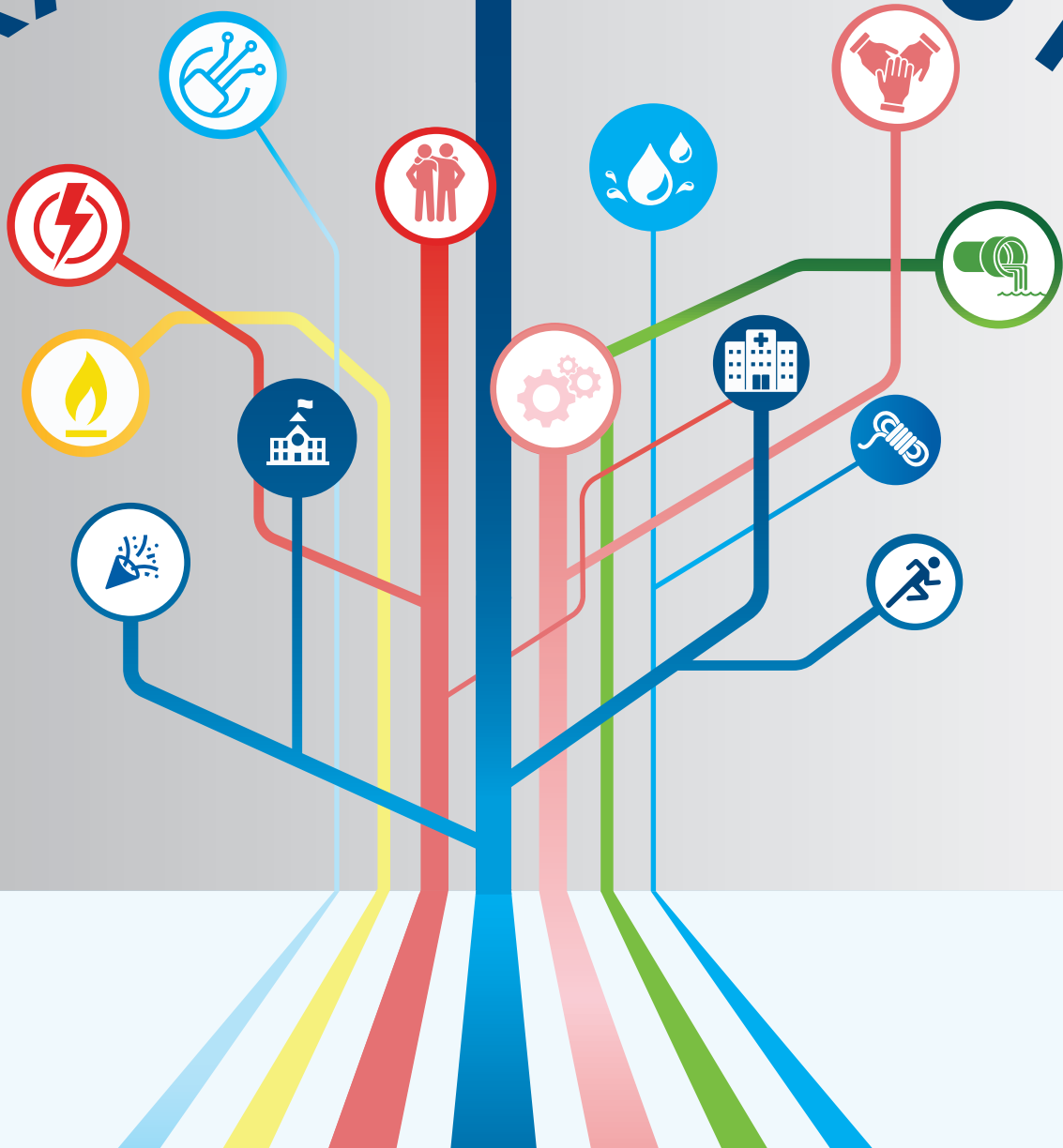


# BRANCHING OUT



# TeenWork

# FOR TOMORROW

# Summer 2023

TEENWORK PROGRAM AND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## TEENWORK





