



**UpLink®**

The Ultimate Tomorrow for Kids

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**News**

[yf-uplink.org](http://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 volunteer speakers bureau, which connects classrooms with volunteer career 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.

UpLink is funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

# UpLink: Connecting Greater Kansas City Businesses and Classrooms

Math, engineering, science and technology (METS) education in Greater Kansas City is getting a major boost thanks to UpLink, the area's first hub connecting businesses and classrooms to promote the study of METS and spur workforce development.

Launched by YouthFriends in February 2007, UpLink is gaining great momentum with dozens of school districts and employer partners already on board.

## Pilot Programs Take Flight

Summer 2007 marks the official start of TeacherTech and LaunchPad, two pilot programs connecting area high school students and K-12 teachers with real-world learning experiences in METS-related fields.

These student internship and teacher externship opportunities are offered by area employers and are open to all 11th and 12th grade students and teachers in participating public, private, charter and parochial school districts located throughout the five-county metropolitan area. Employers offering externships and/or internships this summer include:

- American Century Investments
- Bayer Animal Health
- CVS
- Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- GE Transportation
- GE Energy
- H&R Block
- Kansas City Power & Light
- Science City Union Station
- University of Kansas Medical Center
- Walz Tetrick Advertising
- YouthFriends

Additionally, this fall LaunchPad will begin connecting students with METS-related job shadow experiences and workplace tours with area employers. It also will connect METS-professionals with classroom speaking opportunities through a volunteer speakers bureau.

*RIGHT: The UpLink web site, [yf-uplink.org](http://yf-uplink.org), serves as an exchange network – a “one-stop-shop” of sorts – for Greater Kansas City area employers, teachers, students and prospective mentors to connect to valuable learning opportunities and each other.*

## More METS Mentors

For more than 12 years, YouthFriends has been connecting students with caring adult mentors in schools. Now through UpLink, YouthFriends is placing a particular emphasis on recruiting more METS professionals to volunteer as in-school mentors and e-mentors.

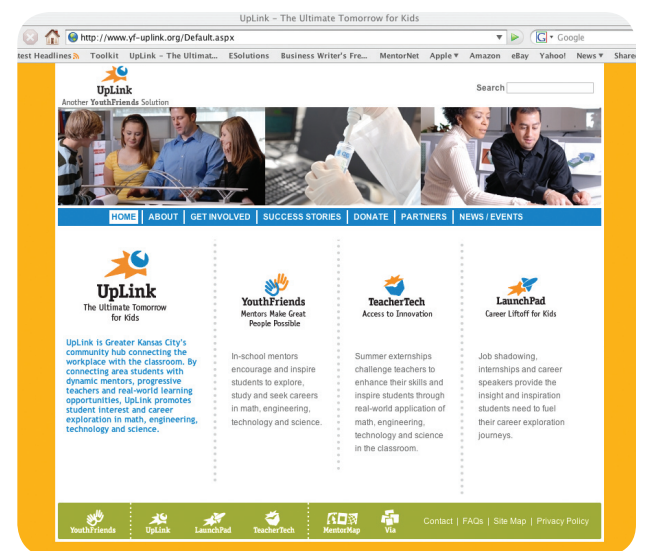
To help facilitate the demand for more mentors, YouthFriends will debut MentorMail® this fall. The e-mentoring application is an Internet-based user name/password messaging board that simulates e-mail correspondence. MentorMail® will make e-mentoring easier and more secure for students as well as busy professionals who choose to mentor from their desks or during business travel.

## On The Horizon

With the summer pilot programs under way, UpLink is now focused on goals for the 2007-2008 school year. UpLink Partners play a critical role in reaching these ambitious goals and making the Kansas City area a model for outstanding math and science education.

## Become A Partner

Now is the perfect time for school districts and employers to become UpLink Partners and prepare to participate this fall. For more information about becoming an UpLink Partner, please contact Melissa Gingell or Laura Norris at 816.842.7082.



