

Upper Peninsula Youth Career Cafe

**Empowering Youth to Succeed through
the Expansion of the
“Youth Career Cafe”**



Mission with a Vision

- Prepare youth for the workplace.
- The Youth Career Café is a place where youth ages 14-21 can prepare for the real world, learn to navigate the business world, and make school relevant.



Business Model

- Operate a Youth Career Café in a youth friendly environment, such as a shopping mall, that provides career counseling, GED training, skills testing, and job placements.
- Create business partnerships to fund operations – local government, schools, and business.

Program Activities



- Career Assessment
- Job Search Assistance
- Career Cluster Workshops
- Resume Writing Clinics
- Financial Aid/Scholarship Research Assistance
- Tutoring

Community Benefits:

- Expanding the pipeline of potential employees - response to workforce shortage.
- Enhancing the workplace readiness skills of the emerging workforce.



Community Benefits:



- Strengthening customer satisfaction with better trained employees.
- Reduce dependency on public assistance.
- Reduce crime.
- Increase percentage of high school graduates.
- Enhance taxpayer base.

A Success Story - Youth Career Café on the Peninsula

- Call to action by the Education and Training Committee of the Greater Peninsula Workforce Investment Board.
- Developed by the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development
- Two Peninsula Locations – Patrick Henry Mall, Netcenter
- Annual Cost \$150,000 (50% - In-kind Services) per location
- Community Partnerships
- Start date Fall 2008

Program Impact

- Engage 250+ youths a month
- Administer 40+ career interest assessments a month
- Provide core services to 250+ a month
- Engage 125+ youths per month in workplace readiness training.
- Refer 30+ youth a month to work based learning activities including internships, job shadowing, employment, and service training.
- Engage 25+ Youths per month in GED preparation
- Provide career and post secondary planning to 35+ a month

Recommendation

- Expand the Youth Career Café concept to an Upper Peninsula location (Historic Triangle location / Williamsburg, James City County, York County)