

Community Works at the International School of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA

Community Works 21st CCLC program is based at the International School of Louisiana's (ISL) Camp Street Campus. ISL is a charter school founded in 2000 whose curriculum provides a global focus and core academic programs are taught in Spanish and French. Demographically, the school serves a diverse mix of students reflecting the population of the New Orleans Metropolitan region. 53% of the school's students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Although founded before Hurricane Katrina, the post Katrina environment has created a unique situation in which the majority of schools in New Orleans are charter schools, giving parents and students many choices. The CTE program at this 21st CCLC, Stepping Up, was designed specifically to help students and their parents decide which high school would best meet their career and academic needs.



For middle school students, career development is emphasized through the Stepping Up program.

CTE Practices

Authentic Career-Related Learning Opportunities

Stepping Up is a program at ISL that focuses on career exploration and high school selection and transition to high school. This class is taught by an instructor who has extensive experience in developing curricula aligned with career exploration and preparation for life after high school and/or college. The Stepping Up program also brings in guest speakers who are working in fields such as the film industry, the recycling industry, the restaurant industry, the criminal justice field, and the music industry.

CTE is also embedded in the arts programs. For example, in the hip hop and poetry class, students

Community Partnerships

- Wide variety of partnerships
- Partners supplement staff, provide activities and resources
- Led to service learning opportunities for students

write poems and raps and then perform their completed work for the rest of the class. Students work with the instructor to program and use electronic keyboards to provide the beats for the rap. In the theater class, students create scenery, develop dialogue, and then film a scene. Students play different roles during film production including directing, manipulating scenery, and acting. Students are asked to review what they film and provide a critique on what was successful and how the production could be improved.

The instructors are asked to specifically emphasize skills and terminology used in their respective fields. Instructors also required to develop their lesson plans to tie back to academic outcomes for students and tie lesson objectives to state standards. To view how an instructor works with students, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6f43QIdXuY>.

Community Partnerships

The 21st CCLC program has developed strong partnerships with a wide variety of community organizations such as the Junior League of New Orleans, Youth Leadership Council, Ogden Museum, Nola Fashion Week, ServeNola, Mardi Gras Indians, and Second Harvest. These partnerships have allowed the program to supplement the activities of the program as well as provide resources for such as keyboards for a music production workshop.

The Junior League of New Orleans provides Judgment Call, a curriculum that highlights what it means to be a good citizen and to be part of the community. It also explores the criminal justice system and focuses on increasing the students comfort level with it. Two volunteers teach the class for a four week cycle and one volunteer teaches the curriculum year-round to provide staff consistency. The New Orleans Chief of Police was a guest speaker for Judgment Call, and students had the opportunity to ask him about his job, what it is like to be a police officer, as well as their questions and concerns about the legal system.

Other partnerships have led to the students engaging in service learning activities. For example, students collected discarded Mardi Gras beads, sold the beads as a fundraiser, and donated the proceeds to a local organization that assists adults with mental disabilities. After a field trip to The Ogden Museum, students created artwork which was then displayed in the museum. Through a project with the Youth Leadership Council, students developed a character for a book and wrote a story about what life was like for the character before and after Hurricane Katrina.

Using Data to Target Skills and Outcomes

The Stepping Up program uses assessments to explore student personalities and make connections between personality types, aptitudes, and potential careers. The students and the instructor discuss

the results of these assessments and the instructor uses them to design and conduct activities around specific topics in career exploration. Student use the results of these assessments to help guide their thinking about future careers and what education and skills are necessary in order to prepare for those careers, including considerations around their selection of a high school. As part of the assessment process, students create a roadmap to reach their goals around career selection and development.

