

ROCHESTER CHAMBER *of Commerce* FOUNDATION



Classroom Partnerships:

SAFE (Students and Family Engagement)

Partnership with Rochester Public School District

2015:

- Coordinated **SAFE career fair**: 24 businesses and 35 students engaged in Question and Answer sessions in timed sessions

2016:

Coordinated **SAFE tours** for 2 high school sites (Mayo and Century):

- Once a month for an hour tour and Q&A session around skills and mindset necessary for success in the business.
- 24 businesses
- 60 students

“Being able to see how a team works is super important, even if I’m not going to go into that field.” ~Mayo SAFE student after touring Limb Lab

SAFE Career fair:

Partnership with The Commission for the Career Fair

- Coordinated **SAFE career fair**: 24 businesses and 65 students engaged in Question and Answer sessions in timed sessions

“To talk about career opportunities within the classroom is fine, but when students can see a career in action, it makes it achievable and realistic,” Thomas said. Other advisors from the group agreed and added, “The kids can ask the experts questions and get a personalized response,” Juan Vasquez, Mayo High School Social Worker and SAFE advisor, said.

Panels and guest speakers Spring Semester, 2016:

Partnership with RPS and ZED school districts

- Sending contacts to educators: ~2 per week for professionals that align with the interests of students
- Coordinating speakers:
 - 14 requests
 - ~20 volunteers
 - ~375 students

“Students are more motivated and see a greater connection to the larger world when they engage in experiential learning. The question of ‘when will I ever use this?’ becomes clear as school and the larger world intersect.” ~Heather Willman, Instructional Coach Coordinator

Byron Career exploration class job shadow:

Partnership with Bryon High School

Spring, 2016

- March: Coordinated 28 students to have experiences in ~22 places of employment based on interests
- May: Coordinated 26 students to have longer experiences in 9 places of employment based on interests
- 100% of businesses/students surveyed said they would do this again

2016 - 2017 school year

- Will coordinate ~150 students into job shadows

“...we got to watch how they give a small dog anesthesia, how they clean dog's teeth, and also how to remove a dog tooth. Then we got to look around some more until we went into several appointments of dogs getting their vaccines and checkups. The coolest part of the day was definitely when we got to scrub into a bunny rabbit getting neutered.” ~Bryon High School student after job shadowing at Northern Valley Animal Clinic

“As juniors in high school, who are starting to decide a career path, they are able to see what their desired career actually looks like and they are able to get a better understanding of day-to-day duties. By doing a shadow/ internship like this, they may realize a particular career isn't what they expected and may decide on a different occupation.” ~Brandon Roth, High School Educator

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Summit: 2015

- 2,000+ students
- 75 Businesses
- Outcomes:
 - 80% of the students would now consider a STEM career
 - 60% want to further explore a STEM career
 - 45% want to work harder in their STEM courses
 - 25% plan to take harder STEM classes

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Summit: November 15, 2016



Addition of art is a national movement started in Higher Ed facilities who see the benefit of collaboration between makers and creatives for the best result in innovation.

If you are interested in providing an interactive, hands-on experience for students through any of these events, please contact Kaylie McGregor at kmcgregor@rochestermnchamber.com.

**JA Choice Day:
Partnership with John Adams Middle School**

May 3, 2016

- Coordinating with Donna Brunskill at John Adams Middle School to have ~150 7th graders in teams of 10 in businesses all over Rochester with day long experiences.
- 6 busses of students
- 21 different field trip experiences in 18 different locations across the Rochester community.

“Thank you for partnering with us to create something truly special. The anticipation in the student faces this week is just precious. Every single kid is excited and that is astounding. Students were hustling into the computer labs, *early in the morning*, to get registered first. They cannot wait for the final lists to be posted so they can know which ‘Choice’ is theirs.” ~Donna Brunskill in an email to participating businesses.

If you are interested in providing an experience for a group of 10 7th graders in the 2016-17 school year, please contact Donna Brunskill at dobrunskill@rochester.k12.mn.us.

HIRE UP!:

**Summer internship program with youth 16 - 24 years old
Partnership with Workforce Development, Inc.**



- Youth are identified as having limited to no work experience and are then trained by staff on how to fill out applications, create resumes, and interview techniques.
- Youth interviewed with numerous businesses at the Chamber offices on May 14th
- Placed 25 youth in 7 different businesses
- Youth started work at the end of June and will work up to August 12th

“What we found was a great group of young adults that were involved in volunteer work, extracurricular activities, and had great communication skills. The businesses that missed out on this opportunity, really missed out on some great, local talent.” Homewood Inn & Suites

If you are interested in hosting a summer intern for the 2017 summer, please contact samanthahedwall@workforcedevelopmentinc.org

Hubworks.mn:



Hubworks is an online resource that connects jobs, resources, and people to the SE MN region. It will allow job seekers to search by resource, company culture or job descriptions of employment opportunities only offered in the SE MN region. The launch for Hubworks.mn is scheduled for first quarter of 2017.

If you would like to learn more about hubworks.mn, please visit the landing page at hubworks.mn or contact Julie Brock at jbrock@rochestermnchamber.com.

MaxAbility:

Southern Minnesota Disability Employment Network

Partnership with MaxAbility, Workforce Development, Inc., DEED, MN Workforce Center



Partnering to bring awareness about hiring and employing people with disabilities and what benefits come to places of employment by diversifying the workforce.

2016:

- MaxAbility column in the monthly Chamber Advantage Magazine
- Partnered to promote 4 events around different aspects of employment of people with disabilities

For more information about MaxAbility, please visit their [facebook page](#), or contact Guy Finne at Finne.guy@mayo.edu