



# REPORT FINAL 2020



CAREER.  
EDUCATION.  
COMMUNITY.

For a program centered around in-person, on-the-job, paid work experience and interactions, COVID-19 presented a brand-new challenge that staff met with innovation and passion. This traumatic event hit us all; however, we remained dedicated to our community's youth and their career pathway development.

**So, how did we make it work?** Each week, MyCITY participants received a batch of five assignments to be completed through Google Classroom. The assignments fell into five categories: career exploration, employability skills, office hours, group projects and a survey. YOU and MyCITY staff worked relentlessly to ensure the online MyCITY experience was as close to the traditional experience as possible. Participants were not able to practice hands-on work experience, but they still had opportunities to apply career readiness skills. Though focus areas had to shift, participants left better equipped to navigate their new normal and beyond.

## MYCITY ONLINE STILL HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS. BUT DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT; TAKE THEIRS.

*"I learned how to make a good impression on people I want to work for, and it will help when I am looking for a job in the future."*

*"I now know how to properly participate in an interview and how I should carry myself."*

*"This summer, I learned about financial literacy. Learning about this allowed me to create a goal that I was passionate about reaching and laid out a plan for how I would achieve that goal."*

## END OF SUMMER FEEDBACK

Responded positively to the statement:

*"I feel like this summer prepared me for using Google Classroom in the future."*

96% of 101 participants

93% of 2.0 participants

Responded positively to the statement:

*"Participating in this summer's MyCITY program helped me improve my time management skills."*

98% of 101 participants

96% of 2.0 participants

Responded positively to the statement:

*"I feel more confident completing group work online than I did at the beginning of the summer."*

80% of 101 participants

89% of 2.0 participants

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Robust employability skills are a key component to students being future ready. The traditionally in-person workshop series was adapted to the virtual platform, so youth had the opportunity continue developing the skills they need to sustain strong career pathways.

**Click any of the buttons below to see how career exploration was conducted virtually.**

# CAREER EXPLORATION

When you can't visit employers and their workplace, bring them to you! YOU welcomed an expansive panel of regional professionals to interview over Zoom. The interviews helped participants explore future options and expose them to unique careers while still maintaining the uniqueness of hearing directly from a local employer.

Click on the top three tiles for an example of how career exploration activities were conducted virtually.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



