Preparing Students Across the Heart of Kansas City for College and Career Success
PREP-KC partners: 6 districts and 4 charters enrolling 66,741 students. 80% students of color, and 82% low income.

- 3,800 annual HS graduates
- 19 high schools and 15 middle schools
- 19 of the 20 zip codes with the lowest median household incomes
Market Value Assets

- Industry-Recognized Credential
- 9 or more College Credits
- Internship or Client Project
- Entrepreneurial Experiences
Between 2019 and 2025, PREP-KC will help over 10,000 young adults graduating from urban high schools earn Market Value Assets.
The Journey to an MVA

This is Ella—she’s a HS senior and today is a big day!

Today is the first day of her biotechnology internship!

How exactly did Ella get here?
Ella's Journey

- Summer Health Camp @ KUMC
  Fainted at the sight of blood!
- Trip to MCC
  Penn Valley in 5th Grade
- Kindergarten
- Project on Spreading Germs
  in 2nd Grade
- PLTW
  Biomedical Science Courses
- Met Cancer Researcher
  From Children's Mercy
  in 7th Grade
- Bioscience Internship
A K-12 Continuum for Postsecondary Success

**3rd - 5th Grade**
- Career Exposure
- College Exposure
- “Pro-Career” Mindset

**6th - 8th/9th Grade**
- Career Exploration
- Opportunities to Simulate and Reflect
- Essential Skill Awareness

**9th & 10th Grade**
- Postsecondary Planning
- Development of Postsecondary Portfolio
- Essential Skills Practice

**11th & 12th Grade**
- Demonstration of Essential Skills
- Completion & Exhibition of Postsecondary Portfolio
- **ATTAIN MVA**

K-12
Academic and Essential Skills Foundation

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What We’ve Learned through School Partnerships

• Translating the EWI mindset: The right opportunity for the right student at the right time

• Common milestones creates equity of access

• District and school leadership must provide accountability and support

• Intermediaries do the legwork and remove barriers

• Data matters (Student participation, student interest, volunteer participation, authentic feedback)
378 volunteers provided 2,265 virtual Connector sessions
+
362 volunteers provided 85 in-person student experiences

740 industry volunteers participated in 2,350 student experiences
INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT MATRIX

More Time Intensive

Less Resource Intensive

Less Time Intensive

More Resource Intensive

Mentoring
Project Advisement/Assessment
Teacher Professional Development
Advisory Councils

Student Internships
Apprenticeships
Work-site based Classrooms
Teacher Externships

One-Time Volunteer (Career Jumping, Guest Speaker)
Event Volunteer
Competition Judging
Job Shadows

Sponsorships
Grantmaking
In-kind Donations (space/equipment)
What We’ve Learned through Community Partnerships

• Align the outcomes, make the continuum transparent

• C-Suite Champions, Middle Management Connections, and peer recruitment and ambassadorship is a great combination of strategies

• Volunteer recruitment is more successful when its personalized, specific, immediately actionable, and expedited

• Passive outreach is usually insufficient to meet our volunteer demands

• Volunteers want to hear back from the students and teachers, organizations want the data
Resources

STEM Playbook

Connector Platform

Kauffman Real World Learning Site