



UpLink[®]

The Ultimate Tomorrow for Kids

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News

yf-uplink.org

UpLink is Greater Kansas City's community hub connecting the workplace and the classroom. It connects students and teachers with experiences that promote career exploration in math, engineering, technology and science.



LaunchPad[®]
Career Liftoff for Kids

LaunchPad connects students to internship and job shadow opportunities in local companies and organizations. It also offers a speakers bureau which connects teachers with volunteer classroom speakers.



TeacherTech[®]
Access to Innovation

TeacherTech transforms teaching and learning by connecting Greater Kansas City area K-12 teachers with 8-week, paid, summer externships in area businesses, academic institutions and research facilities.



YouthFriends[®]

Mentors Make Great People Possible

YouthFriends provides valuable opportunities for METS-professionals to mentor students for one hour a week in area elementary, middle and high schools—or serve as e-mentors.

As of October 2007, YouthFriends already welcomed more than 400 new METS mentors in Greater Kansas City.

UpLink is funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

TeacherTech: Connecting Teachers, Business

Successful pilot year wraps up; 2008 planning under way

This summer, 10 area teachers and employers participated in the pilot year of TeacherTech. In addition to employers receiving top-notch summer employees for key projects, teachers also benefited greatly by receiving exposure to real-world applications and advancements in METS fields and the workplace in general—knowledge they're already incorporating into their classrooms.

Angela Beshears, a math teacher in the North Kansas City School District who worked as a curriculum developer for American Century Investments, believes TeacherTech externships provide a great opportunity for teachers to gain first-hand knowledge to benefit students.

"This was a great opportunity for me to experience the business culture and see how math is applied in the real world," she said. "Sharing this experience with my students is invaluable."

Susanna Barchak, a chemistry teacher in the Raytown School District, agrees. Barchak spent her summer working as a research and design technical assistant for Bayer HealthCare's Animal Health Division.

"This position gave me the opportunity to implement regulatory lab practices in the classroom," she said. "I hope it helps my chemistry students develop a feel for what scientists do on a day-to-day basis."

Jenn Dolson, who worked this summer to develop a Mini-Med School program with doctors and researchers at the University of Kansas Medical Center, enjoyed knowing that her knowledge was valuable to her employer.

"As we developed the Mini-Med curriculum, I think I was a good resource for the doctors on what will work



Front (from left): Michele Radio and Jennifer Dolson. Back (from left): Betsy Wilkin, Joseph Berthelsen, Michelle Nixon, Steve Cassity, Angela Beshears and Susanna Barchak.

in the classroom with students, and what methods are usually unsuccessful," Dolson said.

High demand

Even with minimal marketing during the pilot year, more than 200 area teachers competed for the externships offered this summer. The number of applicants is expected to triple in 2008, with a goal of placing at least 50 teachers in externships next summer.

Get involved today

Now is the time for employers to get involved in TeacherTech next summer. For more information, contact Client Services Director, Rachel Plotkin, at 816.268.5911 or visit yf-uplink.org.

TeacherTech Class of 2007

Congratulations to the following teachers who successfully participated in the pilot year of TeacherTech:

Susanna Barchak, Raytown School District

Employer: Bayer Animal Health
Job Title: Research and Design Technical Assistant

Joseph J. Berthelsen, Blue Valley School District

Employer: SPC TelEquip
Job Title: Product Standardization Coordinator

Angela Beshears, North Kansas City School District

Employer: American Century Investments
Job Title: Curriculum Developer

Steve Cassity, Hickman Mills School District

Employer: Walz Tetrack Advertising
Job Title: Agency Marketing System Analyst

Jennifer Dolson, Raytown School District

Employer: University of Kansas Medical Center
Job Title: Program Developer

Walt Gomez, Kansas City, Missouri School District

Employer: Black & Veatch Corp.
Job Title: Scientific Writer/Technical Researcher

Michelle Nixon, Blue Valley School District

Employer: Science City at Union Station Kansas City
Job Title: Space Science Education Program Developer

