When I Grow Up...Education Works - Career Exposure Program

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### The Community Site:

Education Works is a non-profit organization that aims to provide support to disadvantaged communities in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas by addressing key issues, including: literacy, graduation rates, safety, and social awareness, in addition to providing individuals with the tools necessary to stay in school and become productive members of their communities.

The Career Exposure Program within Education Works exposes incoming 8th grade students to various careers, while informing and attempting to instill the various key skills associated with each of those careers in the students. The overall goal of this program is to allow each student the opportunity to not only adopt important “21st century skills”, but also to explore and learn more about which careers they might like to pursue in the future.

### BTG Focus Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Advancement/Literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Sexual Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparedness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Activity &amp; Fitness</td>
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<td>Oral Health</td>
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### Project Goals and Objectives

- To expose students to careers in technology and media, fashion, human services, culinary arts, and healthcare.
- To create activities that focus on using 21st skills, such as: flexibility/adaptability, teamwork/collaboration, initiative/self-direction, and productivity/accountability, and identifying the relationship between these skills and the workplace.
- To provide simulated scenarios that allow the students to utilize the 21st century skills and receive feedback from the BTG interns.
- To help the students answer key questions, such as: “Who am I?”, “Who do I want to be?”, and “What should I do right now to prepare for success in high school, college, and my future career?”
- To inspire the students to rise above their means and become productive members of their communities.
- To identify the challenges they face, including sexual behavior, drugs, alcohol, violence, etc.

### Activities and Outcomes

#### Activities

- Recreation: movies, wii tennis, bowling, water park, museum tours, basketball, harambee, nature parks
- Being A Responsible Teen: sexual health, drugs, violence, alcohol
- Financial literacy
- Team-building skills, communication skills, mock interviews, cooking skills, computer literacy, occupational etiquette

#### Project Outcomes

The students not only learned about many different career paths and the skill sets associated with each, but also learned about themselves and which careers they would like to pursue in the future. They also learned more about valuable interpersonal skills, in addition to gaining more insight into how to effectively work with others towards a common goal.

### Personal Statements

**“BTG has allowed me to gain a better understanding of the difficulties certain disadvantaged communities endure. It has allowed me to use my own personal skill set to make an impact in some of the students lives in hopes for better decision making and life choices. It showed how important trust and relationships are when communicating to the students. The program also gave me the opportunity to create a relationship with my co-interns, and program members as well as explore the Philly area and witness the diverse cultures in the surrounding areas.”** – Chris

**“Although I had previous experience working with underprivileged youth in an academic setting, I learned more about the challenges faced not only by the students I worked with, but also by the members of their communities. This program spotlighted just how great the disparity is not only in regard to education and achievement, but also in other areas. Going forward, I believe I am now better equipped to relate and empathize with patients from underprivileged communities, and will do my best to change the minds of others about this issue the way these kids have changed mine.”** – Mina

**“I cannot stress enough the importance of forming relationships with people who may be different from you. BTG CHIP has given me this opportunity, and will help me better understand the multifaceted aspects of being “healthy” once I begin a professional career in medicine. This summer has also enabled me to form friendships with adolescents who will hopefully grow up to be the leaders of Philadelphia, and has given me a new sense of ownership of the city I grew up in.”** - Mina