

# DOINGWHATWORKS



## Presentation

FULL DETAILS AND TRANSCRIPT

### Looking Ahead: Career Explorations

Dayton Early College Academy, Ohio • March 2010

Topic: Helping Students Navigate the Path to College  
Practice: Foster College Aspirations

#### Highlights

- The Dayton Early College Academy incorporates a variety of experiential programs into the curriculum to help students identify their career goals and connect with adults in the community.
- As freshmen, students are expected to become immediately involved in a volunteer service project. By the time they graduate, they must have completed over 100 hours of community service.
- Students have the opportunity to explore their career aspirations by completing five required job shadows. Students must also spend a minimum of 40 hours in an unpaid internship with a local organization.

#### About the Site

Dayton Early College Academy

Dayton, OH

#### Demographics

80% Black

13% White

4% Other

53% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Dayton Early College Academy is an early college charter high school that offers students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to excel academically and succeed.

- All students complete a single-track rigorous college-preparatory curriculum and matriculate by passing through six “gateways” that have clearly specified learning indicators.
- Teacher-advisors serve as role models and provide students with emotional and academic support to navigate their way to college.
- Students show personal growth and commitment to the community through community service, internships, and job shadows.

## Full Transcript

### Slide 1: Welcome

Welcome to Preparing for Life After High School.

### Slide 2: Introducing Danya Berry and Anne Rasmussen

Hello, my name is Danya Berry. I am the college liaison at the Dayton Early College Academy, or DECA, located in Dayton, Ohio.

Hi, my name is Anne Rasmussen. I am the internship coordinator at the Dayton Early College Academy.

### Slide 3: DECA’s mission

Berry: DECA fulfills its mission to prepare urban learners to go to college and be the first in their families to graduate by taking away the mystique of college. Once our students enter college during their high school years and have success, then they build that confidence that lets them know that they can do college, that college is for them.

### Slide 4: Three ways to connect

Rasmussen: There are three ways that DECA students can connect with and involve themselves with adults in our community, and that’s through our community service program, our job shadow program, and our

internships. All DECA students start out as first-year students expected to involve themselves in some community service. They have to, by the time they graduate, accomplish over 100 hours of community service.

#### Slide 5: Job shadow program

Rasmussen: The job shadow program at DECA is an essential part of the entire curriculum. All DECA students are required to participate in five job shadows over the course of their four-year high school experience at DECA. These job shadows are arranged by a coordinator who lines up opportunities based on the needs and the interests of the students. So for example, we have been known to take the students to a dentist's office and let the student be with a dentist side by side and actually get to be experiencing exactly what it's like to participate in the real medical and technical elements of that kind of a position.

#### Slide 6: Firsthand experiences

Rasmussen: Having an opportunity to see firsthand, instead of just reading about or learning about on campus, what jobs are like really impacts our students significantly. To actually walk into a dentist's office or to walk into a scientist's lab or to walk over to a hospital and see real people doing real work is hugely impressive on our students.

#### Slide 7: Internship program

Rasmussen: And then finally our internship program, which is required of all DECA students, asks them to spend up to 40 hours in an internship with an organization or a business. And this is a very in-depth opportunity for our students to work side by side with professionals. The internships that we have had with some of the science and STEM-related technology here in Dayton has been tremendous. We have done an internship with a science incubator called IDCAST, which collaborates with regional universities as well as the business world to develop technology and then market it to the business world. And our students have had fascinating internships where they spent hours working hand in hand with not only Ph.D. scientists who have been in the field for over 30 years, but also with students who are Ph.D. candidates and undergrads who are coming out of the local universities.

#### Slide 8: Demystifying connections

Rasmussen: I think the most important thing about having a job shadow and internship program as part of the DECA curriculum is that it really, really helps demystify the whole high school to college to job

connection. So it's absolutely essential that these students have chances to see real people out in their community doing these things.

Slide 9: Learning about options

Berry: Students get out of the career experiences exposure, experience, and education. We expose the students to the variety of field choices that they have because, at this point, they have been limited to their knowledge of different career choices. Experience—getting those students out to experience jobs—lets them see whether or not they can see themselves in those positions. And then education—educating students on the different career fields, educating students on not limiting themselves to specific career fields. We honestly believe that if our students are given a strong foundation they will be successful.

Slide 10: Learn more

To learn more about Preparing for Life After High School, please explore the additional resources on the Doing What Works website.