



JUMP START!

2.0



CONVENTION

**Preparing High School Students for
College, Career, and Life: Soft Skills and Internships**

YouthForce NOLA



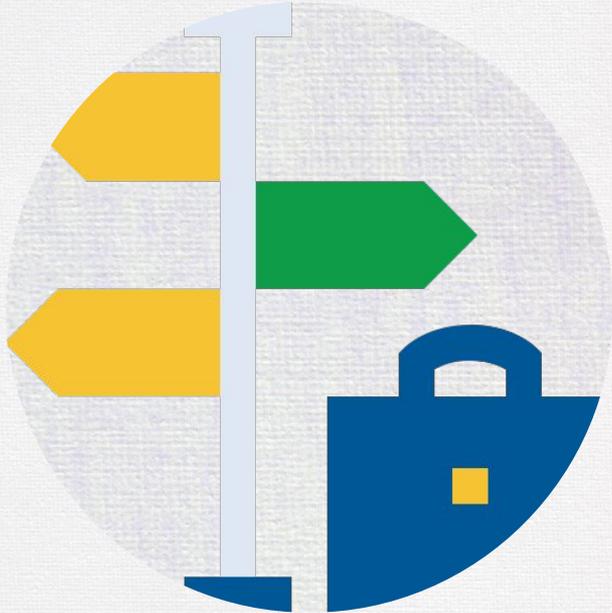
Nathan Stockman
Chief of Education
& Training Partnerships

