



CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



APRIL 30, 2017

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“Every youth owes it to himself and to the world to make the most possible out of the stuff that is in him.” – Orison Swett Marden

Our Newest Community Council Members:

Community Member
Kelsey Angel

Community Member
Penny Soskin

Community Member
Erin M. Tarr

Promise Health
Patricia Taylor

Edward Jones
Josh Gallagher



Have you seen a bird migration this spring? Hundreds of independent bodies seemingly moving as one, reacting in nanoseconds to volatile challenges.

Scientists found three rules that govern flock interaction: maintain a minimum distance from your neighbor; fly at the same speed as your neighbor; and always turn towards the center. All three rules are essential. When in place, it is as if all the birds collectively “see” what each bird sees and “respond” as each bird responds.

The birds know and act upon what much of society has forgotten: *our interdependence*. They have also given me a better answer to this question, “What does CUC2C do?” *CUC2C endeavors to foster change*. How? With the five rules governing C2C interaction: Common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, constant communication and a center focused on collaboration.

It is hard to see the adjustments each bird is making. Here are some of the ones we are seeing in our community. **Change in understanding**--the “a-ha” moment when employers found out that the best time to teach the “soft skills” is ages 0-12. **Change in perception**--early childhood providers now submitting a *collaborative proposal* for block grant funds instead of competing for them. **Change in operating behavior**--three separate youth employment programs co-sponsoring *one* career fair. **Change in structure**--the Chamber of Commerce creating a staff position for K-12 workforce readiness because they recognize its importance to our economy.

Bird flight is long, arduous and unpredictable--so is our community’s journey. Yet, if we have the patience and fortitude of the birds, we too can reach our destination: every youth soaring.

– Lee Ann and Denise



Join Us!

Our next coffee is:
May 3rd at 8:00 am
Harvest Market

2029 Neil Street, Champaign
Email denise@mhfa.net for info.

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. – Langston Hughes



Youth Employment Sub-Committee

Ardmore Associates
Jodi Kimball

Bergner's Dept. Store
Michael Ujcich

Busey Bank
Ali Neault

Carle Hospital/Carle Physician
Group
Paige Parker

Care4U
Kellie Anderson

Champaign County Chamber of
Commerce
Laura Weis

Champaign County Regional
Planning Commission
Lisa Benson

Champaign Park District
Tammy Hoggatt

Champaign Unit 4
Marc Chagnon
Chris Kloeppe
Mindy Smith

Community Coalition
Tracy Parsons

Community Member
Robert McGrath

Don Moyers Boys & Girls Club
Charles Burton

Education for Employment
System #330
Nick Elder

ESS Clean
Lorianne Bauer

Herriott's Rental
Brian Stumph

Hilton of Champaign
Daun Van Buskirk

Human Kinetics
Tara Swearingen

Litania Sports Group
Mary McGrew

Massage Envy
Lindy Edmund

Parkland College
Tawanna Nickens

Parkland Business Dev. Center
Triss Anderson

Robeson Elementary School
Nicholas Gaines

The Kraft Heinz Company
Jessica Simpson

Two Men & a Truck
Daniel Shunk

U of I Extension
Alvarez Dixon

U of I Office of the Chancellor
Giraldo Rosales

U of I Office of the Assoc.
Chancellor for Diversity
Tracy Kleparski

Urbana School District #116
Kristine Sherrick

Opening Doors Now to Impact our Future

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



What was your first job? How did you get it? Courtesy of good grades, a friend's recommendation and my parents drilling me, I got one in food service.

Today's labor market is considered the most challenging and competitive to date. Employers look for good academics, prior work experience and evidence of the "soft/professional skills"—those competencies, behaviors, attitudes, and characteristics that translate into an employee who works well with others and performs well. As such, obtaining that first job can be a critical step forward or a large barrier to long-term job stability.

What about youth who do not have the connections/advantages many of us did? Enter Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP). SYEPs help them see new possibilities, develop supportive relationships with adults, see the relevancy of the school work, and to learn/practice those skills that will make them better employees wherever they end up. Also, all SYEPs have a financial literacy component; poor money management can impact job performance.

Nationally, SYEP's have been shown to improve attendance, academic achievement, graduation rates and even post-secondary employment. By 2018, 67% of jobs will require a post-secondary credential. Therefore, motivating our youth now can positively impact all of us and strengthen our local economy. Not only that, SYEP helps to reduce summer violence, *which makes CU more attractive to outside business interests and future employees.*

Three of our seven CU community SYEPs collaborated this spring to improve summer youth employment programming and make it a win-win for all involved. There is still time to join in—their contact information is in the sidebar. *Signing today to hire a student can make a difference in CU's tomorrow.*

SYEP Coordinators

Champaign Yes
Mindy Smith
217.531.6857
smith@u4sd.org

Urbana SYEP
Sarah Bradshaw
217.255.0986
sbradshaw@lstude.edu

Care4 U
Kellie Anderson
217.239.7780
kjande5@ilstu.edu

Worse than not realizing the dreams of your youth, would be to have been young and never dreamed at all – Jean Genet



Volunteer Coordinator: Work with teams when they need volunteers for events. Approximately 3 hours per month.

If interested, email Lee Ann Kelly: l.kelly@cucradle2career.org.

Join Us

Community Council members commit to:

1. Be a community champion of the CUC2C effort.
2. Provide identified expertise when requested.
3. Respond, critique, give feedback on performance issues, new initiatives, etc. and attend Community Council meetings (3/year).

Come Be Part of the Change

We welcome you to join the CUC2C Community Council. For more information, email Denise Martin at denise@mhfa.net



Support for Academic Success (SAS)

- Both the Champaign and Urbana School Districts implemented the student survey in March and provided an overview of the data on 4/25/17.
- The staff survey subcommittee created an executive summary of the staff survey data.
- The committee continues to collect information from targeted parent populations through surveys and interviews.

Workforce Readiness (WFR)

Volunteers helped students develop their resumes and reviewed them prior to the summer youth employment program.

Goal Teams

Kindergarten Readiness Team (KR)

Sub-team organized Ready, Set, Grow 2017 at Garden Hills Elementary School in Champaign. 150 families attended with around 300 individuals, 20 car seat safety checks, 200 children's books and tons of educational resources went out the door and into families' homes.

For Child Find, 250 Welcome Bags for Baby Talk-Newborn Encounters were put together by volunteers from DSC. Funds came from Faith United Methodist Church, individuals and a grant.

Ready! for Kindergarten team is gearing up for the fourth and final workshop for 27 families at the end of April. We are working towards a collaboration with Carle and Champaign Unit 4 for next year.



SHOUT OUT

- Faith United Methodist Church, Developmental Services Center (DSC) and Hood's Ace Hardware in Mahomet for the 250 Welcome Baby Bags!
- Faith United Methodist Women for providing breakfast to the READY! families in April.
- Amanda Raklovits for compiling the 1000+ CUSD4 student survey results – whoa!
- All the volunteers that helped prepare student resumes for the SYEP career fair.
- All the volunteers that worked at the SYEP career fair.