



Invitation to Participate™

8th Grade Career Exploration Event

High School Pathways Committee

Date of release: March 15, 2012

Responses must be submitted by: April 6, 2012

Project overview:

The Career Awareness Subcommittee of the Alignment Rockford High School Pathways Committee is seeking businesses and organizations to make brief presentations during a **pilot career awareness exploration event** to be held at West Middle School, 1900 N. Rockton Ave., on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, with a plan to roll out to all middle schools in the fall.

Exposing 8th graders to a variety of careers will help prepare them for the class selection process in 9th grade, potential academy choices in 10th grade, and forges a link between core curriculum and future careers.

Alignment Rockford Pathways Committee vision:

All students will be engaged and prepared for placement in post-secondary education or training for employment.

RPS Visualize 2015 goal:

Enhance learning opportunities for all students.

RPS Visualize 2015 Strategic Objective 5.1.4:

Promote a proactive guidance counseling program that empowers students to make responsible choices about their social, scholastic and future professional lives.

Tactic designed by committee:

Hold a career exploration event to expose 8th graders to a variety of career opportunities prior to course selection in 9th grade. (As a pilot, this event will not take place before course selection; however, if successful it will take place in SY 2012-'13 prior to 9th grade course selection at schools TBD.)

General description:

- Volunteers are invited to make a 45-minute presentation in the West Middle School Small Theatre to 8th grade classes.
- The day will be divided into three 100-minute sessions, plus a 30-minute lunch period.
- Each of the three sessions will have approximately 70 students.
- In each session, two presenters will be given 45 minutes each, for a total of 90 minutes. The remaining 10 minutes of the session will be reserved for questions from the students.

- In addition, presenters are welcome to set up an information booth in the school cafeteria during the 8th grade lunch period for all 210 8th graders. Organizations not selected for presentations are encouraged to participate in this lunch period activity as well.

Presenters must be energetic, engaging and creative so that students get excited about your career and your company. For instance, a vet may bring animals that have been treated; a surveyor may bring a GPS robot and discuss its functions; a digital designer may do software demonstrations; an aerospace engineer may demonstrate paper airplane flight; a fireman may bring rescue apparel and equipment; an arborist could bring his tools of the trade.

An effort will be made to pair one professional with a related profession (EMT with an x-ray tech, carpenter with an architect, etc.). Presenters should include photos and videos about their profession and be prepared to tell personal stories.

Presentations will be held in the Small Theatre at West, so presenters may set up ahead of time, and the room will be secured.

The following topics should be included in all presentations:

- Basic requirements to get hired – drug test, criminal background check, etc.
- How students can get their foot in the door – summer jobs / internships / volunteering / vocational programs; what can they do now?
- West Middle School focuses on a different Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) theme each month. Where possible, presenters could incorporate these themes into their presentation:
 - August: Respect
 - September: Courtesy
 - October: Perseverance
 - November: Thanksgiving / Giving thanks
 - December: Honesty
 - January: Integrity
 - February: Delayed gratification
 - March: Resiliency
 - April: Fortitude
 - May: Determination
- Share your story; how did you end up in this job? If you started at an entry level and worked your way up, how did you do it? How can students find their passion?
- Various positions based on levels of education attainment, as evidenced in the career pathway charts (see below)
- Career pathway charts from Rock Valley College/CEANCI's *Planning Guide for Programs of Study*. (<http://www.ceanci.org>). These charts can appeal to a wide range of levels in the classroom.

Following are additional suggested topics that may be included in presentations. In the interest of time, presenters are encouraged to bring this information as a handout. A template will be provided.

- Wages/salary
- Growth opportunities / various pathways
- Professional groups that students could be involved with
- Tuition assistance / resources

- Level of education/training
- Certifications/credentials
- Knowledge, skill or attitude competencies
(<http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx?AEO=Y>)
- Specific high school course recommendations

Once presenters are selected and scheduled, teachers will be encouraged to prepare their students ahead of time. They can do this in class and/or utilize Career Cruising.

Pilot target population:

8th graders at West Middle School.

Date of implementation:

May 23, 2012.

Expected outcomes:

- Students will be able to answer three questions about each presented field, measured by pre- and post-tests.
- As a pilot event, we expect to learn enough in this process to scale the event to all middle schools.

