

Dublin City Schools' Young Professionals' Academy (YPA) is a program committed to providing work-based learning opportunities for high school juniors and seniors. Work-based learning (WBL) is a coordinated sequence of experiences designed to provide students with real-world learning through partnerships with local business and industry. These learning activities help students explore careers and choose an appropriate career path. Research has shown that WBL helps business by providing positive promotion for your company in the community, long-term workforce development, and exceptional employee productivity. Business also have discovered, recruited, and eventually hired employees through WBL internships.

The students participating in our YPA program have applied, had their grades and attendance records reviewed, and came with several recommendations prior to their acceptance. These highly motivated and capable young men and women are in need business internship partners in order to help continue to develop their future ready skills through a work-based learning opportunity.

While enrolled in YPA students are instructed in career research and preparation, communication skills, problem solving, teamwork, and the soft skills many companies are seeking in their employees. Students develop resumes and are placed at worksites and businesses based upon their career interest and aptitude. Throughout this educational partnership students experience a plethora of job activities in various departments, often interacting with several different employees or working solely with one individual. Each student is required to complete projects and observations while at each internship in coordination with their mentor(s). Our YPA work-based learning experiences involve the following:

- Six-week to twelve-week educational internship experiences are needed in either in the fall or the spring semesters of the school year
- Student will present mentor(s) with a BIB background check, emergency forms, and release of liability forms prior to starting their educational partnership
- Student and mentor(s) discuss learning goals during initial interviews
- Mentors share individual and company expectations and opportunities with the student
- Mentor(s) and student develop a schedule of three to four time periods per week for 4-6 hours per week for a total of 25-35 hours. There is flexibility as the quality of the partnership is more important than just achieving a total number of hours
- Mentors are asked to sign off on student time logs
- This is an educational learning opportunity; therefore, students are not considered employees in respect to worker's compensation or other fair labor laws as they are earning academic credits during this work-based learning experience

As a mentoring company you offer the opportunity for our future leaders to better define their life's ambition through this Work-Based Learning experience. It is our hope that we can work together to provide a vibrant hands-on experience for one of our YPA students that is mutually beneficial to all parties. Please contact one of our YPA coordinators, at: 614.718.8335 or [ypa@dublinschools.net](mailto:ypa@dublinschools.net) should you have any questions or need additional information.