Paige Boetefuer
Director, The Solutions Lab



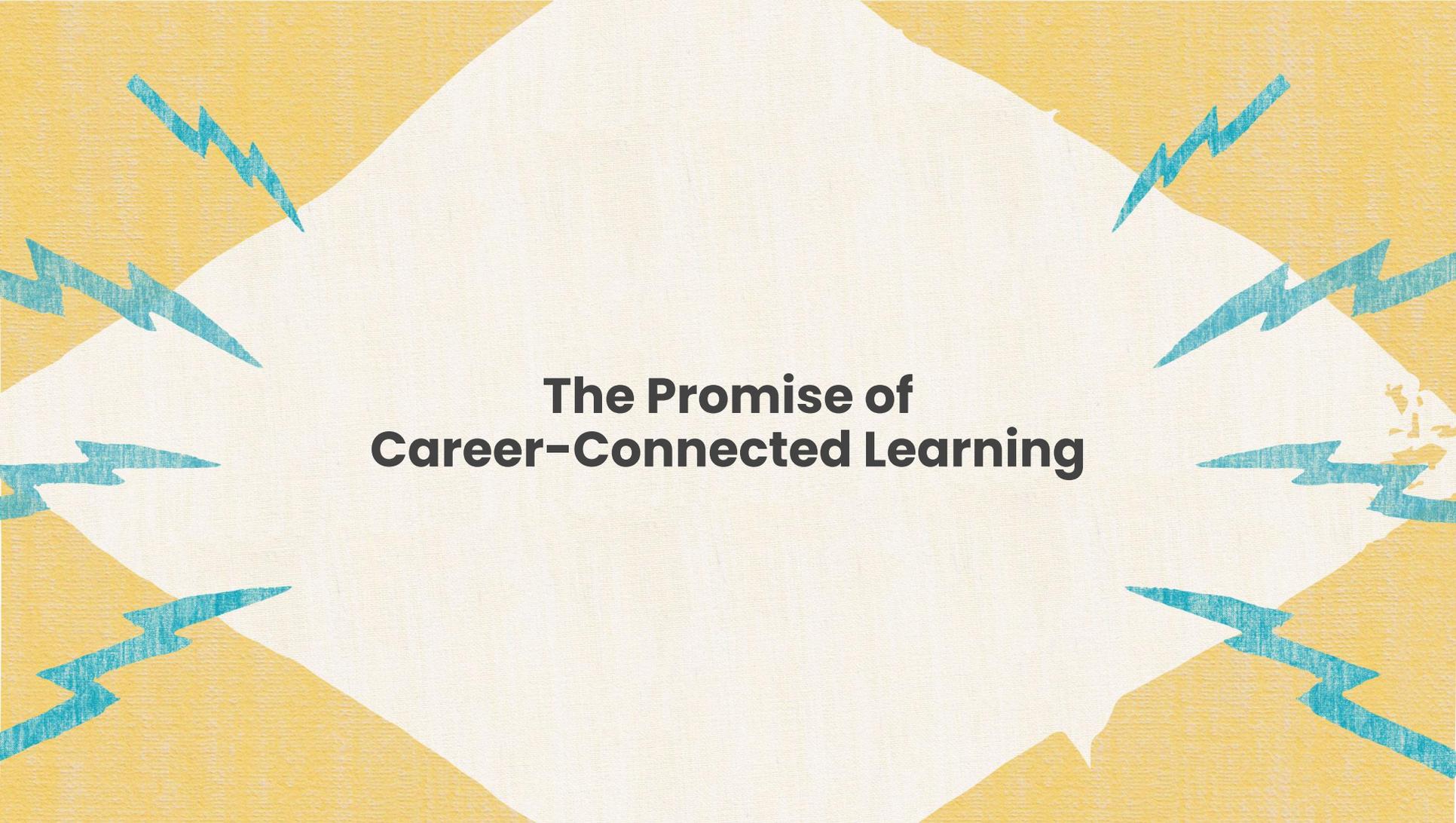
Agenda

- 1. The Promise of Career Connected Learning**
- 2. Spotlight on Soft Skills**
 - What skills matter most?
 - What does it take to implement?
- 3. Spotlight on Internships**
 - More than just work experience
 - Structures of a solid program
- 4. What is your next big move?**
 - Soft Skills
 - Internships
 - Other?? We can help



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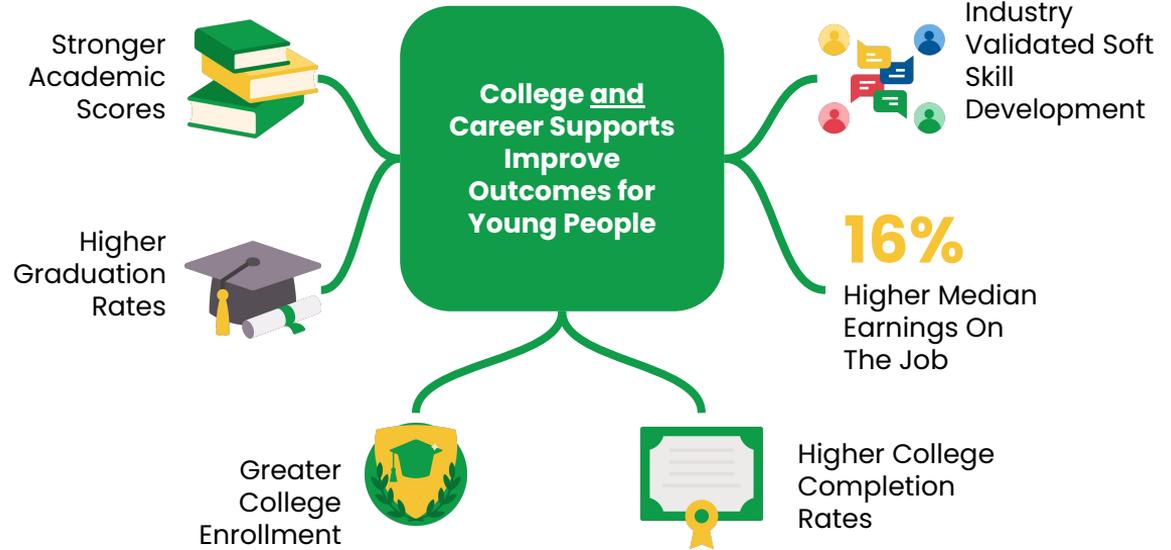


The image features a central white area with a subtle fabric-like texture, set against a yellow background. The yellow background is decorated with several blue, jagged lightning bolt shapes. The overall composition is symmetrical and modern.

The Promise of Career-Connected Learning

We can expand options, opportunity, and prosperity for our youth and our communities by strengthening and reimagining the high school experience.