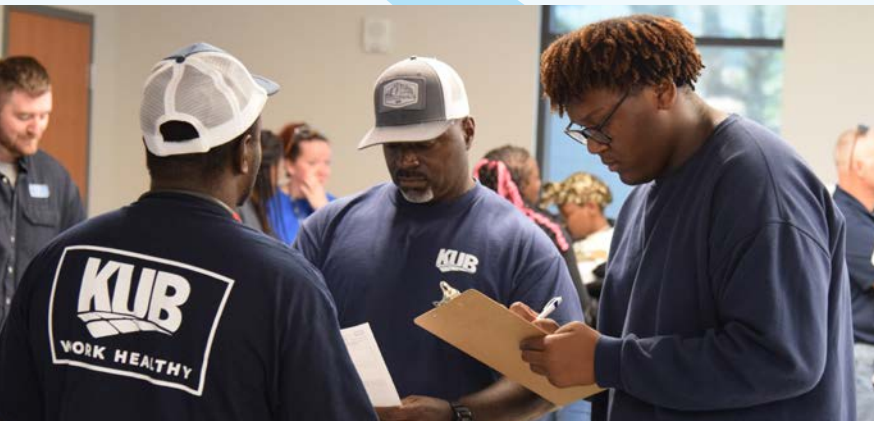
## About TeenWork By Ella Byrge

KUB's TeenWork program was created in 1995 by Clifford Ross, a former KUB Commissioner. The program's goal was to allow juniors at Austin-East Magnet High School to gain real world job experience over the course of the summer. As TeenWork has grown, the program has now reached out to more schools in collaboration with Austin-East, including Central and Fulton High School.

Students must have a 2.5 or higher GPA and a recommendation from a teacher or administrator to be accepted into the program. After applying and going through an interview, students who were accepted into the program took monthly classes to learn about topics such as professionalism, time management, and resume writing. These classes allowed students to not only learn about the workplace, but also how to build strong relationships through team building experiences and personal discussions.

After taking the 13 classroom sessions, TeenWork members went through multiple interviews in order to find the best summer internship that would apply to their future goals in life. Students were paired with a mentor and started to work with KUB or one of KUB's business partners for the duration of the summer. Mentors lead the workers at their job and taught them valuable skills in relation to the job.

This program allows high school students to gain an early advantage and learn about possible career opportunities that interest them.



## TeenWork Business Partner Q&A



### TRAVIS NICELY — First Utility District

#### What do you hope TeenWorkers gain from their summer internship experience?

Through their exposure to the workplace, I hope TeenWorkers gain practical experience for their resumes and begin building professional networks of support.

#### Why is partnering with KUB TeenWork important to your business?

Having the opportunity to influence the next generation of professionals is a privilege that benefits FUD by bridging the gap between experience and the development of the future of our fields.

#### What role do you think TeenWork plays in the Knoxville area community?

KUB has touched countless lives over the years through the outreach of the TeenWork program. By providing opportunities and support at an early age, this program has proven to be a life changing springboard for success for so many students and their families.



### TRISHA FLYNN — West Knox Utility District

#### What do you hope TeenWorkers gain from their summer internship experience?

It is my hope the TeenWork summer internship program provides a path for students to gain a better understanding of hard work, integrity, compassion, team work, and commitment in order to succeed in today's work force. I know as a mentor I would like for our TeenWorker to leave West Knox Utility District not only better prepared for the business community, but also as a better person overall. It is important that an individual learns not only professional skills, but personal skills as well. To achieve one's professional and personal goals, compassion, understanding, and patience are a skill set just as important as those physically required to be successful at any career.



#### Why is partnering with KUB TeenWork important to your business?

West Knox Utility District is grateful for the opportunity to work with our neighboring communities. We are compassionate about the TeenWork program and are extremely appreciative for the chance to share our knowledge and personal

development skills with today's youth. The KUB TeenWork partnership is important to West Knox Utility District in that it gives our employees a chance to teach, prepare, and encourage today's students so that they may accelerate into the workforce with the tools they need to succeed and achieve their goals.

#### What role do you think TeenWork plays in the Knoxville area community?

I think the TeenWork program is very important to the community in that it gives the students a better chance to succeed in life as a whole. Not only does it teach them hard work, dependability, and teamwork, I feel it better prepares them as a person in general. The TeenWork program is extremely important to the community in that it exposes today's rising students to a positive influence and atmosphere, along with encouragement and dedication to reach their goals.

