

Career Pathways

The Career Pathways program was awarded \$1M (July '21 - June '23) by the State to support underserved and marginalized students to obtain industry certifications from large educational agencies (Minneapolis College, Dunwoody, and Minneapolis Public Schools) that allow them to establish themselves in well paid jobs with high growth potential.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

KEY COMPONENTS

- Focus on accreditation to obtain high growth/high wage jobs
- Students earn while learning and do a paid three-month internship (\$17/hour)
- Tuition paid
- Wrap-around services
- Mentorship
- Program is intended to be co-funded by private donation and government contracts by summer 2024

OUR DIFFERENTIATORS

- Comprehensive wrap-around services and financial support so that youth can solely focus on academic achievement.
- Youth receives high-touch support from enrollment process through internship. These processes are typically fraught with systemic barriers that prevent and discourage youths from accessing tertiary educational training. We believe our approach increases student retention and eventual success.



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Ages 18-24
- Graduated high school, or pursuing GED
- Low income family; need income as soon as they graduate from high school
- Feel like college is not for them (either due to cost or lack of attractive options)
- Live in Twin Cities and surrounding metro
- Initial outreach focused on African American youth living in North Minneapolis; second phase of outreach to focus on East African youth living in Cedar Riverside



Average investment per youth is ~ \$25k - \$30K/yr. This investment provides both short-term and long-term benefits. Youth will receive an accredited certificate and stability during the period of program enrollment. Over a five-year period, we anticipate this individual will earn \$200k in wages.

IMPACT STORIES



D'YANYE

When D'Yanye entered the program he had been out of the traditional classroom setting for over two years due to bullying, mental health, and multiple educational barriers. The "Real-world" Readiness Institute, provided by the program, prepared D'Yanye to be successful in conflict resolution and remain poised in the most challenging environments. D'Yanye has since enrolled in ABE Classes in a traditional setting, excelling above his peers, and on a path to obtain his high school diploma. Upon completion, his hope is to continue his educational pursuits in IT at Dunwoody. D'Yanye states: "This was the jump-start I needed. Without the help and assistance from PUC staff I would have never stepped foot in a classroom again, but somehow all my dreams will be a reality because of this program. "



MAKELA

When Makela entered the program, she wasn't sure how she was going to get to her desired career. During her time as a student in the program, she's been working jobs to make ends meet and having difficulties focusing. With the help of our staff, Makela was able to pay her housing and utilities. Makela is now able to focus more on her education and will eventually become the law enforcement officer she's dreamed of becoming.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

WINTER '21:

director hired

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SPRING '22:

established partnerships with Minneapolis College and Dunwoody, additional staff hired

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SUMMER '22:

program officially launched with a six-student cohort

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FALL '22:

program moved to Minneapolis College campus

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WINTER '22:

Expand tech schools partnerships to other schools in metro area

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SPRING '23:

Enroll next cohort of 10 students; launch mentorship program

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SUMMER '23:

Establish employer partnerships, launch paid internship program

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET: \$500K

PERSONNEL,
OPERATIONS

\$185K

⋮
⋮
⋮
⋮

DIRECT STUDENT
SUPPORT

\$247K

⋮
⋮
⋮
⋮

ADMIN & DEED

\$43K

\$25K

OUR ASK

Continuation of funding from the state:

\$1 MILLION

OVER TWO YEARS, 2024-25

For more information on the program, please contact Vanan Murugesan at VananM@pillsburyunited.org