Michele Radio, Blue Valley School District

Employer: YouthFriends
Job Title: Peer Coach

Ron Robinson, Kansas City, Missouri School District

Employer: KCP&L
Job Title: Program Coordinator

Betsy Wilkin, Olathe School District

Employer: Kansas University Physicians, Inc.
Job Title: Policies and Procedures Coordinator

Key TeacherTech Dates

- Oct. 1, 2007 • Employers can begin posting 2008 summer externship opportunities
 - Jan. 7, 2008 • Teachers can begin applying online for summer 2008 externships
 - Teachers able to review externships
 - Employers begin reviewing applications, interviewing and securing teacher interns
- (All teacher externships occur within May, June, July and August)

UpLink Founding Partners

UpLink Founding Partners are corporations, foundations and organizations that recognize young people, schools, businesses and the community benefit when businesses and education come together to enhance the knowledge and opportunities for teachers and students. Partners facilitate, encourage and participate in providing enhanced opportunities through the establishment of active partnerships between UpLink and area businesses. Partners also develop relationships that facilitate school-to-business volunteer mentoring relationships, teacher externships, volunteer classroom speakers and student job shadowing and internships focused in the industries of math, engineering, technology and science (METS).

Ewing Marion
KAUFFMAN
Foundation

GREATER KANSAS CITY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EXPANDING CHARITABLE HORIZONS

THE CHAMBER
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

HRMA
Human Resource
Management
Association
of Greater Kansas City

kansas city
AREA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

KANSAS CITY AREA
LIFE SCIENCES
INSTITUTE, INC.

UpLink Partners

UpLink Partners are employers that have committed to participate in at least one of UpLink's three components: YouthFriends, TeacherTech and LaunchPad.

American Century
Investments

Bayer HealthCare
Animal Health Division

BLACK & VEATCH
Building a world of difference.

CERNER

CVS/pharmacy

GE imagination at work

GE Energy

H&R BLOCK

HYATT
REGENCY
CROWN CENTER
KANSAS CITY

Kansas City Power & Light
ENERGIZING LIFE

KUPI
KANSAS UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS INC.

SPC
TelEquip

SP
SCIENCE
PIONEERS

Sprint

KANSAS CITY
UNION STATION
SINCE 1914

KU MEDICAL
CENTER
The University of Kansas

Featured Partner: Bayer Healthcare Workplace Tour Makes Science Make Sense



This fall, Bayer Healthcare offered students a behind-the-scenes look at its facilities.

Eleven biology and anatomy students from William Chrisman High School, along with teacher Donna Putnam, toured Bayer's facilities in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

The students toured the production and shipping areas, as well as quality control laboratories. They also were treated to lunch.

During the tour, Bayer Production Manager Jody Gossman explained how chemistry and engineering studies will benefit the students in their future careers.

In addition to offering future workplace tours through LaunchPad, Bayer also participates in TeacherTech and YouthFriends Mentoring and e-Mentoring.



Above: Students from William Chrisman High School prepare to enter Bayer for the first workplace tour opportunity offered through LaunchPad, a component of UpLink.

Left: Students tour the Bayer warehouse and learn how pharmaceuticals are packaged and shipped.

The Urgency Gap: Report reveals need for emphasis on METS education

A report recently released by Public Agenda, a public policy research group, reiterates the need for comprehensive efforts such as UpLink to bridge the gap between businesses and K-12 education in order to promote and advance the study of METS in Greater Kansas City.

The study, *Important, but Not for Me*, involved thousands of area parents, students and business leaders to assess what they think about METS education. From the report:

- Only one-fourth of area parents think their children should study more math and science; seven in 10 think things are "fine as they are now."
- There is "a considerable 'urgency gap' between leaders and experts on the one hand and parents and students on the other. Leaders need to make the case that more advanced study in math, science and technology is now essential for all students—not just the select few."
- Some business leaders criticized academics for being too disconnected from "real work" hiring needs.
- Students said they might be more motivated to study math and science if they knew more about the careers and economic opportunity those fields open to them.