### SHEROLA GERMAN — Covenant Health

#### What do you hope TeenWorkers gain from their summer internship experience?

- Experience in a professional setting.
- Experience in a healthcare environment.
- Experience with healthcare professionals.
- Experience with patients.
- Experience on a job.
- Experience with time management.
- Experience with responsibilities on a job.
- Experience with other cultures.





Teenwork Class of 2023

AUSTIN-EAST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Tylan Baker, KUB Procurement



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I'm involved in football, baseball, 100 Black Men, National Honor Society, and National Achievers Society. I work at Diamonds Car Wash and Deli."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I plan to attend college at UT to major in business analytics or accounting."

Shaniya Cherry, Covenant Health



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am on Austin-East's CheerTeam, Girl Talk, National Achievers Society, National Honor Society, Future of Hope, Student Government, Youth Leadership Knoxville Graduate, Youth-force, Project Grad, and Trio."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend a four-year university and major in nursing. I plan to pursue a career as a pediatric nurse."

Brycen Cunningham, KUB Overhead Construction



**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I am undecided."

Willow Davis, KUB Properties



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "My favorite aspect was learning new skills and meeting new people."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to UT for chemical engineering."

Noah Djenini, KUB Water Systems Engineering



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in basketball, track, cross country, Project Grad, and Project Excellence."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to UTK for computer engineering."

Jamia Hackler, Covenant Health



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "The ropes course, when all of us were able to work together and bond."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to college for nursing. I want to be an RN."

JaMya Hackler, KUB Meters



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am a student ambassador and in Student Government Association, National Honor Society, and Project Excellence."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend a four-year college."

Angeline Irankunda, KUB Human Resources



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in Austin-East Dance Company, Student Government Association, and Austin-East Track & Field."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend college, and study child psychology."

Janayla Kelsey, Covenant Health



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "Actually being hands on in the field I am pursuing."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I plan to attend Pellissippi State for my associates in science."

Charleston Thomas, KUB Overhead Construction



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in band."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to college for accounting."

Ramond Womble, KUB Plant Operations



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am the band captain."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend a four-year college for civil engineering and business."

Additional students who completed the summer sessions:

Leonard Weaver  
Shadowed at the University of Tennessee



LarryAsia Winton  
Attended Governor's School



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Lucky Bello, KUB Underground Construction



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "My favorite aspect was being able to learn stuff with friends."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend a two-year college."

Kaylee Bonilla, KUB Customer Service



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "My favorite aspect was meeting friends I've made in the TeenWork program."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to a cosmetic or business school."

Grace Craft, KUB Lab & Regulatory Compliance



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am on the Central High School Cross-Country Team, and the Track & Field Team."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I will be attending the University of Tennessee to study aerospace or nuclear engineering."

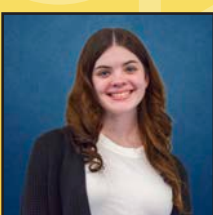
Oliver Dattilo, First Utility District



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I run cross country and track."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to study at UTK."

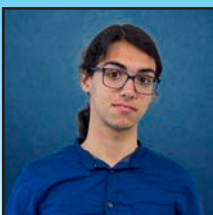
Brileigh Dawes, Fiber Customer Service



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in basketball, track, cross country, Project Grad, and Project Excellence"

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to UT and major in accounting."

Adrian Quintana, KUB Electric Systems Engineering



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in band, tennis, and tremont."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to attend UTK for mechanical engineering."

JaDarius Fisher, KUB System Operations



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in art and I'm planning on playing soccer in my senior year."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to publish a comic I have been working on for a while now and to go to college for art."

Karsen Taylor, Covenant Health



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "My favorite aspect of TeenWork was working at Covenant Health and learning all the new experiences."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I'd like to either go to nursing school or cosmetology school after graduation."

Jakob Thurman, KUB Information Services



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "My favorite aspect was meeting the mayor and people from different backgrounds."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to go to UT and practice video editing."

Braylen Young, West Knox Utility District



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am the school president this semester and possibly do the mock trial program again."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I want to pursue a degree in either psychology or philosophy."

