

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: Topeka Way to Work Program Provides Career Readiness Education for Shawnee County Youth

Why is this issue important?

Skills like communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and flexibility have always been important for work and life. But they will be even more crucial for future generations. Rapid advances in technology are transforming the world of work, and by 2020 an estimated 83 million jobs around the globe will go unfilled due to lack of skills.

Source: https://ssir.org/preparing_todays_youth_for_tomorrows_world

How did Extension address this issue?

Topeka Way to Work is a teen employment program that connects teens with summer job opportunities and offers continuing professional development opportunities through the length of the program. There are two other community partners for this program: The City of Topeka and Fellowship Hi-Crest. 4-H Agent Grace Wiens provides educational opportunities at the April program orientation and the summer professional development days.



What was the impact?

29 out of 40 youth in attendance at the orientation learning session reported an increase in the following areas:

Your confidence level about your ability to complete an interview successfully: 17.3% increase

Your ability to prepare interview answers ahead of time: 24.6 % increase

Your ability to realistically evaluate your strengths and abilities: 14.1 % increase

Your ability to describe your skills and experiences in a clear and concise answer: 20.4% increase

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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