When students have access to evidence-based career-connected learning, they are more successful during high school, in college, and, ultimately, on the job.



There is growing recognition that fostering meaningful connections between students, educators, and industry professionals can create powerful learning experiences.

While certain educational opportunities like dual enrollment coursework and industry credentials are increasingly available, too often missing are two components that are critical for ensuring students are prepared for their future careers.



INTERNSHIPS

Youth are eager to explore their career options, build their professional networks, and get experience in a real workplace.



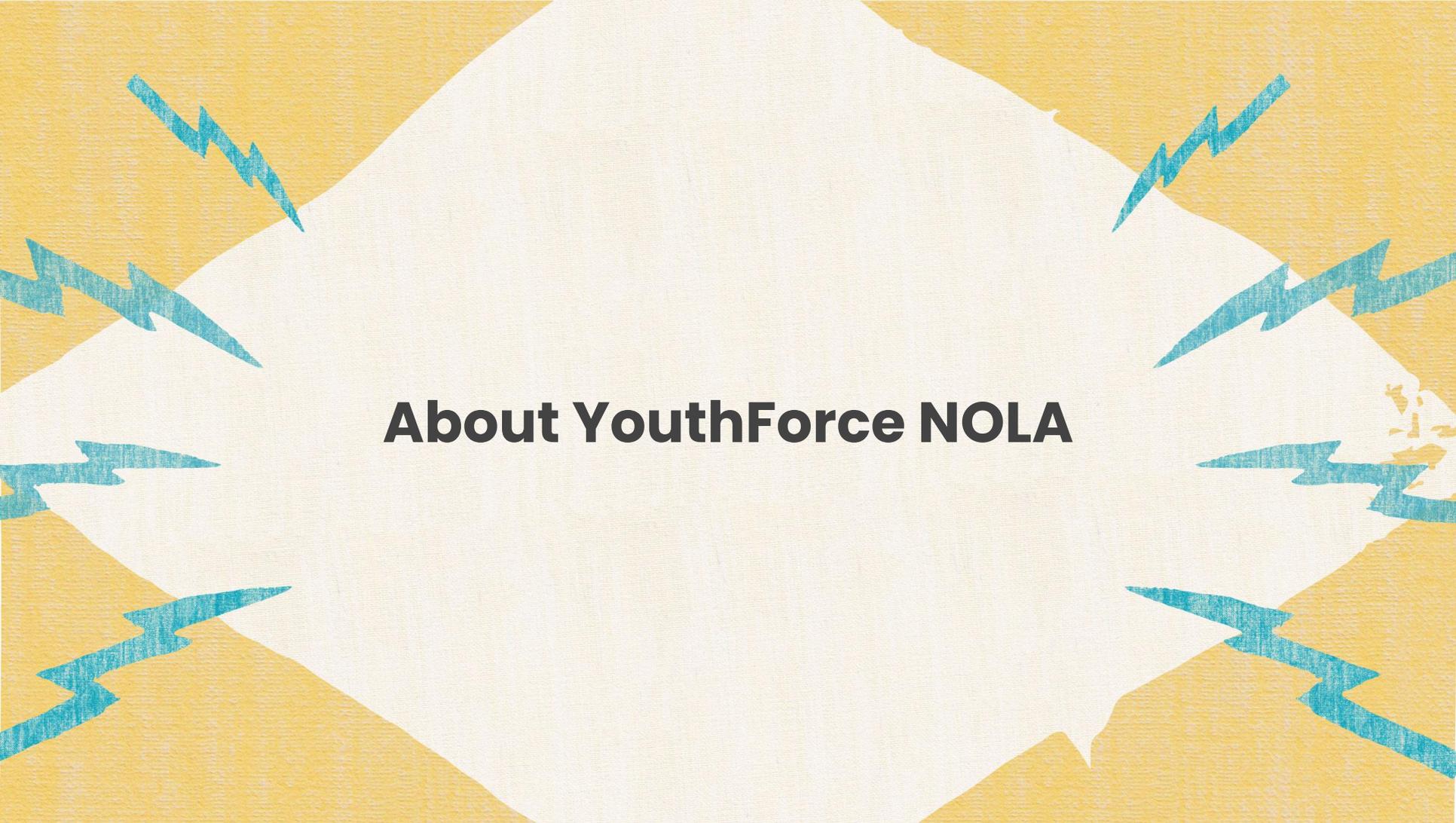
SOFT SKILLS

Young people benefit from explicit learning opportunities focused on communication, teamwork, and other skills they'll need in college and a range of modern work environments.

