



## STUDENTS STILL HAVE THE CHANCE FOR CAREER EXPLORATION - FROM HOME!

The Ignite Careers Expo for Youth is typically a two-day in-person event, but with the obstacles surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, this event transitioned to a week-long event available on a virtual platform to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

“Bridging the gap between education and the workforce is always beneficial, even during the challenging obstacles of 2020. Students were able to participate in the Virtual Ignite Careers Expo for Youth no matter what their class schedule looked like; whether they were attending school on a hybrid schedule, or learning virtually at home,” Travis Staton, President, and CEO of United Way of Southwest Virginia.

The employers that participated in the virtual expo are invested in the region and ensuring that tomorrow’s workforce has the tools and knowledge to make the region prosper for years to come.

66 schools participated and more than 5,500 students engaged in online career exploration.

For more information contact  
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Emory & Henry’s department of Physical Therapy participated in the 2020 Virtual Careers Expo for Youth by sharing an activity with students about how they check for knee injuries featuring their skeletal team member.

“Having this virtual platform made the resources and information more accessible to schools who would not have been able to participate in person due to distance constraints,” said Crystal Breeding, Youth Success Coordinator, United Way of Southwest Virginia.

**“We are so thankful and appreciative of all the work United Way of Southwest Virginia put in to make the virtual expo happen, our students enjoyed the informational videos and experiences while learning about the many different career options available to them in our area,”** said an Ignite Coordinator, “The virtual expo provided a sense of normalcy and gave students something to look forward to during the uncertainty of the pandemic.”



United Way of  
Southwest Virginia