

Enlighten *your* FUTURE



TEENWORK

Summer 2024 Newsletter



About TeenWork

By: Makenlee Cox

When you take initiative and work hard, you'll succeed. This year, 37 students participated in KUB's TeenWork program and took it as a chance to learn and grow.

KUB's TeenWork program was created 29 years ago by a former KUB Commissioner, Clifford H. Ross, giving juniors at Austin-East Magnet High School the opportunity to gain fundamental skills to succeed in any workplace. TeenWorkers not only gain skills, but they learn to apply what they learned from the program sessions and field trips throughout their paid summer internship. In 2021, KUB started to work with two additional high schools, giving students at Central and Fulton High Schools the opportunity to be a part of KUB's TeenWork program. This year, KUB added another school to the list, opening the opportunity to juniors at South Doyle High School.

Students are required to have at least a 2.5 GPA or higher, teacher recommendation, and complete the application and interview process to be accepted into the TeenWork program. TeenWorkers participated in monthly classes and learned about a variety of topics including resume writing, interviewing skills, goal setting, time management, and team building. These classes allowed students to grow in their personal and professional career.

After completing all the program sessions, TeenWork students have the opportunity to participate in a paid summer internship. After a multi-stage interview process, students were matched with mentors who aligned with their goals. Students worked alongside their mentors during the summer.

This program allows students to work and explore career fields that may interest them. KUB's TeenWork program sets students up for success by providing skills that allow teens to have a brighter future after high school.

TeenWork Class of 2024

AUSTIN-EAST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Leticia Armstrong, KUB Fiber Customer Service



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite aspect about the TeenWork program is getting to see and experience what life is like in the customer service field and just in a professional workspace.

Sirvontez Jones, KUB Underground Construction



What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? I play defensive tackle for the Austin-East High School football team, and I am also in Project Grad.

Junaiya Chandler, Covenant Health



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, I would. Being in the hospital I got to witness a lot, and being with wound care on some days showed me that I would love to work in fast-paced environments in the hospital, such as wound care and the ER.

De'Nasia Lowery, Covenant Health



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? YES! 100% I would love to become a full-time/ part-time employee at Covenant Health. Everyone is so nice and loving here!

Jakelia Djenini, KUB Lab & Regulatory Compliance



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? I've grown in my communication skills as well as transitioning, adapting to this new environment.

Kaleah McNeil, Covenant Health



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, I would consider a career in health care because I like to help others, and I really enjoyed my experience with this internship.

Jakenzie Djenini, Covenant Health



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? I'm seeing growth in myself and learning more about what I am interested in through KUB's TeenWork program. I'm learning different things about the human body every day and getting to experience seeing more.

Al'isha Roach, West Knox Utility District



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? I learned more about how to have a good resume and how to dress professionally for job interviews and for work.

Trinity Francis, KUB Accounting



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite aspect of being part of KUB is that everyone is friendly, and I was placed in Accounting which I love - it is very interesting.

Leilani Wilson, Covenant Health

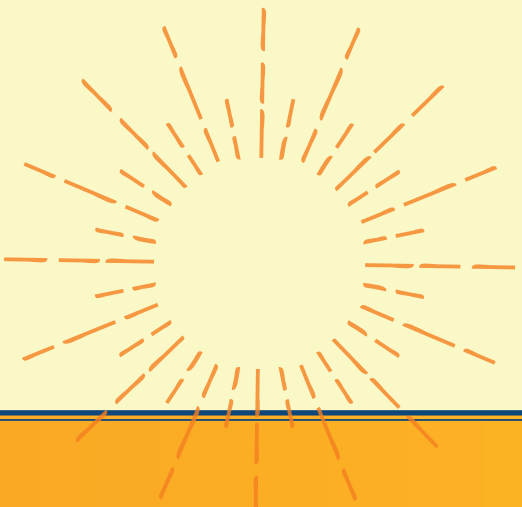


What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? I mostly spend my free time at work. However, I am in band, West African dance, leadership programs, and more, which keeps me learning through the year.

J'Lynn Foster, KUB Human Resources



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, I would consider working in Human Resources because Human Resources is all about helping people and having a good work environment. That's something that I really enjoy.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Aqueily Aleman-Blanco, KUB Community Relations



What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? I like to do creative and artistic things, read, chat with my friends. Very everyday and relaxing things.