To foster an educational experience for students that seamlessly integrates all aspects of high-quality career-connected learning, strong alignment across our K-12, postsecondary, and workforce systems is key.

Absent intentional coordination, these systems can all too easily operate in silos. Experienced, trusted organizations can serve as pathways intermediaries, leveraging expertise and relationships to facilitate effective cross-sector programming and partnerships.



The image features a central white circle with a textured, fabric-like appearance. This circle is set against a bright yellow background. Surrounding the white circle are several stylized blue lightning bolts, each with a jagged, zig-zag shape. The lightning bolts are positioned around the perimeter of the white circle, creating a sense of energy and focus on the central text.

About YouthForce NOLA

YouthForce NOLA equips New Orleans public school students with the skills and know-how they need to take charge of their futures and successfully navigate their next steps in life.



CAREER EXPOSURE

Insight on a range of careers, including great local jobs



INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS

Mastery of essential technical skills



INTERNSHIPS

Real-world experience with a local employer



SOFT SKILLS

Communication and collaboration skills, and interpersonal habits necessary for success in college, career, and life



COLLEGE CREDITS/ DUAL ENROLLMENT

Opportunities to complete **free** college-level coursework in high school



PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Relationships with industry experts who make connections to job opportunities and provide career advice.

An intermediary, YouthForce NOLA is the connective tissue that ensures clear, consistent communication and collaboration across education, community, and business stakeholders.

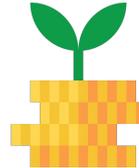
We connect our tremendous local assets and multiply our partners' critical work and life-changing results by:



Bringing together a diverse network.



Establishing cross-sector partnerships.



Investing in proven approaches.



Checking in on our collective progress.



Promoting better public policy.

We ensure that everyone in our students' lives—their families, teachers, bosses, everyone—has access to the information, support, and resources they need to help youth set goals, make a plan, and take the right steps for their desired career path.

Families

Parents and caregiver access resources to help them navigate college and career planning alongside their children, including tips for partnering with educators and financial aid guidance.

Educators

Engaging, relevant professional learning, school-community partnerships, and financial resources enable teachers, school counselors, and principals to make college and career planning a regular part of students' learning.



Local Employers

100+ businesses annually invest in their future workforce by supporting our youth Career Expo, visiting with educators and students at school, hosting a YouthForce NOLA Intern, and more.

Training Providers

Our financial investment in six providers paired with relationships in every key sector ensures students can access exceptionally high-quality training and secure industry-based credentials valued by local employers.

Spotlight: Soft Skills

Embedded throughout our programming is explicit focus on the soft skills necessary for success in college, career, and life.

Youth get support developing these skills at school, as interns with local businesses, and everywhere in between through:

Workplace Readiness Curriculum

60 hours of pre-internship training that complements students' on-the-job learning

Fellowships & Communities of Practice

Intensive, sustained professional learning for teachers, school counselors, and principals

Workshops

For anyone who supports youth: nonprofit staff, camp counselors, families, and more

Awesome Supervisor Training

For local employees who manage interns at their job sites

Synthesizing existing research studies, 12K youth performance reviews, and insights from 100+ experts, teachers, parents, and youth uncovered:

6 soft skill domains



Personal Mindset



Planning for Success



Social Awareness



Communication



Collaboration



Problem Solving

4 hireability areas



Professional Attitude



Core Problem Solving



Team Work Ethic



Time Management

MHA Labs

Turn and Talk

Of the following Industry-Validated Soft Skills...

