



YouthForce NOLA (YFN) is an education, business, and civic collaborative that prepares New Orleans public school students for successful pursuit of high-wage, high-demand career pathways. YFN offers expanded coursework offerings, career exposure and experiences, soft skills training and application opportunities, and employer-validated credentials. YFN's vision is that our graduates will be the most sought after talent for hiring and advancement in the region's high-wage, fast-growing companies.

YFN has three, key goals that focus our initiative:

- 20% of the Class of 2020 will earn industry-recognized culminating credentials that will place them on high-wage, high-demand regional career pathways.
- 10% of the Class of 2020 will complete YouthForce internships.
- Citywide, more students will demonstrate employer validated, career-ready soft skills.

YFN is focused on preparing students for career pathways aligned to three high-wage, high-demand regional industry clusters, all of which have significant employment and advancement opportunities:

- *Skilled Crafts* (including jobs in advanced manufacturing, construction, environmental management, energy, engineering, etc.),
- *Health Science* (including jobs in biosciences and healthcare), and
- *Digital Media/IT* (including jobs in software development, graphic design, video and audio engineering, cyber security, and information technology).

The YFN strategy is being scaled over five years and encompasses five key components:

1. Supporting schools to invest their staff and community, redesign their approach, and forge partnerships to ensure students have meaningful and rigorous options.
2. Enlisting and preparing employers to host students and educators in their workplace, as well as to inform credential and pathway development.
3. Ensuring there are effective training providers – both public and private – to supplement schools' teaching of both soft and technical skills.
4. Supporting conversations with families and communities so that there is mutual understanding of opportunities and pathways to student success.
5. Strategic alignment across collaboration partners – ensuring shared measurement and ongoing, continuous improvement.