Alissa Artica-Martinez, KUB Gas Systems Engineering



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes! Gas Systems Engineering has a lot of people with different roles. Being placed in this department has me eager to learn more and possibly make a career in this field.

Matthew Clayton, KUB Overhead Construction



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? I would definitely consider pursuing a career in overhead construction. I like how these employees aren't in the same place every day, and they get to work in various areas, sometimes places they never knew about.

Makenlee Cox, KUB Communications



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite part of being a TeenWorker at KUB is being able to learn different skills to better prepare me for my future career. I am honored to be a part of this opportunity as a TeenWorker and will use the skills I learned at KUB throughout my life.

Jamie Lopez-Reyes, Covenant Health



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? Through KUB's TeenWork program, I've grown in my memorization and communication skills. These skills will help me grow in my future career.

Tarquin Prysork, First Utility District



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, I consider the internship I currently have as a career because of the stability it has in the future as well as chance to further grow.

FULTON HIGH SCHOOL

Cameron Anthony, KUB Water Systems Engineering



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? I learned the importance of finding peace and being content with not having all the answers. This program offered me the chance to understand that we are all constantly learning and that it's okay not to have all the answers.

Jesus Castaneda, KUB Customer Service & Key Accounts



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? During my time at KUB I believe that I have learned more about everything that KUB has to offer. Before this internship, I had a basic understanding of KUB being a utilities company but did not know everything that occurred on the inside to keep it running so smoothly.

Cherakee Foust, KUB Properties



What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? During my free time, I like to enjoy nature, spend time with my family, play video games, or just get some relax time in my room, watching my shows or being on my phone.

Tamyra Hensley, KUB Customer Service



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, I would consider a career in the Customer Service Department because everything seems very relaxed, and the community here is amazing. Everyone keeps a smile on their face and loves their jobs, which is the way I would want to be when I pick my job/ career.

Maria Juan Andres, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce



What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? In my free time, I usually like to read all types of books or learn something new. I'm involved in the marching band at Fulton and the ESCALERAS program which helps first generation students with preparing for college and other skills.

Kamaria McDermott, KUB Information Services



What do you like to do in your free time or what activities are you involved in outside of school? I play basketball, go out with my friends, or travel in my free time. But I'm a busy person so besides playing basketball, there's barely any room to have "free time".

Maddox Myers, KUB System Operations Rotation: System Operations, Plant Operations, Vegetation Management, System Maintenance



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite aspect is learning new things and being in a job environment regularly.

Kevin Nava-Sabino, First Utility District



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite part of being part of KUB's TeenWork program is the fact that we are given the opportunity to get real, firsthand work experience. Furthermore, we can connect and meet new people.

Jadeyn Pendergrass, First Utility District



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? During my time I have grown more when it comes to communication. There are always a lot of people coming in and out of the building with different personalities so being able to communicate is a big part.

Olivia Roach, KUB Safety & Technical Services



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Later in life, I would consider a career in where I am placed for the internship, because not only am I in a great team but it is also a hands on job that would allow me to go in and out from the field.

Jaciah Stewart, Covenant Health



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My overall favorite aspect is learning something new every day. I thought it was going to slow down after the workshop but where I was placed, it's something new every day, and I enjoy it.

SOUTH DOYLE HIGH SCHOOL

Bailey Conkin, KUB Procurement



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? Throughout my time at KUB, I was able to get better at talking in front of people, as well as obtain skills relating to interviews, resumes, and money management.

Lariah Cozart, Covenant Health



Would you consider a career in the field where you were placed for your internship? Why or Why not? Yes, It showed me that I want to be a nurse and that I really enjoyed helping people. They've also offered me a job when I turn 18.

Jaden Teeters, KUB New Service Engineering



What is your favorite aspect about being a part of KUB's TeenWork program? My favorite aspect of being in the KUB TeenWork program is the fact that I get a very unique internship opportunity that both pays well and gives me better experience than the average job I could get as a teenager.

Jaylan Teeters, KUB Electric Systems Engineering



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? Throughout my time at KUB, I have learned a great deal more about the electrical grid as a whole and have learned valuable knowledge in how power lines work.

