



Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence

1ST Annual Report



Overview

The end of the school year in June marked the successful completion of the first year of Anne Arundel County's new Career Coaching initiative under Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Previously, career counseling was a shared responsibility between school counselors and AVID teachers. However, with this new initiative, each middle school was provided with a dedicated Career Coach focused solely on career exposure and exploration. Throughout their inaugural year, middle school Career Coaches implemented career-centric activities and established strong relationships with students, faculty, and community partners, laying a solid foundation for a robust future workforce.

**20
Career
Coaches**



**22 Middle
Schools**



**3 Specialty
Schools**



**19,262
Students
Served**



MOU Signing



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Career Coaching initiative was signed on June 27th, 2023, by all four partners within the initiative: the Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board, Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC), Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), and Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). The MOU signifies a collaborative effort to provide long-term career counseling services to all middle and high school students under Blueprint for Maryland's Future.



Impact of Career Coaching

Career Coaching is much more than just a pathway to employment; it is a transformative experience that prepares students for their professional futures while fostering essential life skills and confidence. In Anne Arundel County, it broadens students' horizons, offering new career options and bridging the gap between academic and real-life learning. **"I've seen a lot of students come into their own and be really excited about the different opportunities [available to them],"** says Career Coach August Bryant. Career Coaching also strengthens the local, national, and global workforce by producing well-prepared candidates.

Introduction to H.I.T.C.H.

The first classroom activity implemented by Career Coaches was an “Introduction to H.I.T.C.H.,” which explored Anne Arundel County’s top five in-demand industries: Healthcare, I.T., Transportation, Construction/Skilled Trades, and Hospitality.

By the end of the activity, students were able to identify these industries, or “career clusters,” and examples of careers within each field. Several Career Coaches displayed posters in their schools to reinforce what students learned.

128 sessions with industry professionals completed on Pathful.

With assistance from the AVID Coordinator, Meade Middle School hosted the very first Career Day on October 13, 2023, attended by **180 8th grade students**, to hear from speakers employed in these industries.



Healthcare

Medical Equipment/Goods and Services, Phlebotomist, Physical Therapist/Fitness trainer, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Animal Care, Licensed Therapist, Registered Nurse, Dental Hygienist, Surgical Technician

IT/Cybersecurity

Mobile App Developer, IT Project Manager, Computer Hardware Engineer, Video Game Developer, Help Desk, Network Administration, Cyber Analyst



Transportation

Bus/Truck Driver, Cargo Loader, Warehouse Manager, Flight Attendant, Train Conductor, TSA, MDOT, MVA, Air Traffic Controller, Dispatcher, Pilot

Construction

Demolition, Electricians, Carpentry, Forklift Driver, OSHA inspector, Heavy Equipment Operator, Painter, Facility Maintenance, Steam Fitter, Pipe Fitter, Welding, Bricklayer, HVAC, Masonry, Diesel Mechanic

