TAKING YOUTH BACK-TO-SKILLS

From Exploration to Hands-On Skills Building – Growing a Career Ready Generation

More youth than ever are graduating high school and enrolling in postsecondary education. Research shows these youth are credentialed on paper, but lack the critical skills to succeed in their careers. This is America’s very real, and very critical, career readiness gap – resulting in only one in five college students saying they feel “very prepared” to join the workforce. National 4-H Council and Lockheed Martin are sharing a research-based career pathway model that nonprofits, corporations and schools across the nation will use to grow confident young people with the skills to thrive in STEM career opportunities.

The 4-H Career Pathway

A Pathway That Proves Benefits of Learning By Doing

“I might like to do this.” Students who are exposed to engineering before high school, through experiences like fairs and technology events, can develop early interest in the field and improve their performance in math and science.

“I can do this.” Project-based learning improves students’ understanding of science, as well as their problem-solving and collaboration skills.

“I’m interested in this.” Youth who have sustained, after-school STEM experiences and engage with professional STEM mentors before entering high school are more likely to go on to succeed in life and explore studies and careers in STEM.

“I will be this.” Real-world training opportunities are key. 81% of students who dropped out of high school said they might have stayed in school if they experienced real-world learning, including internships and service learning.

Why Students Need a Pathway

The number of high school students reporting they are not prepared for life after school, most are unsure about their career path. 50%

The number of fast growing occupations in the next decade and almost all will require at least some background in STEM. 30%

Youth, especially those at-risk, do not understand the role of a particular job AND cannot identify a pathway to attain it. 93%

The percentage of parents that believe preparing students for careers in STEM should be a priority for K-12 schools in the U.S. 17%

The number of growth in STEM jobs between 2014-2024, as compared to 12% for non-STEM jobs.

4-H Provides a Career Pathway With Hands-On Experience

Young people involved in 4-H perform better in science, engineering and technology subjects and are more likely to pursue science careers.

1.33 MILLION new young scientists engaged in 4-H Science ready Programs.

BY 2018 Together, 4-H and Lockheed Martin will engage 30,000 youth in discovery and exploration of STEM career opportunities.

514,000 dedicated adult volunteers support 4-H programs around the nation who put 4-H youth on a path towards successful careers.

Youth who participated in 4-H Science programs are significantly more likely than their peers to hold positive attitudes about science.

Learn more about the 4-H Career Pathway and Lockheed Martin partnership at www.4-H.org

Sources: