Tips for Engaging Youth in Virtual Spaces

Without warning, apprenticeship programs nationwide were forced by the pandemic to shift from in-person engagement and training strategies to primarily virtual models. Since program continuity is essential to ensuring success for apprentices and pre-apprentices, service providers have been devising ways to modify or completely revamp programs to adapt to new distancing policies and avoid learning disruptions.

The “YARG Training Strategies Tip Sheet” will provide grantees with promising practices for student-centered support and training in a virtual space.

DOWNLOAD NOW

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

INFOGRAPHIC: Why Should Employers Invest in Youth Apprenticeship?

The inordinate amount of time and money spent recruiting and hiring qualified job candidates is a major headache for employers. At the same time, many are unaware that apprenticeships offer a solution to this very problem, providing a way to fill at least a portion of their workforce needs.

The infographic “Why Should Employers Invest in Youth Apprenticeship,” created by the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship, addresses this disconnect. It clearly illustrates how apprenticeships can respond to three pain points employers face: (1) finding skilled workers (2) hiring employees that look like the customer and (3) getting young people interested in their industry.

This invaluable tool will help you convince employers that partnering with an apprenticeship program offers a high return on investment. Use it to initiate or continue conversations with employers about creating youth apprenticeships in their industry.

DOWNLOAD NOW
Building Sustainable Apprenticeships: The Case of Apprenticeship 2000

The included brief, Building Sustainable Apprenticeships, analyzes the efficacy of the sustainable industry consortium model in supporting successful, sustainable apprenticeship programs.

Highlights of the report include:
- Exploration of why Apprenticeship 2000 works, how it has evolved and what it does to help employers start and maintain apprenticeship programs.
- Examination of the consortium model and review of its benefits and limitations.
- Reflection on lessons learned that will inform program implementation efforts nationwide.

For more than 25 years Apprenticeship 2000 has been training youth for manufacturing occupations. To learn more of their findings regarding building sustainable apprenticeships, download the full brief on the YARG Community here.

VIDEO: A CEO Sees the Light About Youth Apprenticeships

In this two-minute video, Phil Kalin, CEO of Pinnacol Assurance, recounts his conversion from apprenticeship skeptic to leading employer advocate and CareerWise Colorado program partner. His succinct testimonial describes his previous misconceptions about apprenticeships and how he came to realize that they could be as much of a benefit in an administrative and business setting as in construction or manufacturing.

This persuasive endorsement of apprenticeships – in an employer’s own words – will be a powerful addition to your employer engagement toolkit.
“Developing Effective Strategic Partnerships”
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST

This Peer-to-Peer session is designed to help grantees develop techniques for recruiting and solidifying effective partners. Even though grantees identify key organizational partners upfront in their proposals, they often discover, as program operations progress, that new or additional partners are needed to ensure grant performance and meet potential program gaps.

This forum is an opportunity for YARG grantees to share their experiences in partnership development and to gain insights on effective strategies for collaborating with multiple partners to meet performance goals and sustain program efforts.

The four guiding topics, along with a sample discussion question for each, are included below.

1. **Examining and Defining Successful YARG Partnerships**
   How would you define or describe a successful program partner?

2. **Identifying Gaps in Services/the Role Partners Play in Filling Service Gap**
   What gaps have you encountered with your programming thus far?

3. **Identifying Challenges and Areas of Improvement**
   What suggestions do you have to connect with an organization that you are unfamiliar with but need to partner with to support service gaps?

4. **Effective Strategies to Engage and Retain Partnerships**
   What are some ways to keep partners engaged?

**TO REGISTER:** YARG Grantees, check your email inbox for the TEAMS registration link sent the week of 2/1/21. Please email youthasready.grants@dol.gov if you did not receive the invitation.

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**Upcoming TA**

**WEBINAR:** *Telling Your Story* (March 10, 2-3 p.m. EST)
Description: Grantees will learn strategies for increasing awareness of their YARG program through traditional and non-traditional marketing efforts.