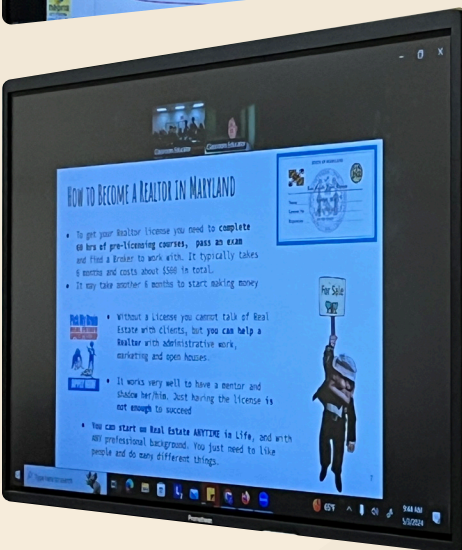
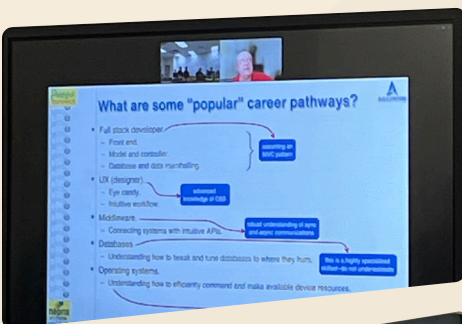
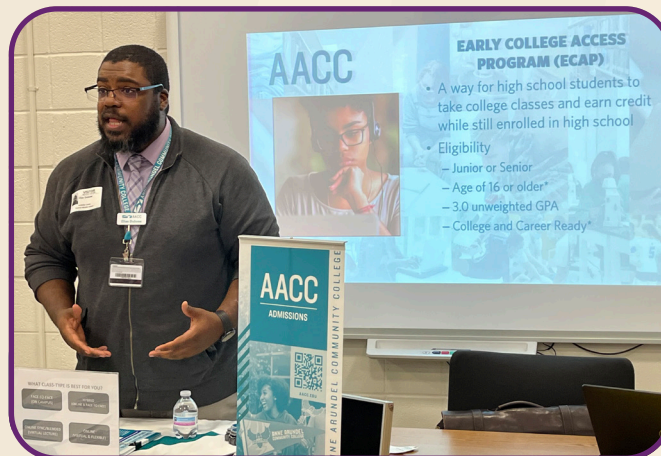
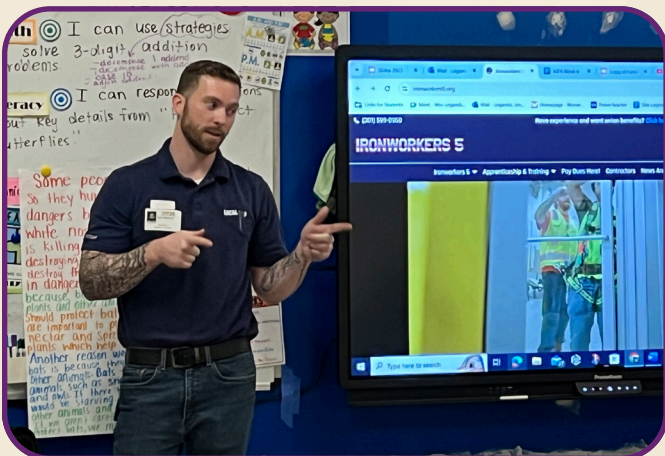
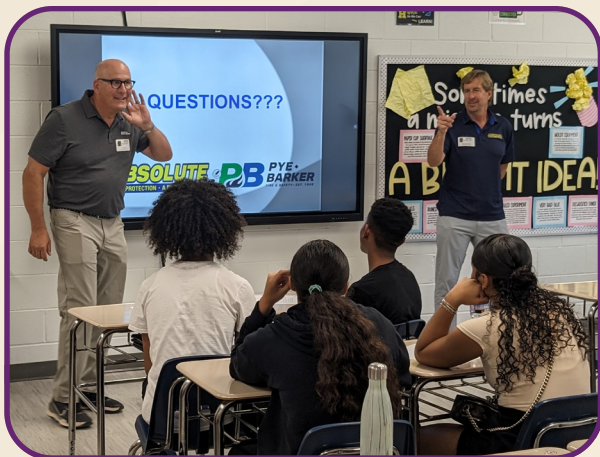


Hospitality

Hotel Administration, Marketing & Sales Manager, Environmental Services, Housekeeping & Maintenance, Food & Beverage Manager, Guest Services Professional, Front Desk Clerk, Concierge, Casino, Events Planner, Restaurant Services, Customer Service Representative, Travel & Tourism

Meade Middle School Career Day Industry Speakers

Healthcare	The University of Maryland Medical System, School Nurse, Registered Nurse, Medicaid Coordinator, Mental Health Counselor
Information Technology	Cyber Security Specialist for AT&T
Transportation	Representatives from Fort Meade Air Force
Construction	Roto Rooter Plumbing
Hospitality	Kennedy Center Backstage Coordinator
Notable Organizations	Anne Arundel County Sheriff Department, Anne Arundel County Police Department, USA Environmental Agency, Anne Arundel County Public Library



Pathful

Pathful Connect and Explore are two platforms used in schools by Career Coaches and other faculty to prepare students for career readiness. Pathful Connect allows Career Coaches to host virtual guest speakers at Career Days. Pathful Explore uses interactive tools, assessments, and videos to help students navigate the changing world of work. This year students completed **6,584 assessments** on the platforms under the guidance of Career Coaches to learn about career excellence.

