


EPIC: IGNITING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS, INTERESTS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN ADOLESCENTS

AYPF OCTOBER 2015



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Network Lead

KANSAS ENRICHMENT NETWORK

- Advocate for youth
 - Create opportunities for youth, with youth
 - Provide them with the experiences & tools they want and need
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ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

DR. DAVID HANSEN, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Adolescent: Why do I need to know this?

Adults: Adolescents are unmotivated.

Adolescent: When will I ever use this?

Adults: They just don't get it.

Adolescent: How is this relevant?

Adults: Trust me. You will need it when you get older.



WHAT DO WE KNOW?
ADOLESCENCE IS THE SECOND MOST CRITICAL PERIOD
OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DO THEY NEED?

- ▶ Project-based learning
- ▶ Critical thinking opportunities
- ▶ Hands-on, high level of engagement
- ▶ Experiences, opportunities, experiences, opportunities
- ▶ Connections
- ▶ Gentle guidance

Without these – “Impoverished environments”



VOICE





BLENDING RESEARCH WITH NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Issues

Out-of-school can build youth workforce skills

Soft skills/essential skills/21st Century skills can be addressed

STEM/STEAM/STEM +A² can be incorporated

Getting the word out

Kansas Workforce Summit Presentations

Connections with Kansas Department of Commerce Youth Services

Working to address Kansas DCF poverty

EPIC— EDUCATION, PRACTICE, & IMMERSION FOR CREDIT

Middle School youth

Engaging, hands on-programming introducing career pathways

Field Learning Experiences (FLE)

Opportunities to earn digital badges as milestones

Reflection through private Youtopia platform

Goal – high school credit

PARTNERS

Out-of-school programs: Hutchinson B&G Club; The City in Salina

Other out-of-school program and partners

School districts

Jobs for American Graduates

United Way

Chambers of Commerce

Higher education institutions

Regional workforce boards

Community businesses

Rocket 21

HOW IS IT GOING?

Research

Youth engagement, social skills improvement, interviews

Culinary, construction sciences, manufacturing, medical sciences

Small engine repair, rockets & gliders, astronomy, solder art, movie-making, wind/solar power

Targeted essential skills: conscientiousness/work ethic; positive core self-evaluation; social skills; cognitive processes


Cross-walk

Alignment with Rose Standards, NGSS, P21

Toolkit/documentation



CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED TO DATE

- Data sharing
 - Collaboration takes time, commitment, structuring and restructuring
 - Are businesses youth-ready?
 - They don't know what they don't know.
 - It is exciting.
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NEXT STEPS



Policy work

Conversations with school districts regarding high school credit

Potential badging around 'work keys'

Youth-ready work with businesses

Policy work

YOUTH RESPONSE

“There must be hundreds of people to get this done. I wish everyone worked well as a team.”

“But I don’t want to do welding”....to top welder of the session.

Student with severe visual handicap becomes a proud commentator.

“Until I found my inspiration, I felt lost and frustrated.”

Learning through real-world situations.

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue background.

THANK YOU!

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**KANSAS
ENRICHMENT
NETWORK**

Making Connections for
Out-of-School Time