FULTON HIGH SCHOOL

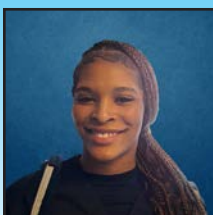
Ella Byrge, KUB Community Relations



**What activities are you involved in outside of KUB?** "I am in National Honor Society, Fulton Softball, Project Grad, Trio, and a Student Ambassador."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "To try to attend the University of Tennessee and study communications."

Samaria Taylor, Covenant Health



**What has been your favorite aspect of the TeenWork program?** "I have learned valuable life skills."

**What are your plans after graduating high school?** "I plan to go to Furman University for nursing and to play basketball."





# Branching Out *By Ella Byrge*

While school is in session, many upperclassmen are pressured with the fact that after high school they will have to make a choice about what their future will look like. They can feel stressed and worn out with the seemingly small career options they have, as well as feeling that college is not the route for them, or that there are no local jobs that interest them and their wants.

With KUB, the TeenWork program is an excellent opportunity to branch out past any limits and open your mind to new career opportunities such as construction, engineering, and human resources. With the program, not only are TeenWorkers allowed to work with KUB, but they also have multiple business partners that happily accept TeenWorkers. These partners paired with KUB are:

- West Knox Utility District
- First Utility District
- Covenant Health

These partners give TeenWork members an opportunity to branch out and see what jobs around them suit their needs and interests.

With WKUD and FUD, students can earn firsthand experience with working in the construction and engineering field, shadowing their mentors and work closely in real life situations.

With Covenant Health, students get to enter the medical field early by working together with nurses and help treat real people that are in need. These students get to shadow their mentors as well and learn advice that can help them as they continue to branch out and pursue the medical field.

KUB TeenWork allows students to branch out into different careers, as the company and its business partners can give students a head start on any potential job offers, they would want to pursue. Along with making connections

with coworkers and mentors, letting TeenWorkers branch out to different parts of the company itself. KUB hopes to expand its business partnerships in the near future.





# TeenWork Mentors Chime In – What does mentoring mean?

## CHRIS MARTIN

(First Utility District)

“Being a mentor gives an opportunity to build relationships and assist others who are seeking insight and guidance, though all aspects of life. To be a support person for someone who people can trust and exemplify professionalism. Also, to know that you are a positive figure in someone's life and very instrumental part of their success.”

*Chris was a mentor to Oliver Dattilo.*



## PENNY MCNEAL

(West Knox Utility District)

“Mentoring is a wonderful opportunity to be a positive influence in a teenager's life. As a mentor, I provide positive guidance and support in developing future career growth by building confidence, as well as taking the time to listen and communicate. Encouragement allows the teen to become an even better version of themselves at the end of the session. Watching the growth, independence, and confidence increase in the teen worker is the best part of being a mentor.”

*Penny was a mentor to Braylen Young.*

## ROBERT TAYLOR

(KUB Customer Service)

“Mentoring to me is providing support and guidance, giving someone consistent feedback to be the best version of themselves. Pulling out greatness in that person that they never believed they had in them. Encouraging them to be confident in all they do, stay focused, and work hard to achieve excellence.”



*Robert was a mentor to Kaylee Bonilla.*

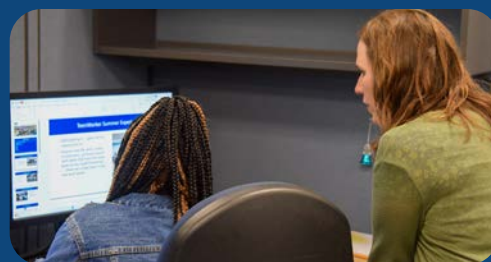


## AMY KENNEDY

(KUB Human Resources)

“Being a mentor means taking the time to get to know someone for who they are and the talents they possess, and then helping them find ways to use their talents to make a better future for themselves.”

*Amy was a mentor to Angeline Irankunda.*



## BLAKE BROWN

(KUB Water Systems Engineering)

“Being a mentor to me means to provide initial guidance and perspective to Teenworkers in regards to a professional work environment as they become young adults and are venturing into the work world. I think back to when I was in high school and started working and how great it would have been to have a program like the Teenworker program to assist with my first job placement and possible career choices.”

*Blake was a mentor to Noah Djenini.*

