

Youth Apprenticeship... Investing in Wisconsin's future

Youth Apprenticeship is an innovative business/education partnership that prepares high school students for challenging careers in Wisconsin's leading industries.

- The Governor's Work-Based Learning Board partners with local businesses throughout the state and with statewide business and industry associations to identify the competencies needed in the workplace.
- Local businesses hire students and provide mentors to teach the work-related competencies, as well as workplace ethics and communication skills.
- High schools and technical colleges provide specific related instruction for the youth apprentices.

How does Youth Apprenticeship benefit students? Youth apprentices graduate from high school with marketable skills and valuable work experience, in addition to advanced credits in most technical colleges. Grade point averages typically improve for youth apprentices over the course of the program. Over 75% of youth apprentice graduates enroll in technical colleges and/or universities after graduation. Over 80% obtain employment.

"Not only have we gained extraordinary job candidates from the Youth Apprenticeship program, but our employees and managers have learned from the students."

First Federal Savings Bank, LaCrosse

How many businesses are involved? Close to 1600 Wisconsin businesses employed a youth apprentice during 2003-04. Many provide financial assistance and part-time jobs to youth apprentices who continue their education beyond high school.

97% of businesses say they would recommend the program to other employers. Up to 90% of employers offer jobs to their youth apprentice graduates.

"Because of our involvement in the Youth Apprenticeship program, we are able to custom-design our future workforce..."

Memorial Community Hospital, Edgerton

Participating businesses include: Aurora Health Care, Bergstrom Automotive, M&I Bank, Heidel House, Zimbrick Buick, Meriter Hospital, RB Royal Industries, Grande Cheese, Waukesha Engine, Serigraph, Wausau Hospital, Green Bay Press Gazette, Alliant Energy, Briggs&Stratton, Abbotsford State Bank, Luther Manor, Promega, Braeger Chrysler, royal Credit Union, Mercury Marine, Webcrafters, Tundra Lodge

Youth Apprenticeship Facts and Figures. . . .

How many students are involved in youth apprenticeship? Over 2200 students enrolled in youth apprenticeship programs during the 2003-04 school year. 47% of the students were female and 9% of the students were ethnic minorities.

How many school districts are involved?

307 of Wisconsin's 426 school districts and 7 private schools belonged to one of 35 local partnerships around the state. The schools are responsible for recruiting the students and contributing to the cost of the related classes. The youth apprenticeship classes are taught at the high school, local technical college, or area businesses.

How are state funds used? State funds are distributed to local partnerships through an annual request for proposal process to support the cost of a local coordinator, recruiting employers, and paying for the classroom instruction. *No funds are provided to local businesses.* Many businesses provide financial support for local programs, in addition to hiring and training the youth apprentices. In-kind funding is also provided by many schools, chambers of commerce, and technical colleges.

What happens to youth apprenticeship graduates? Recent follow-up surveys of graduates from 2000 through 2003 indicate that 87% are currently employed and 78% enrolled in post-secondary education after high school graduation. 82% reported that their current employment is related to their YA training.

How many programs are available for students? Training is available in 22 program areas, many of which are growth industries in the state. (Not all areas are available in all school districts – partnerships select areas based on local labor market needs.)

Program Areas and Enrollment for 2003-04

Auto Collision	46	Insurance	3
Auto Technician	261	Lodging Management	51
Biotechnology	17	Logistics	7
Drftg&Design/Architecture	12	Mnfg/Machining	89
Drftg&Design/Engineering	59	Mnfg/Plastics	0
Drftg&Design/Mechanical	27	Mnfg/Prod Technician	72
Financial Services	209	Printing	76
Health Services	773	Prod Ag/Animal Science	224
Industrial Equipment	8	Prod Ag/Crops & Soils	59
Information Technology	131	Tourism	11
Info Tech/Networking	22	Welding	66