ARTS



AGRICULTURE / FOOD SYSTEMS



CONSTRUCTION / MECHANICAL



PUBLIC SERVICE

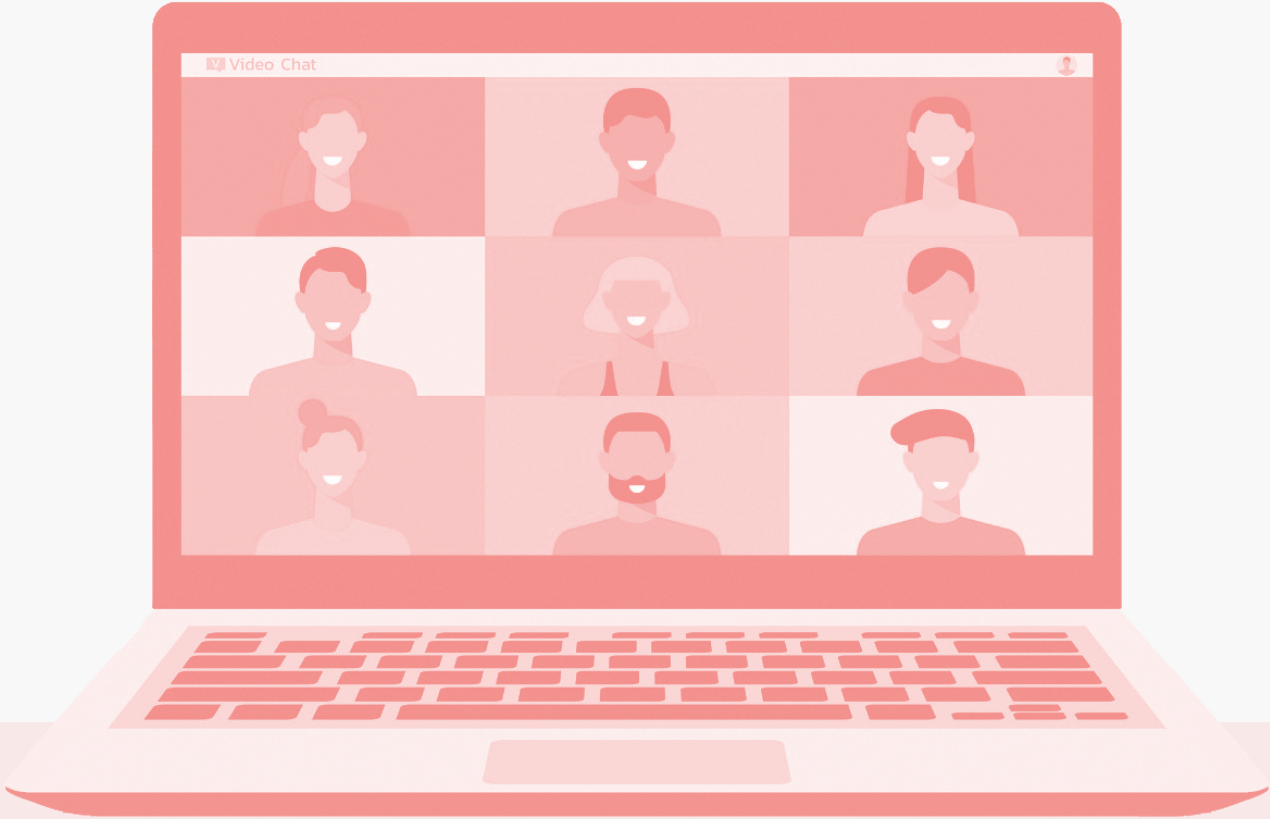


POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

# BONUS ACTIVITIES

MyCITY participants are paid for the amount of work they put into the program. This summer, participants were offered a bonus for creating a video, presentation or essay taking a deeper dive into their career pathways. Bonus participants were asked to identify short- and long-term goals as well as explain the inspiration that came from their chosen paths.

Click any of the below icons to see what a few of the participants devised.



# GROUP PROJECTS

After participants explored a new industry each week, applicable problem solving were presented through group projects. The career exploration activities provided information and context for the type of duties performed by professionals in the career cluster (education, food systems and ag., construction and mechanical trades, etc.), and the group projects allowed them to model the skills themselves.

This was the closest participants got to hands-on skill building in the remote program. The targeted skills used included collaborative communication, time management and meeting deadlines, problem solving, and research skills.

# OFFICE HOURS

In a typical MyCITY summer, participants have access to site supervisors and crew leaders and, in turn, develop strong mentor-style relationships. Designed to replicate these kinds of interactions, this summer participants attended a group office hours session. During their time with their career coach, groups checked-in, discussed access needs, reviewed weekly activities, and spent time working together on the group project.

This relationship building between staff and participants is a crucial part of what YOU does year-round. Having this time during the virtual MyCITY program was a critical entry point for many participants to access sustainable, supportive relationships with YOU staff beyond summer programming.

# CAREERNOW OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

CareerNOW offers free, hands-on occupational training in a program designed to assist individuals in obtaining certification and employment while developing a plan for continuation in post-secondary education leading to careers in industries with in-demand occupations.

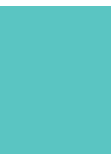
Because of the pandemic, in-person learning, training and internships had to be adapted. This also led to a cut in four scheduled training programs. However, the show still went on safely and in accordance with state and local health recommendations. Throughout the summer, we had 25 individuals complete their training in three high-demand industries.

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP CONSTRUCTION TRAINING



5 COMPLETERS

## CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT (4 COHORTS)



13 COMPLETERS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



7 COMPLETERS





Through the generous support of the City of Kalamazoo, the Foundation for Excellence and United Way Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, the 2020 online MyCITY Summer Youth Employment Program in Kalamazoo was a great success.

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# YOU

KALAMAZOO RESA

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