- 1) Which are most important for success in your class, school, context?
- 2) In which skills are students getting the most practice?
- 3) How do students know if they are “getting it?”





billy

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- 1) Which are most important for success in your class, school, context?
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21st Century Classroom/Training Room Skills Checklist
COMPLETED BY (NAME, ROLE)

Grade _____ Subject _____

How important are the following skills for successful job performance? *

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Personal Mindset <ul style="list-style-type: none">Needs minimal supervision to complete tasks.Attempts to complete tasks independently before asking for help.Follows safety/economic as required by the task/situation.Maintains focus on tasks despite internal (e.g., emotional) and/or external distractions.Avoids actions that have potential internal (e.g., emotional) and/or external distractions.Strives to overcome barriers/obstacles, seeking assistance when needed.Adopts approach in response to new conditions or others' actions.			
Planning for Success <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sets and programs goals that reflect a awareness of one's capabilities, interests, emotions, and/or needs.Breaks goals into actionable steps.Accurately estimates level of effort and establishes realistic timelines.Organizes time to complete tasks on schedule.Applies existing/relevant knowledge, skills, and/or strategies that one determines to be useful for achieving goals.Monitors progress and own performance, adjusting approach as necessary.Demonstrates a belief that one's own actions are associated with goal attainment.			
Social Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recognizes the competencies of one's actions.Balances own needs with the needs of others.Takes into consideration others' situations/challenges.Develops and implements strategies for engaging in different contexts (i.e., manages different patterns of behavior, rules, and norms).			
Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizes information that serves the purpose of the message, content, and audience.Uses and adjusts communication as needed based on the purpose of the message, content, and audience.Engages listening accordingly.Seeks input to gauge other's understanding of the message.Able continues to deepen and/or clarify one's understanding when listening to others.			
Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none">Completes tasks as they have been assigned or agreed upon by the group.Helps team members complete tasks, as needed.Encourages the ideas, opinions, and contributions of others.Provides feedback in a manner that is sensitive to others' situations/needs.Clarifies areas of disagreement/conflict that need to be addressed to achieve a common goal.Seeks to secure resolution of disagreements/conflicts to achieve a common goal.			
Problem Solving <ul style="list-style-type: none">Defines problems by considering all potential parts and relevant causes.Gathers and organizes relevant information about a problem from multiple sources.Generates potential solutions to a problem, seeking and leveraging diverse perspectives, identified for a problem.Identifies attractive (dis)advantages that are more effective than the ones previously investigated.Evaluates the advantages and disadvantages associated with each potential solution.Selects and implements best solution based on evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of each potential solution.			

Spotlight: YouthForce NOLA Internship

YouthForce NOLA Internships give rising high school seniors an opportunity to work alongside local professionals with expertise in a range of career fields through a paid, work-based learning experience.

140

YouthForce NOLA Interns
in 2023

4

high-wage,
in-demand
career clusters

90

hours of
on-the-job
experience

\$250,000+

stipends earned
in 2023

1,200+

YouthForce NOLA Interns
since 2015



60

hours of
complementary
soft skills training

99%

of YouthForce NOLA
Interns get a job or
continue their education

250+

local business partners



Turn and Talk

How can an internship program benefit each of the following?

- a) The intern
- b) The hosting business/company
- c) The school
- d) The community

Together with our partners, we provide the career-connected learning experiences and practical resources young New Orleanians need to explore and confidently pursue a wide range of opportunities after high school.

99%
of YouthForce NOLA
Internship alumni get a
job or continue their
education



1,200+

students have gained meaningful work experience through a YouthForce NOLA internship



93%

of New Orleans Public Schools partner with YouthForce NOLA



250+

New Orleans businesses support YouthForce NOLA through internships, educator externships, and direct financial investments in their future workforce



\$2.5M

annually invested in our college and career training partners

KEY SKILLS. REAL EXPERIENCE. *FUTURE READY.*



She may not have known it then, but Ale'cia's time at New Orleans & Company was just getting started as a YouthForce NOLA intern. After graduating from University of Louisiana at Lafayette in strategic communications, her intern supervisor at New Orleans & Company hired Ale'cia into her first full-time job