Turner Williams, KUB System Operations Rotation: System Operations, Plant Operations, Vegetation Management, System Maintenance



In what areas did you grow or learn more about during your time at KUB? I would say I've grown in maturity during the whole TeenWork process. This is my first-ever job, and it's taught me a lot about professionalism, time management, etc.

Additional students who completed the spring sessions:

DeVon Arnold, Austin-East Magnet



Christopher Lopez-Ortiz, Central



Suleyka Alonzo, Fulton



Damieona Williams, Fulton





Enlighten Your Future

By Makenlee Cox

KUB's TeenWorkers participated in many sessions throughout the spring semester leading up to their summer internships. Students gained more knowledge on how to be set up for success in their future careers. While TeenWorkers learned professionalism, students also learned more about themselves and grew as people. This program strengthened students' communications skills, teamwork efforts, and how to adapt to new environments and other people's opinions or ideas. Students will take the skills they learned from KUB's TeenWork program and apply them to their future careers and personal lives.

KUB values their employees and wants them to succeed and learn in every area in life. KUB partners with local businesses who also accept TeenWorkers. This allows additional students to be placed in utility-related fields and fields beyond utilities. The partners include First

Utility District, West Knox Utility District, Covenant Health, and Knoxville Chamber. As we grow up and have important jobs or more responsibilities and experience new opportunities, it is important to reflect and look back on what we started with. Looking back at where we started, we can see how far we have come, how much we have grown, and how much we have learned. For some TeenWorkers, their internship was their first job they had, teaching them to adapt to new areas and responsibilities. For others, the internship taught them values and who they want to work for and what they want to do as a career. This is just the beginning of many students' lives and careers. We must be open to new ideas and opportunities to have a bright future. We gain a new perspective and attitude for the future based on where we start and where we are planted along our journey.

TeenWorkers in Action



TeenWork Business Partner Q&A

CHRIS MARTIN — First Utility District

How has partnering with KUB's TeenWork program helped your business?

It has helped our business by allowing us to mentor students with the professionalism to excel in the workplace. We are instilling an opportunity to invest in the future of young adults. They gain knowledge and experience to become successful in their career of choice!

How have you seen your TeenWorkers grow during their time as your summer interns?

They've grown by interacting with employees, understanding the importance of communication, and working together. The TeenWorkers tend to gain more confidence in their ability to learn and perform job tasks over the summer.



CHRISTIAN KIDD — West Knox Utility District

How has partnering with KUB's TeenWork program helped your business?

Partnering with a program like TeenWork demonstrates a commitment to the community and social responsibility, which can enhance the company's reputation. Our business gives the opportunity for existing employees to mentor and develop leadership skills by guiding the TeenWork participants during the summer.

How have you seen this program impact the community and play a major role in these students' lives?

This program brought together businesses and young people, which fostered stronger community ties and encouraged a sense of shared purpose and responsibility. TeenWork will develop long-term impact by creating role models in the community and exposing participants to real-world work environments. By exposing students to these work environments, they may be motivated to pursue higher education or careers.



SHEROLA GERMAN — Covenant Health

How have you seen your TeenWorker(s) grow during their time as your summer intern?

The TeenWorkers are more knowledgeable about the operations of a hospital. The students are exposed to different positions at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. They learned what it is like to work in a professional setting. They learned whatever task they are assigned matters in the lives of their patients and their families. They learned how to respect their co-workers. Most importantly, they had the opportunity to see if they really want to pursue a career in healthcare.

How have you seen this program impact the community and play a major role in these students' lives?

These students can utilize the skills they have learned throughout their lives. The TeenWork students will have the mentors they have met here in the healthcare field if they need them in the future. I believe each year the interest will grow in this program to improve community outreach and provide needed educational opportunities.



ANGELA LUNSFORD — Knoxville Chamber

How have you seen your TeenWorker grow during her time as your summer intern?

We have been seeing our TeenWorker come out of her shell since she started. She seems more comfortable asking questions and interacting with other team members.

How have you seen this program impact the community and play a major role in these students' lives?

We try and give our TeenWorkers a variety of experiences each summer. That can include having them shadow the many departments within the Chamber, arranging off-site field trips, and more.



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