

Making the Connection: Helping Youth Build Skills For Job Success In Everything We Do

August 17, 2015 George Washington High School



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Overview



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- Department of Labor Youth Career Connect Grant
 - GWHS Business Connect
 - GWHS Bio-Med Connect
- Soft Skills and Work Skills
- Vision of a DPS Graduate
- Colorado Talent Pipeline Report- It's Urgent!
- What I can do/ Resources
- What we are doing

YCC Grant Excitement



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- DPS is the beneficiary of roughly \$7 million dollars through Department of Labor
- Specifically, GWHS receives 2 programs
 - High School of Business- Business Connect
 - Biomedical Science- Med Connect
- Preparing students for post secondary success by connecting them to industry and what is possible through hands on instruction, Job Shadows, Mentorships, Internships, Job Placements

Soft Skills + Hard Skills = Work Skills



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- America's youth have a skills gap
 - Secretary of Labor's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS)
 - *National Institute of Literacy (NIFL) Equipped for the Future Framework (EFF)
- NIFL's EFF regarded as more "holistic" because it addresses foundational hard skills along with essential soft skills

Soft Skills + Hard Skills = Work Skills



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- Soft Skills- Every day common sense skills that are important in all aspects of life.
 1. Listen Actively
 2. Speak So Others Can Understand
 3. Cooperate with Others
 4. Resolve Conflict and Negotiate
 5. Take Responsibility for Learning
 6. Reflect and Evaluate

Soft Skills + Hard Skills = Work Skills



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- Hard Skills- “Foundational skills that employers desire”
 1. Observe Critically
 2. Convey Ideas in Writing
 3. Read with Understanding
 4. Use Math to Solve Problems and Communicate
 5. Solve Problems and Make Decisions
 6. Plan
 7. Advocate and Influence
 8. Guide Others
 9. Use Information and Communications Technology
 10. Learn Through Research

Soft Skills + Hard Skills = Work Skills



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EFF Skills are broken down into 4 categories

1. Communication Skills
2. Interpersonal Skills
3. Decision Making Skills
4. Lifelong Learning Skills

http://eff.cls.utk.edu/fundamentals/16_standards.htm

Personal Reflection- Exit Ticket:

- Why are soft skills important in my classroom?
- How comfortable am I in modeling soft skills?
- What skill would I like support with?

Vision Of A DPS Graduate



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- Vision Of A DPS Graduate, part of the Denver 2020 Plan

Reflect and Discuss:

1. What similarities do you see between the Vision Of A DPS Graduate and the Equipped for the Future Framework Skills?

Current State, It's Urgent



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Why is this work important?

- Colorado Talent Pipeline Report affirms that the state has a very educated and competitive workforce
- We rank 48 out of 50 in jobs available to high school graduates or drop outs
- Great Colorado Paradox
 - Top 5 in the nation for degree holders per capita, yet only 1 in 5 9th graders will get a 4 yr. degree, ranking us in the bottom quartile.

What I Can Do....?



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Embrace it! Create opportunities to model work skills (soft skills + hard skills)

- Proudly display your degrees and licenses
- Professional dress, business casual at a minimum, jeans on Fridays
- Stand at your door
- Communication with students via email
- Establish classroom expectations/ rituals and routines that emphasize these skills for practice, practice, practice and reflection
- Be intentional in emphasizing these skills whether for the daily objective, work expectations, individual student praise or behavior intervention
- Access Resources: EFF Tools for Support on the EFF Website and
- *US Department of Education Employability Skills Framework
- Be an active participant in PD opportunities
- Use me, Use one another!

Thank You



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I look forward to working with and supporting each one of you as we prepare every GWHS student with post-secondary options.

What we can do.....

- Introduce Ms. Lane