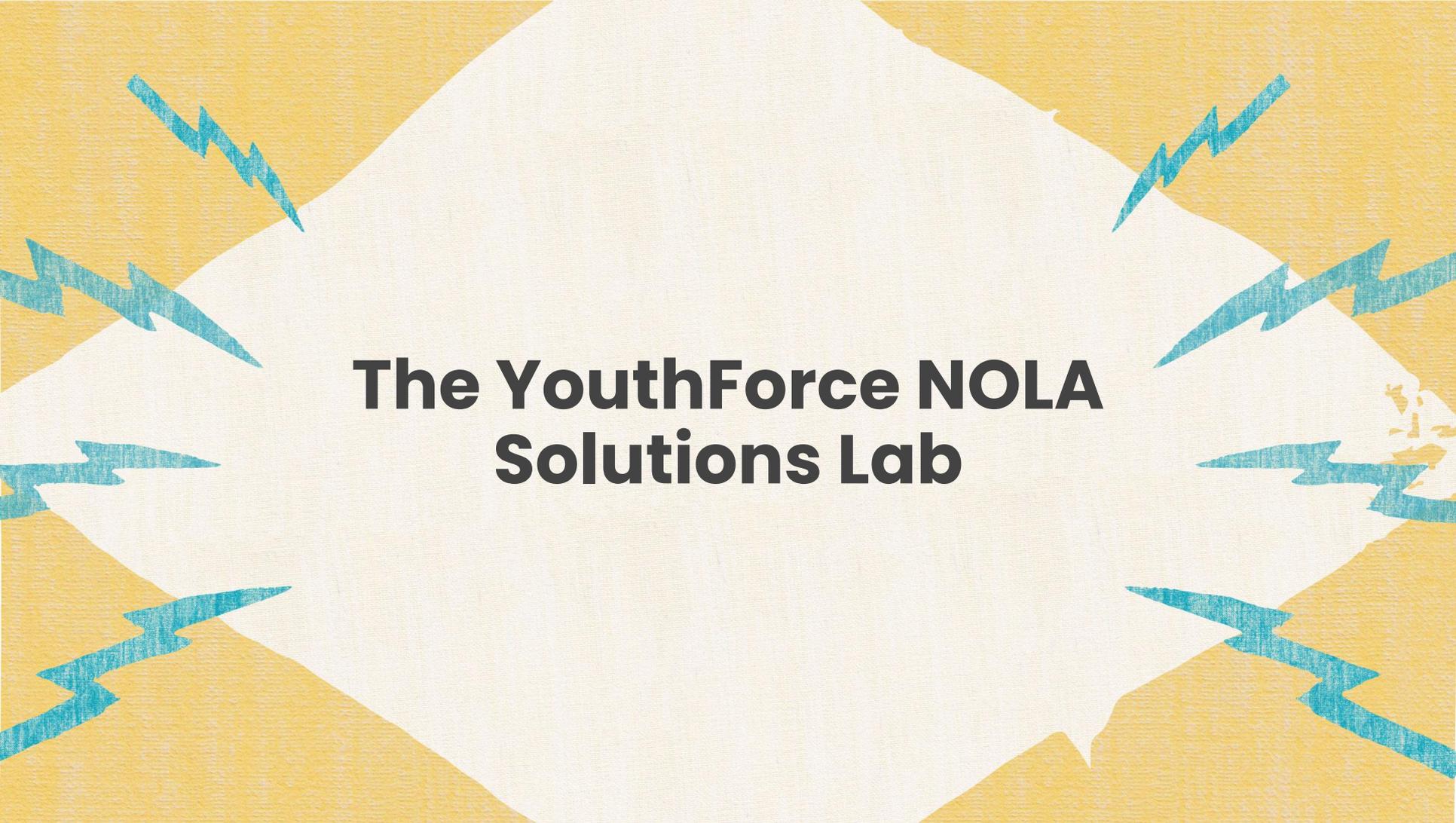
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Our Vision

As a result of our collective efforts, our public school graduates will thrive in meaningful, well-paying careers, including right here in New Orleans.



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The YouthForce NOLA Solutions Lab



Students are counting on you.
We've got your back.