## Statistical Snapshot: Understanding the Need for METS Education

K-12 students in Greater Kansas City.....	300,000
K-12 teachers in Greater Kansas City.....	21,000
Missouri 4th graders proficient/advanced in math.....	39%
Kansas 4th graders proficient/advanced in math.....	65%
Missouri 8th graders proficient/advanced in math.....	17%
Kansas 4th graders proficient/advanced in math.....	50%
Missouri 3rd graders proficient/advanced in science.....	49%
Kansas 3rd graders proficient/advanced in science.....	47%
Missouri 7th graders proficient/advanced in science.....	16%
Kansas 7th graders proficient/advanced in science.....	41%
Kansas City jobs in high-tech or knowledge-based industries.....	40%
Growth rate of high-tech or knowledge-based jobs in Kansas City per year.....	5%
Predicted percentage of scientists and engineers living in Asia by 2010.....	90%

# UpLink Founding Partners

**UpLink Founding Partners** are corporations, foundations and organizations that recognize young people, schools, businesses and the broader 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 career speakers and student job shadowing and internships focused in the industries of math, engineering, technology and science.

Ewing Marion  
**KAUFFMAN**  
Foundation

#### **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation**

The vision of the Kauffman Foundation is to foster a society of economically independent individuals who are engaged citizens, contributing to the improvement of their communities. In service of this vision, and in keeping with their founder's wishes, the Foundation focuses its grant making and operations on two areas: advancing entrepreneurship and improving the education of children and youth.



#### **The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to providing responsive and committed leadership that builds a vibrant and thriving community, seeking to achieve prosperity and an outstanding quality of life. The Chamber assists its members in growing their businesses by creating a community where members are connected to one another in the local, regional and global marketplace.



#### **Greater Kansas City Community Foundation**

The mission of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in Greater Kansas City by increasing charitable giving, connecting donors to community needs they care about and providing leadership on critical community issues. The Community Foundation, including its four local affiliates within the Greater Kansas City region, is recognized as a national leader in making sure every philanthropic investment returns the greatest emotional, civic and financial benefit possible.



#### **Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC)**

KCADC is the metro's umbrella economic development organization. It was created in 1976 by a group of Greater Kansas City community and business leaders to help improve the city's image and its ability to recruit leading corporations. One of KCADC's strengths is its ability to focus and mobilize diverse resources to achieve highly targeted objectives.



#### **Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute**

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute's vision is to lead the recognized transformation of the Kansas City region into a nationally-recognized center of excellence in life sciences research, development and commercialization. Its mission includes fostering and solidifying relationships between the academic and private sector life sciences communities.



#### **The Human Resource Management Association of Greater Kansas City, Inc. (HRMA-Kansas City)**

HRMA-Kansas City is a professional association dedicated to the advancement and support of the human resource profession. An affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), HRMA-Kansas City continues to grow with more than 700 active members within the Greater Kansas City area.

# UpLink Ultimate Partners

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



#### **American Century Investments**

Since 1958, American Century has evolved from a small, single-style mutual fund manager to a multi-disciplined, global asset investment management firm offering diverse investment vehicles and employing approximately 2,000 people. It has built an organization with strong values and principles, attracts and retains talented people, utilizes the best research and technology available, and executes a disciplined and repeatable investment process.



#### **Bayer Animal Health**

As a world leader in animal health, Bayer is committed to providing effective and dependable products that enhance and maintain the health of the animals. Its products and services are designed to benefit people and improve quality of life. Bayer seeks to create value through innovation, growth and improved earning power.



#### **CVS**

CVS is the nation's premier integrated pharmacy services provider, combining one of the nation's leading pharmaceutical services companies with the country's largest pharmacy chain. The company fills or manages more than one billion prescriptions per year, more than any other pharmacy services provider.



#### **GE Transportation & GE Energy**

From jet engines to power generation, financial services to plastics, and medical imaging to news and information, GE people worldwide are dedicated to turning imaginative ideas into leading products and services that help solve some of the world's toughest problems.



#### **Kansas City Power & Light**

Kansas City Power & Light is a full-service energy provider and resource. Its goal is to improve communities' economic and social well-being by community partnerships, focusing in the areas of at-risk youth, environment, economic and civic efforts.



#### **University of Kansas Medical Center**

The University of Kansas Medical Center is a complex institution whose basic functions include research, education, patient care and community service involving multiple constituencies at state and national levels. It fosters an environment to further instruction to health care professionals, research and patient service.



#### **Walz Tetrack Advertising**

Walz Tetrack is a full-service branding, advertising and communications partner that has provided image-boosting campaigns for companies in health care, agriculture, transportation, government, restaurant, hospitality, high-tech, biosecurity and a number of other industries.