

**YOUTH CAREER CONNECT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**PURPOSE:**

* Purpose: expose students to high-demand career areas and get them on the pathway to career and educational success beyond high school
* Save TIME AND MONEY by knowing what path to take after high school
* Students will work with a Career Coach to find the right post-graduation plan, whether it be to attend a four-year institution, a two-year institution, or enter directly into the work force.
* Be part of a nationally-recognized, high-visibility Department of Labor grant that can showcase our great students in Northeast Iowa!

**YCC might be a good fit for you if you’ve asked:**

\*What career is a good fit for me and how can I use my passions and talents?

\*What NICC college credit classes should I take in high school?

\*How much will it cost to go to a 2 year college vs. a 4 year college?

\*How will my college-credit classes from high school transfer to college?

\*How do I apply for college? What do I need to know about financial aid?

\*How can I gain experience in my career path *before* I graduate from high school?

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Must be enrolled by fall semester of Junior Year
	1. Fill out application and obtain required signatures
2. Be interested in a career in one of these five pathways – Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), Business/Finance, Health Occupations
3. Attend a student-parent orientation with CLL staff
4. Commit to two years of participation
5. Complete one college credit class both junior and senior years
6. Participate in a job shadow
7. Complete the college credit Pre-employment Strategies course
8. Meet with a Career Coach at least twice during each school year

**BENEFITS:**

* College-credit courses appropriate for specific education/career interests junior and senior years
* One-on-one Career Coaching:
	+ A clearly defined future career or education path
	+ Development of career goals
	+ Enhancement of career-based skills
	+ Assistance with college application process
* Pre-employment Strategies course
* Job shadowing experience
* Opportunities for tours, speakers, and leadership activities
* The option to participate in an Internship and/or Mentoring program
* Graduate with college credits that will benefit future education/career plans
* ********Be recognized at senior awards night as a successful YCC participant

**To participate in YCC, please contact your school counseling office for application materials or email Holly Maurer at** **maurerh@nicc.edu****.**

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