Software Development
- **Progress:**
  - **540** Seniors have completed YouthForce Internships since 2015, against a cumulative 2020 target of 840.

**Soft Skills Development**

- **More Graduates of the Class of 2020** annually will demonstrate employer validated, career-ready soft skills.
- **Our Soft Skills Building Blocks:**
  - Collaboration
  - Communication
  - Personal Mindset
  - Planning for Success
  - Problem Solving
  - Social Awareness
- **Progress:**
  - **84% of Supervisors** said the work readiness of their YouthForce intern was similar or favorable to that of an entry-level employee.

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*Target is 600 students based on internally projected cohort of approximately 3,000 graduates in 2020
† Target is 300 students based on internally projected cohort of approximately 3,000 graduates in 2020
‡ Progress to date on credentials earned by New Orleans public high school seniors per year: 2016 (85); 2017 (180); 2018 (349); 2019 (211)
** Progress to date on number of rising seniors completing meaningful work experiences through YouthForce Internships: 2016 (17); 2017 (99); 2018 (178); 2019 (246)
The Middle School Career Collaborative supports programs that help middle schoolers build career awareness, explore careers of interest, and develop relevant skills — especially in STEM fields — to aid their high school selection process. We’re also hosting the first Discover STEM Careers Day, a hands-on learning opportunity, in January 2019.

The Career Expo provides freshmen from across the city an interactive experience with available career and training opportunities in digital media/IT, health sciences, and skilled crafts. Thanks to over 75 employers and training providers, the 2018 Expo introduced 2,200 students to job opportunities in growing and lucrative career pathways.

Through the Employer Hub, organized in conjunction with Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans, career professionals visit classrooms while groups of students visit companies. These visits build student understanding of and excitement about a range of opportunities through meaningful job exposure. Since the program’s 2015 inception, YouthForce NOLA has facilitated 50 site visits.

Industry-recognized credentials provide students with both validation of technical skills learned and a leg up in reaching their education and career goals. Through the collective efforts of YouthForce NOLA, there has been significant growth in the number of credentialing options and quality training seats available to students. The number of students earning credentials aligned to high-wage career pathways has nearly doubled every year since 2015.

YouthForce Internships provide students the opportunity to apply their technical, soft, and other essential skills in a real-world, paid work experience. The program includes 60 hours of training followed by 90 hours of work with one of more than 90 of New Orleans’ dynamic employers.

In summer 2018, almost 200 students completed the program, representing a 90% completion rate.
Our Collaborative Steering Committee helps provide the vision, guidance, and connections needed to make this collective effort possible. They are civic, business, and education leaders from the following organizations:

**Baptist Community Ministries | City of New Orleans | Greater New Orleans, Inc.**
**JPMorgan Chase & Co. | Louisiana Department of Education**
**New Orleans Business Alliance | Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans**
**New Orleans Career Center | New Schools for New Orleans**
**Orleans Parish School Board | United Way of Southeast Louisiana**
**Urban League of Louisiana**

**Our Board**

Leslie Jacobs, Board Chair, YouthForce NOLA
Michael Hecht, President and CEO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Coleman D. Ridley Jr., Managing Director, Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region
Melissa Sparks, Vice President of Talent Management, Ochsner Health System
Mark S. Stein, Partner, Lowe, Stein, Hoffman, Allweiss & Hauver, LLP
Courtney I. Williams, Co-Founder and CEO, Torsh, Inc.
George H. Wilson, Chairman of the Board, Barriere Construction

**Our Funders**

Baptist Community Ministries | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | Bloomberg Philanthropies
Capital One | The Catalyst Foundation | Chevron | City of New Orleans | Core Construction Services, LLC
JPMorgan Chase & Co. | Keller Family Foundation | Louisiana Department of Education
Leslie Jacobs | Loving Family Fund | Rosamary Foundation | Stephen and Sandy Rosenthal Fund
Stuart Smith | United Way of Southeast Louisiana | W. K. Kellogg Foundation | The Walton Family Foundation

The listed philanthropic partners have supported YouthForce NOLA since our inception in 2015 through December 21, 2018, giving at a level of at least $3,000.

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