

Bloomington Area Career Center

Contract Abstract

This contract has been entered into for the purpose of providing a drop-out prevention program for the students of the Bloomington Area Career Center (BACC). The contract begins July 1, 2022 and will terminate on June 30, 2023, but may be extended for two additional years. The funding amount for the original contract period is \$50,000.00. The enrollment goal is 20 students. Students will be Juniors and Seniors. To participate students must meet the eligibility criteria for in-school youth as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The BACC will provide an intensive education and employment skills program for at-risk students. The dropout prevention program will serve students, ages 16-24, that have been identified by the school district as at-risk, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged.

It is our educational philosophy at the Bloomington Area Career Center to help our students acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills required to become productive working professionals in their chosen career and technical field. We plan to help all of our students become enthusiastic, life-long learners who are able to adapt to the constant technological and societal changes while having a positive impact on their communities. In addition, students will understand the connection between academia and employment, and engage in effective teamwork and problem solving for the duration of their professional careers.

The BACC will admit students to the Career and Technical Education programs. Students will be recruited, screened and chosen for participation based on their math and reading deficits as indicated by their TABE assessment, low-income status, special education status, and other criteria that fall within the guidelines of the grant. Since these students will be attending the various BACC program in their chosen career field, the Program Coordinator will offer on-going employment support services. These services may also include but are not limited to resume writing, career assessments, career planning, career counseling, independent living activities, and life skills training. Students will develop additional "soft skills" and employability skills to complement the technical skills that they will obtain as a part of their program curriculum.

Each student will receive individual mentoring through the Grant Coordinator and BACC instructors. BACC offers leadership and mentoring opportunities for these students by becoming members of SkillsUSA and BACC Ambassadors. Students selected for this program can take part in the Ambassador program and BACC's chapter of SkillsUSA, which is a non-profit organization that provides student leadership and mentoring for all of its student members. The purpose of this organization is to provide secondary and post-secondary students the opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities in their program areas and they are given an opportunity to compete at the state and national levels depending on their success on qualifying industry-standard written examinations and skills showcased. By being a member of this organization, students are also expected to serve as mentors to their team members as assigned by their advisor. Students in this organization also serve as mentors to middle school students that attend a Career & Technical Education Expo that is sponsored by the BACC and held annually for all local 8th-grade students that are in attendance. It is the expectation of these students that they conduct educational and interactive activities at their program area booths and provides the visiting students with the necessary information on how they can be successful in the different program areas at

the BACC. The students in the SkillsUSA organization are required to attend monthly leadership development workshops as well as community service events. By exposing these students to a variety of community service and leadership opportunities, we believe these students will continue their leadership and mentor development skills as they transition to the post-secondary level, the workforce, and the military.

At least 50 percent of the students in the program will be placed in Work Experience or On-the-Job Training sponsored by Career Link. Students can participate in these programs either on part time or full time bases throughout the school year and/or summer. The student will receive assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, and ongoing support services while taking part of these programs.