
Developing and Building Community and Business Partnerships

Who are we and what do we do?

Terry Stroh - Director

The Northern Kane County Regional Vocational
System

Education that works! Preparing the Workforce of
Tomorrow - Today!

Kane County Illinois

Serving school districts:

- U-46
- Community Unit School District 300
- Central Community Unit School District 301
- Community Unit School District 303



Where are we located?

- Northwest suburbs of Chicago
- Consists of four districts
 - Ranges from rural to suburban
 - Districts include the second and fifth largest districts in the state
- Total of 74,475 students
- Just over 20,000 high school students
- Over 13,000 CTE Participants annually
- Over 8,000 CTE Concentrators annually



Who are we and what do we do?

Nancy Coleman - Executive Director

The Alignment Collaborative for Education

Elgin, Illinois

Alignment is a non-profit organization with over 200 partners serving more than 10,000 middle and high school students in 2024. The goal by June 2025 is that 12,000 students benefit from future workforce development programs with a return on investment to the greater Elgin community and schools estimated at \$760,000.



Who are we and what do we do?

Karina Utreras - Accreditation & Recognition
Program Manager

Schaumburg, Illinois

The AED Foundation is actively addressing the serious shortage of skilled professionals in the equipment distribution industry through expansion of our “community-based, school-to-work” school partnership strategy.



Who are we and what do we do?

Sheree Speakman - President Talent First, PBC

Highland Park, Illinois

Talent First, is a *Public Benefit Corporation* (PBC) legally established to pursue a mission that benefits the common good. Our efforts are directed at designing pathways that recruit and place new talent into the health and tech sectors.



Panel Discussion Questions

- What led you to working with high school programs?
- What has your experience been like in working with high school programs?
- What do you see as benefits to each of your organizations?
- What are some of the key attributes to a successful program?
- What are some of the barriers that you have seen in developing a successful program?
- What are some strategies that you have utilized to get companies on board?

Alignment Collaborative for Education partnership

- Mission
 - To align community resources and collaborate with organizations in support of public school strategies to raise student achievement; create responsible, productive and contributing members of our society; and advance the economic and social well-being of the communities served by school districts U-46, 300 and 301.
- Initiatives
 - Academic and Career Readiness
 - Teacher Pipeline
 - Neighborhood Network

U46 EXPLORE **Thank You to Our Sponsors**
Sponsor's Contribution to Career Pathways
CAREER CHAMPIONS

Advocate Sherman Hospital
We are AdvocateAuroraHealth

AED FOUNDATION
Constructing Paths to Opportunity

ELGIN
THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

Elgin Community College

ELGIN TOWNSHIP
INCORPORATED 1830

exelon™

GRAND VICTORIA FOUNDATION

Thank you to the following organizations for hosting career exploration internship opportunities:

Advocate Sherman Hospital	Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL)	Reishauer
Alignment Collaborative for Education	Elgin Sweeper	School District U-46
ALTA	Hampton, Lenzi and Renwick, Inc.	Streamwood Park District
The Atrium at Oak Crest Residence	Hanover Township	Talent First
Bartlett Park District	ITW Shakeproof	Taylor Family YMCA
City of Elgin	Judson University	Village of Bartlett
Downtown Neighborhood Association	NAPA Auto Parts	Well Child Center
Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce	Northern Kane County Region 110	79Ratio
	Office of State Representative Anna Moeller	

TalentFirst Partnership

- Things happen for a reason.....
- Listening to what others have to offer
- Check with your current partners
- Find great partners and build great relationships



For you

Following



David Senra ✓ @FoundersPod... · 22h
My notes from Poor Charlie's Almanack: The Wit and Wisdom of Charlie Munger turned into maxims:

1. Find a simple idea and take it seriously.

2. Good ideas are rare. When you find one bet heavily.

3. Humans have been writing down their best ideas for 5,000 years. Read them...

[Show more](#)



Source: "X" @David Senra
Founders Podcast, 12/7/2023

AED Partnership

- Where and how did it start?
- Comprised of multiple layers?
 - Community events
 - Industry presentations and professional development
 - Internship opportunities
 - School partnership presentations
- Value for AED
- Value for school districts



How did the partnership start?

