



United Way of Southwest Virginia
Ignite Program

The Youth Success team provides career awareness, career exploration, skill development and local networking to Southwest Virginia youth.

2021-2022 Review

The Youth Success team supports United Way of Southwest Virginia's cradle-to-career approach, innovating for positive, lasting social change by creating sustainable solutions to address the challenges facing tomorrow's workforce through collaboration with government, business, nonprofit and individuals. Youth Success partners with 200+ businesses, schools, and community organizations to continue to grow the workforce in southwest Virginia and provide additional opportunities for students to engage with business and industry in their communities early and often.

101
Ignite Coordinators
supported at each middle and high school, and most CTE Centers



29,610 students have access to Major Clarity accounts.

13 local school districts classified as Platinum/Power/High.
5 classified as good.

Major Clarity software offers academic planning for schools and students by aligning students' academic plans with career exploration, postsecondary planning, and work-based learning by allowing students to make informed decisions about choosing a career pathway.

Summer Internships

This summer, 54 Interns were placed across southwest Virginia with 21 business partners. Ignite Internships provide our region's high school students with a paid summer internship component designed to teach critical workplace skills and prepare students for the workplace through hands-on work experience. Interns are paired with a mentor at each site ensuring success and stability throughout the placement.

54
Summer Interns

21
Southwest Virginia business partners

“He has communicated efficiently both virtually and in person. He finishes tasks much quicker than expected and has done a great job collaborating with others.”
Ignite Mentor

“I was able to strengthen my skills in teamwork, data analysis, organization, time management, and thinking in a broad way about solutions (critical thinking)”
Ignite Intern

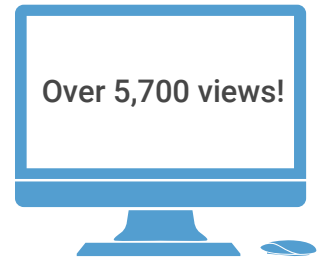


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Virtual Careers Expo

The Careers Expo is designed to engage 7th grade students in an immersive awareness experience that encourages them to explore careers available in Southwest Virginia. For the last two years, this experience was virtual and located on the United Way of Southwest Virginia website.



Educators in Industry

Web-based opportunities were provided for educators and businesses to connect to learn about skill sets needed for the business credentials or degrees required for entry level jobs, job processes, and discussions about future job opportunities. These tours are recorded and posted on the United Way of Southwest Virginia website so that educators have access to watch them after the live sessions. Over 600 educators have viewed the tours.

Businesses Explored in 2021-2022

- Tadano Mantis*
- KVAT*
- Solar BioTech*
- Cary Street Partners*
- Electro Mechanical*
- Pakalachian Food Truck*

Communication
Collaboration
Critical thinking
Creative thinking
Citizenship skills

5 C's Workshop

Virginia's new profile of a graduate focuses on skills that allow any student to succeed in the modern-day world. The 5 C's Workshops are designed to give teachers the opportunity to learn how to implement methods that help students practice these skills.

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