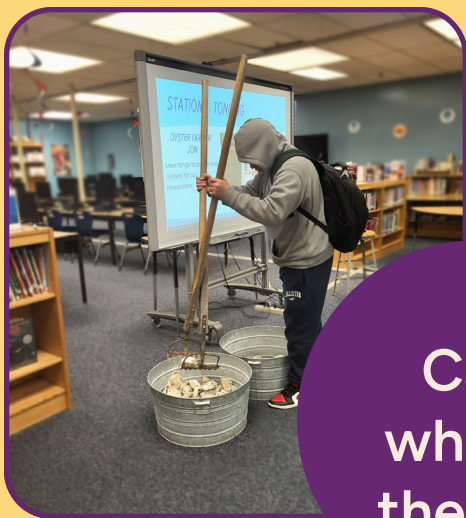
3,890
Student
Impressions

8,300
Hours
On Site



Career Days

In collaboration with department chairs and other school staff, many Career Coaches hosted Career Days and Fairs to provide students with insights into potential career paths. Hundreds of professionals from various fields attended these events to share their experiences. While some events were open to entire grade levels, others focused on specific classes to show the direct connection between curriculum and careers. In March, for example, Old Mill Middle School North's Career Coach coordinated a Social Studies Career Day for 8th grade students studying the Civil War. Speakers included Commissioners from the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, state delegates and interns, and trailblazers in entertainment and news broadcasting.



"[My Career Coach] hosted a Career Day and an interactive lesson where we could meet people...who love their job and explore our own interests."

- Minna, Student at Old Mill Middle School North



13 Middle
Schools Had
Career Days

Events
Include:

2 Weeks
of Career
Exploration

A
Career
Month

Academic Connections

Career Coaches developed strong relationships with school faculty and staff this year, working together to align academic goals with career exploration.

"Especially at the middle school level, students really struggle to see how what they're working on is relevant," says Keyada George, the Language Arts Department Chair at Old Mill Middle North.

"[The Career Coaching initiative] brings the real world into the curriculum."

- Keyada George, Language Arts Department Chair

Collaborations with school counselors helped students create SMART goals and identify high school programs that support their career aspirations. Support from school administrators facilitated smooth and successful Career Days, and partnerships with teachers were crucial for the daily involvement of Career Coaches in schools.

Community Engagement

Career Coaches regularly met with Community School Program Managers to provide resources and information to both parents and students throughout the school year. They also helped organize numerous activities beyond the classroom, such as the Meade Cluster Wellness Event and adult English classes for families. At Meade Middle School, the Career Coach worked with the community school coordinator to make more connections with parents. The Career Coach collaborated with AAWDC's Community team to host resume, interview, and job fair skill seminars for the student's families. AAWDC's Business team coordinated the Western Anne Arundel County Hiring Event at the school so families could practice the new skills while getting a good quality job.



"[It's important] to make sure we're helping parents and families in addition to helping students. If we help within the community, we can have a greater impact on students."

— Spencer Evans, Career Coach

"The amazing thing about this partnership...is that you have people intentionally coming together, brainstorming, and creating amazing programs."

– Virginia Santiago, Career Coach



Partnership with Anne Arundel Community College

To build on students' learning during the school year, AAWDC and AACPS partnered with Anne Arundel Community College to offer nine summer camp opportunities for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. These camps have provided hands-on experience in fields of interest like robotics, culinary arts, skilled trades, and more.



Summer Opportunities

Over the course of the summer, AAWDC partnered with Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) and University Startups to expand student's leadership and entrepreneurial skillset. The weeklong MLW immersion experience which was held at Washington College for middle and high school students was sponsored by AAWDC (no cost to parents). AAWDC worked with University Startups to host the free in-person Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for rising 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students. Both summer opportunities focused on strengthening students' creative problem-solving, project management, advocacy, and public speaking skills.

Looking Ahead

In the 2024-25 school year, the Career Coaching initiative will expand into high schools, initially focusing on 9th and 10th grade students. Many rising 9th graders have already built relationships with their middle school Career Coaches, some of whom will be transitioning to the high school setting. While career exploration will remain the primary goal in middle schools, high school goals will shift toward enhancing college and career readiness. Career Coaches are eager to share fresh ideas and opportunities through new career-centric activities, hands-on experiences, and increased involvement in the community. As part of this expansion, the initiative will also debut its new look as Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence (AASCE), reflecting a continued commitment to student success and career readiness. **"Next year is going to be one of our greatest years,"** says Career Coach Angela Brantley. **"We love what we're doing, we're passionate about it, [and] we know how to build connections."**

19
Comprehensive
Middle Schools



38
Total
Schools



14
Comprehensive
High Schools

3
Charter
Schools
Serving
6-12



2
Alternative
Schools
Serving
6-12



"I hope that Career Coaching in high school will focus more on what you need to do to be able to get to the career that's right for you."

– Vanessa, Student at Old Mill Middle School North