- What was AED looking for?
 - Inclusion of diesel and heavy equipment topics in CTE coursework
- What does AED see as the benefits for its' members?
 - Increasing visibility of careers
 - Increasing workforce numbers
- What can AED offer schools?
 - Professional development
 - Potential equipment donations



Pharmacy Technician Internship Program (40 + 20 Model)

- Student/Parent Night
- Three-week internship program
- Partnered with Talent First and Advocate Sherman Hospital
- 60+ hour experience
 - 40 hours of **mentor-led** training
 - 20 hours of hands-on experience



Pharmacy Technician Internship Expansion

- Additional Hospitals
 - Advocate Good Shepherd
 - Rush University Medical (Chicago)
 - UW Health Northern Illinois (Rockford)
- New Laws
 - Students complete their Pharmacy Tech National Certification (PTCB or NHA) within 2 years



Feedback from students

It taught me so much priceless information, including what I want to pursue in the future as well as more about the medical field in general.

Alisha Mirpuri
Advocate Sherman
Pharmacy Technician

This opportunity was truly life changing and the skills I developed will assist me for the rest of my career.

Saranya Ganne
Advocate Sherman
Pharmacy Technician

...I am grateful for this experience as it has helped me to reassess and adjust my career aspirations for the future.

Krishna Patel
Advocate Sherman
Pharmacy Technician

One of the best out of classroom learning experiences I have ever had.

Sahanj Joshi
Advocate Sherman
Pharmacy Technician

My internship experience was very helpful in the sense that it allowed for me to explore different areas of the hospital through the pharmaceutical eye (something not many students are able to do). The team that coordinated this pilot program did an amazing job adjusting to student needs and requests. Overall, I felt a strong level of support before, during, and after the internship! I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity.

Rhea Mistry
Advocate Sherman
Pharmacy Technician

Health Sciences Rotational Internship

- 6-10 students
- 2 different work sites
 - [Advocate Sherman \(30 hours\)](#)
 - [Well Child Center of Elgin \(30 hours\)](#)

Community Events

- Career Fairs
 - U-46 EXPLORE event
- Community career exploration
 - Diggin' Days in District 300



Industry presentations and professional development



- [AED Foundation's Recognized High School Program](#)
- [AED Foundation Career Readiness Assessment](#)
- [AED Foundation Technical Assessment and Industry Certified Technician](#)
- [AED Standards for Equipment Technology](#)

Internship Opportunities

- Alta Heavy Equipment
 - 60 hour Summer Internship
 - [Job Description](#)
- Altorfer Caterpillar
- Westside Tractor
- Advocate Sherman
- ITW
- Elgin Sweeper
- Networking



How do we find Community Partners?

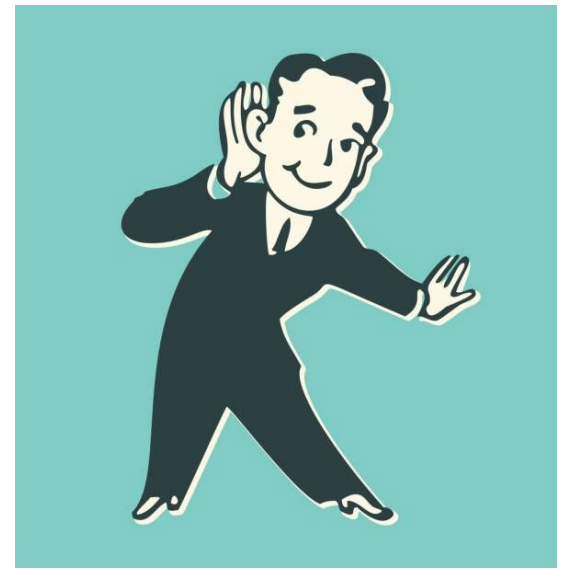


- School District
- Chambers of Commerce
- Regional Associations
- National Association
- Word of mouth connections



LISTENING and Sharing

- Work with partners, **LISTENING TO THEIR NEEDS**
 - Employment needs
 - Training and skill needs
 - Departments within their company
- Inviting potential partners out to schools
 - Show programs that align
 - Introduce them to teachers



Putting your best foot forward

- Developing strong lines of communication
 - Who
 - When
 - How often
- Developing strong systems
- Vetting out students
- Coaching students to be their best
- Being there to support students and businesses

Sample Resources

- [Business Partner Opportunities](#)
- [Business Internship Preparation Checklist](#)
- [Internship 101 Presentation](#)
- Sample job descriptions
 - [Sample 1](#)
 - [Sample 2](#)
 - [Sample 3](#)
 - [Sample 4](#)
- [Supervisor/Intern](#) Feedback Forms

Sample Resources (continued)

- [Internship Timeline](#)
- [Summer Internship Offerings](#)
- [Summer Internship Sign-Up Form](#)
- [Business Partner MOU](#)
- Dreyfus Model of Adult Skill Acquisition (resource will be added by 12/9/2024)

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