**WEBINAR:** *Sustaining Your YARG Program* (May 12, 2-3 p.m. EST)
Description: Sustainability begins on day one. Grantees will be introduced to sustainability 101 concepts and be provided with templates for their sustainability efforts.

**CEREMONY:** *Grantee Achievements in Year 1* (TBD)
Description: Grantees present one achievement and one lesson learned from Year 1.

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**RESOURCES**

How Apprenticeship Programs for Opportunity Youth Stay Resilient Through the COVID-19 Recession
We followed up on the YARG Peer-to-Peer session “Best Practices for Recruiting and Service Delivery During a Pandemic” with a resource that encapsulated the promising practices shared in that discussion. Find it HERE.

To further assist grantees with pandemic-related challenges, particularly those affecting opportunity youth, we also recommend the JFF, Center for Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning, report How Apprenticeship Programs for Opportunity Youth Stay Resilient Through the COVID-19 Recession.

The Report documents practices being used by Apprenticeship Expansion and Modernization Fund (AEMF) sites to sustain their opportunity youth apprenticeships through these challenging times. These strategies can be applied to many types of apprenticeship programs and should prove useful to YARG grantees as they cope with pandemic-related issues.

To learn more about the promising practices documented in the report, click here.

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EVENTS

WEBINAR: “Learning and Work: New Resources for Pre-Apprenticeship”
Thursday, Feb. 11, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST

Worldwide, providers of workforce development programs have had to adapt to virtual learning and service delivery due to the pandemic. The abruptness of the change in landscape left little time to prepare for such a disruption, but now, after several months of effort, promising practices in pre-apprenticeship implementation have emerged from the field.

Register for this webinar to discover or learn more about new pre-apprenticeship resources for blended learning, skill development, and the new international peer learning initiative. A brief sampling:
Peer learning activities
Learning and Work Institute is launching a program of international peer learning activity. This will enable people to exchange their knowledge, experience, and any new and effective approaches they have devised for delivering pre-apprenticeships.

Insight from practice – Formare, Brazil
Fundação Iochpe, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting organizations that seek to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people, will provide insight into their Formare programme. This professional training program focuses on low income families in Brazil, aiming to help young people develop the skills they need to adapt to the changing world of work and to improve their economic and life prospects.

REGISTER NOW

Vital Voices: Don’t Have a Conversation About Us, Without Us
Thursday, Feb. 18, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Learners and workers have a lot to say about how to create more equitable education and workforce systems that fuel economic advancement for all. Now more than ever, it’s critically important to ensure that discussions and decisions about them don’t take place without them.

Hear two of these vital voices during Episode 7 of “It Started at Horizons.” JFF’s Mamadou Ndiaye will host a conversation with X-Cel Education Services graduate Sabastian Holden and Diamond Staley, assistant technical instructor at NPower Maryland.

With their lived experiences driving the discussion, Sabastian and Diamond will describe some of the opportunities and challenges that learners and workers face, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. They’ll also offer solutions for how educators, employers, and community leaders can better support and empower them during the pandemic and long after it ends.

REGISTER NOW

YOUTH PANEL: "Youth Voice – How Workforce Development Programming Best Supports Me!"

The Employment and Training Administration conducted a December 9 webinar as a forum for youth to discuss their participation in U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) funded youth programs. It focused on youth experiences in virtual work and learning opportunities, college readiness, youth leadership, civic engagement, and entrepreneurship.

This is a valuable opportunity to hear directly from youth who are currently engaged in or have successfully completed a DOL program and to take in their point of view on such questions as:

- What do youth find most helpful in programming?
- What services and supports do youth need now?
What kinds of resources are most useful?
What expectations do youth have of program and staff?

Watch the recording now to gain a better understanding of what participants are seeking from these programs and how the programs are making an impact in their lives.

WATCH NOW

The Future is Health 2021 Virtual Poster Competition

Future is Health is giving students and young adults (ages 16-21) a chance to showcase their creativity by creating an e-poster that answers the following question:

How would a healthcare apprenticeship help you reach your career dreams?

The contest is FREE to enter and monetary awards are available for the winners. For more details and FAQs visit the website here.