

an
eye-opening
experience



TeenWork

FOR TOMORROW

Summer
2021

TEENWORK PROGRAM AND ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



TeenWork – An Eye-Opening Experience

By Noel Djenini

The KUB TeenWork program began in 1995 by former KUB Commissioner, Clifford H. Ross. The program's main goal is to assist high school juniors in learning the necessary skills for how to prosper in a corporate environment.

To participate in the program, students must have a 2.5 or higher GPA and be nominated by a teacher or administrator. Eligible students must complete and submit an interest application and interview for their spot in the program. Once selected to participate in the program, students attend weekly sessions that include goal setting, diversity awareness, and communication skills.

After successfully completing program sessions, students are given an opportunity to interview for an eight-week, paid summer work experience with KUB and partnering agencies. They are then paired with a mentor who leads and guides them through value-added projects and workplace experiences.

"TeenWork is an eye-opening experience," said Noel Djenini, 2021 TeenWorker. "By the end of eight-weeks, students have fun learning about KUB and their future careers."



Glancing at the Past – An Interview With Former TeenWorkers

By Noel Djenini

One of the greatest benefits to participating in the TeenWork program is the possibility of being retained and recruited for future, full-time employment opportunities with KUB and partnering agencies.

Currently, KUB has 11 former TeenWorkers employed in full-time or college intern positions across the organization that include engineering, construction, procurement, and customer service. Two of the most recent employee recruits, Kalen Jones and Jarett Kyle, share information about their past TeenWork experiences.

Q: How are you currently employed at KUB?

KJ: I am a full-time employee at KUB working as a utility apprentice.

JK: I am a full-time college student working at KUB as an engineering intern.

Q: What made you decide to come back to KUB after participating in the TeenWork program?

KJ: I was offered opportunities to come back to work during winter and summer breaks. Rick Rice (TeenWork mentor) took me under his wings and helped me to develop my potential. I could see opportunities to grow with a stable organization and with the support of people I trust.

JK: I wanted to be an engineer and Blake Brown (TeenWork mentor) seemed like a great role model. They (TeenWork staff) recruited me to come back as a college student intern and have shown that they have my best interest at heart.

Q: What would you say to future TeenWorkers about this opportunity and their futures?

KJ: Do everything to the best of your ability and don't judge what you don't know or haven't tried.

JK: Take advantage and learn from the opportunity whether you want to work here [KUB] in the future or not.



Kalen Jones

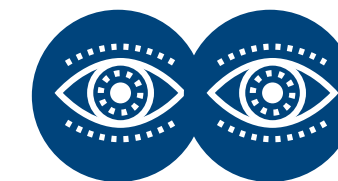


Jarett Kyle

Looking at the Present – Meet the Pupils

By Noel Djenini

For the first time ever, TeenWork was conducted in a virtual setting and consisted of high school juniors and seniors. The global pandemic of 2020 created many uncertainties for how programming and activities could be safely carried out; therefore, the 2020 program was postponed and carried out in 2021.



Maleek Bishop, Gas Engineering



Future Plans: Attend college and major in business or engineering

Best TeenWork Moment: Going on field visits, attending the roundtable discussions, and touring the water and wastewater plants

Advice you would share with next year's class? Be on time, manage your time, never be afraid to ask questions and have fun

Thaily Parra-Reyes, Overhead Construction



Future Plans: Attend Pellissippi State Community College and major in liberal arts

Best TeenWork Moment: Watching the process through which water is treated was fascinating

Advice you would share with next year's class? Learn as much as you can. It may not seem useful right now but the knowledge you learn as a TeenWorker could help out in the future

Noel Djenini, Community Relations, Communications, Customer Technical Services

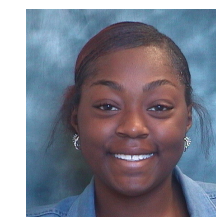


Future Plans: Attend Tennessee Tech University and major in psychology

Best TeenWork Moment: Attending meetings and learning how professional business meetings are conducted

Advice you would share with next year's class? Always be prepared to work but allow yourself time to relax and have fun

Aaliyah Rice, Human Resources

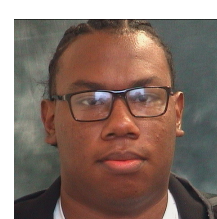


Future Plans: Attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and major in nursing

Best TeenWork Moment: Going on the TeenWorker Tours and shadowing in Occupational Health

Advice you would share with next year's class? TeenWork is a great opportunity that you don't want to miss out on

Uriah Felipe, Transportation



Future Plans: I'm not sure what my future plans are, working in Transportation at KUB is an option

Best TeenWork Moment: Getting together with all the TeenWorkers and mentors to eat and talk about things we've been learning

Advice you would share with next year's class? Take advantage of this opportunity. It's a really good job to learn new things and meet new people. Plus, the pay is good

Mia Rorex, Customer Experience

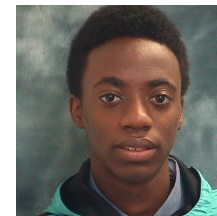


Future Plans: Attend Douglas J Aveda Institute to become an esthetician

Best TeenWork Moment: Attending the ropes course brought me out of my comfort zone

Advice you would share with next year's class? Stay focused

Devaun Mitchell, Procurement, Accounting

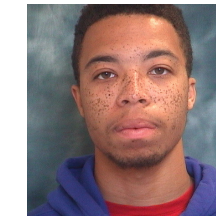


Future Plans: Attend college and major in accounting

Best TeenWork Moment: Shadowing Tony Flack and seeing all the KUB departments

Advice you would share with next year's class? Show up to every session. Come prepared with questions. Learn as much as you can and have fun

Javell Swanson, Water Systems Engineering



Future Plans: Attend Johnson University and play basketball

Best TeenWork Moment: Going out in the field with Blake Brown and witnessing the work that is done by KUB

Advice you would share with next year's class? Enjoy the experience and be a sponge; you learn skills that you can take anywhere in life

William Nichols, Customer Support, Vegetation Management, System Operations



Future Plans: Get a job immediately after high school, hopefully with KUB

Best TeenWork Moment: Going out in the field

Advice you would share with next year's class? CHECK YOUR EMAILS...LOL! Always be prepared, dress for success, and be ready and willing to learn new things

Anthony Toms, Information Services



Future Plans: Attend the University of Tennessee

Best TeenWork Moment: Making and creating my own blog has been very fun and interesting

Advice you would share with next year's class? Find something in the program that you really enjoy. KUB has a lot of departments to choose from



Seeing the Future – TeenWork Program Expansion

By Trina Gallman



TeenWork was established to introduce students to KUB and the utility industry while improving employer expectations and workplace skills. Since its inception, the program has remained an exclusive partnership between KUB and Austin-East Magnet High School.

Beginning in 2022, TeenWork will expand to Fulton and Central high schools to allow more students to experience the real world

of work and see their futures through training, mentorship, and opportunities with KUB and partnering agencies.



Please refer questions or comments about *TeenWork for Tomorrow* to KUB Communications. For address changes or corrections, please call Trina Gallman at (865) 594-7233.

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