**Get a jump start designing, launching,
growing, and strengthening youth
internships and related programming.**



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YouthForce NOLA is an experienced, trusted partner to help you strengthen and reimagine college and career pathways.



“You are all doing groundbreaking work. Your passion is contagious, your expertise is unmatched, and we are thrilled to be working with you to support our youth here in the central valley of California.”

*Kara Backman
Sr. Director of Schools and Supports
San Joaquin A+*

1,200+

students have completed a YouthForce NOLA Internship

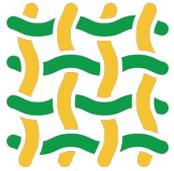
3,400+

students have access to soft skills learning in their day-to-day classroom experiences

5,000+

young people reached annually

Our programming and lessons learned are now available to other organizations committed to strengthening and reimagining college and career pathways in their communities.



Collaborative, Integrated Approaches Are Key.

We bring our cross-sector experience, subject matter expertise, and the wisdom of our entire network to bear on everything we do.



You Don't Have to Start From Scratch.

We directly run one of the most effective and comprehensive youth internship programs in the nation, and we have nearly a decade of experience working in our community. We want to share our lessons learned and resources with you.



A Targeted Investment with Outside Impact.

We offer cost-effective services focused on the most impactful components of career-connected learning. Our pricing is designed to make exceptional, supportive workplace learning experiences available to all young people.

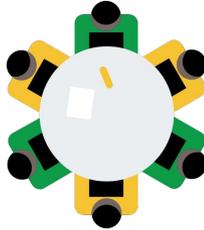
We work with nonprofits, school districts, charter networks, local chambers of commerce, and other ventures nationwide to address the most impactful components of career-connected learning.



**Youth
Workplace
Readiness
Curriculum**



**Internship
Supervisor
Materials**



**Soft Skills
Empowerment
Workshops**



**Youth Job-Ready
Skills Scorecard
& Assessment
Platform**



**Coaching
Services**

Soft Skills Empowerment Workshops



Not Your Average PD: Highly engaging training to enable anyone who supports youth—nonprofit staff, educators, camp counselors—to integrate research-based soft skills into their work.

Expert Facilitators: We'll run the show, from start to finish, with your input and ideas.

Sold Out! Ongoing Partnership: An entire year of coaching support from our team to help you support strong implementation of soft skills content in your community.



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Youth Workplace Readiness Curriculum



Research-Based, Youth-Approved Curriculum: Purchase the 50-hour curriculum we use for our best-in-class YouthForce NOLA Internship.

Customizable: Curricular resources are adaptable, enabling you to customize them to reflect your programming and to continue refining as you learn and improve in the years ahead.

Train-the Trainer: We help you prepare so you feel confident facilitating the training with youth interns, which will amplify the learning that takes place in their job sites.



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Internship Supervisor Materials



“Awesome Supervisor” Training: Adaptable training sessions you deliver to local professionals who have stepped up to oversee youth interns on the job.

Ready-to-Use Tools: If desired, supplemental career-specific “playbooks” further help supervisors design high-quality workplace projects that support interns’ learning objectives.

Train-the Trainer: We help you prepare so you feel confident delivering sessions and supporting local employers to use your internship tools and resources.



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Youth Job-Ready Skills Assessments & Scorecards Platform



Skill Evaluation & Scorecards: Access to an integrated platform for skill assessments and self-reflection surveys, plus tools that make feedback conversations easy! This is your one-stop shop for evaluating soft skills, job performance, and overall hireability.

Program Data Management: You also get data tools and reports to support seamless program implementation, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

Ongoing Partnership: An entire year of support from our team to help you plan, problem-solve, and make the most of this powerful data platform.



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Coaching Services



**Your students and community are unique.
Your solutions should be, too.**

In addition to customizable resources, we provide a range of strategic guidance and implementation support regarding college and career pathways, including youth internship programs as well as other opportunities to strengthen career-connected learning in schools, workplaces, and your broader community.



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Get the tools and support you need to confidently run your new or improved programming on a timeline that works for your needs, priorities, and goals.



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Interested in Learning More?

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YouthForceNOLA.org



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