Assessment strategies:

Success will be measured by student, teacher and presenter surveys.

Pathways Committee members:

Chair:	Ehren Jarrett	RPS 205
Vice Chair:	Bob Guirl	Hamilton Sundstrand
	Steve Balogh	WilliamsMcCarthy
	Chuck Beach	Rockford College
	Marisol Benitez-Prieto	Blackhawk Bank
	Carrie Breitbach	Rockford Art Museum
	Dave Carson	RPS 205 – Jefferson High School
	Patricia Chavéz	Blackhawk Area Council Boy Scouts of America
	Portia Downey	Northern Illinois University
	Jeff Fahrenwald	Rockford College
	Pamela Fettes	Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board
	Rich Gocken	Rock Valley College
	Vee Jevremovic	Rockford Chamber of Commerce
	Michele Johnson	RAMP
	Jan Jones	Rockford Promise
	Jessica Koltz	Rasmussen College
	Excell Lewis	XL Academics
	LoRayne Logan	Workplace
	Brad Long	Carpenters / Building Trades
	David Morgan	TechWorks
	Donnette Nailor	Regional Office of Education
	Thomas Okite	Artisan Consulting Engineers

Julie Palkowski	RPS 205 – Jefferson High School
Kristina Reuber	La Voz Latina
Sam Schmitz	Goodwill Northern Illinois
Mark Wallace	RPS 205 – Guilford High School
Earl Wilsey	Schmeling Construction
Cindy Yager	Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois

Overview of Alignment Rockford

The purpose of Alignment Rockford (AR) is to align community resources in support of public school strategies to raise student achievement, improve the health and happiness of our children, and advance the economic and social well-being of our community. Our goal is to improve the achievement of all school children through a citywide partnership initiative that will provide important and needed services to the schools. Your expertise and programs are critical to the success of Alignment Rockford. We hope you will join us in this effort.

Invitation to Participate™ Process

The High School Pathways Committee has developed a pilot project to align the resources of community organizations – non-profits, government agencies, colleges and universities, businesses, faith-based organizations, and others – in support of a common goal. The Invitation to Participate™ (ITP™) process provides these community organizations with an opportunity to propose ways that they can align their existing resources for increased impact on student outcomes. The committee will review proposals based on organizational capacity and expertise, willingness to collaborate, and likelihood of success.

Benefits to Participating Organizations

Participation in this pilot provides your organization with the following benefits:

- Improvements in outcomes for all Rockford children, particularly those who need additional support to realize their potential.
- Opportunities to contribute in areas in which you have specific skills and capacities.
- Opportunities for collaboration and for building individual agency capacity.
- Data and measurable results to support outcome reporting to funding agencies.
- The opportunity to be a partner with a community-wide initiative to redesign, elevate, and increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services to Rockford’s school children.
- The ability to work directly with Rockford schools, and to establish a strong relationship with key administrators and teachers.
- The opportunity to receive matching funds through grant requests by AR to foundations and other sources of support. Your organization’s contribution of resources to the work of AR will enhance your potential to be a recipient of related funding.

8th Grade Career Exploration Event ITP™ Response Form

ITP™ Release Date: March 15, 2012
Responses Due: April 6, 2012

Contact Information

Organization	
Street Address	
City State ZIP	
Phone	
Contact Name	
Title	
Email Address	

Your Organization

Please describe your organization and provide the name of the presenter.

Availability

Please indicate which class time(s) you are available to present:

Block A – 9:48-11:28

Block B – 11:32-1:12

Lunch – 1:16-1:46 (information booth)

Block C – 1:50-3:30

Presentation Needs

Do you need any special set-up – equipment, space, etc.?

Videotaping

Are you willing to allow your presentation to be videotaped and saved for use as a resource?
(Students will not be identified in the video.)

Yes

No

District-Wide Fair

If a district-wide career fair was held for all of Rockford's 8th graders at one large location, would you be interested in participating?

Other Assistance

Besides a career fair, are there other ways that your organization would like to participate in exposing 8th graders to careers, including a fall district-wide fair? Please describe.

Submission

Name	
Date	

Submit

Please submit this completed form before April 6, 2012, by faxing to 815-637-7629 or emailing to dianepeters@alignmentrockford.com. Thank you.