

ALIGNMENT'S PARTNERS:



Northern Kane County
REGION 110
EDUCATION THAT WORKS



+ MORE THAN 200
BUSINESS & COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS

YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND
FUTURE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



VOLUNTEER HOURS
8726
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT RETURN
\$494,613

OVER **8670**
Middle & High School
STUDENTS SERVED

51% Increase!



alignment
COLLABORATIVE
for education

strong communities, strong schools

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

Call to the Community

Thank you for your support of Alignment as the organization works to prepare students to graduate academic and career ready. We have been blessed in 2023 by meeting the following milestones:

- Concluded the 2022-23 school year serving 8,673 middle and high school students, a 55% increase from the 2021-22 school year.
- Surpassed previous volunteer hours with 8,726 hours contributed to middle and high school students with an estimated return on investment to the community of \$494,613.
- Expanded the Alignment partnership to include school districts 300 and 301 while continuing to partner with U-46 and Northern Kane County Region 110.
- Named to champion the first United Way Neighborhood Network for Elgin focused on youth, families, and future workforce development.
- Grew the summer internship program to 25 businesses and community organizations providing 83 students paid internship opportunities with over \$75,000 invested by business, community, and school partners.
- Increased Alignment's revenues by 41% as of June 30, 2023.

As partners, many of you have not only made a financial investment but also a human capital contribution that allows Alignment to facilitate events and programs that expose students, parents, teachers, and counselors to career opportunities across multiple professions. Your financial support has allowed us to continue to reach more students year after year with a goal to serve over 10,000 middle and high school students in 2024.

We share a commitment to bring schools and community partners together to positively impact the future workforce for the greater Elgin community and surrounding region. Thank you again for your continued support and investment.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2024!

Nancy Coleman
Executive Director



strong communities, strong schools
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Western Smokehouse Partners

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Director of Regional Operations
NICOR

Bill Wright
Managing Director
The Overture Group

Investing in youth and families to ensure the future strength of the community and its workforce.

FIRST QUARTER



Alignment toured **West Side Tractor** as partners in planning work-based learning opportunities introducing high school automotive and engineering students to the large equipment maintenance industry.



U-46 high school counselors learned about new program offerings and healthcare employment opportunities. Welcomed at **Advocate Sherman Hospital** by president, Sheri DeShazo, counselors visited with professionals across the fastest growing healthcare careers followed by on-site lab visits at the hospital and at **Elgin Community College**.



Larkin High School's counselors partnered with Alignment to introduce 189 juniors and seniors to the trade professions including automotive, electrical, large equipment maintenance, manufacturing, and welding careers. Thank you to our visiting business professionals from **Altorfer, Elgin Community College, Elgin Sweeper, IBEW Local 117, IBEW Local 196, IDES, ITW Shakeproof, Lauderdale Electric, MCIP, Mechanics Local 701, Nicor, and UTI.**



Over 400 high school juniors began the process to apply for Alignment's paid summer internship opportunities by preparing resumes, cover letters, discussing interview tips, and utilizing business etiquette best practices followed by individual one on one assistance provided by Alignment partnering with **Gail Borden Public Library, Junior Achievement, and the Society of Human Resource Management.**



Alignment partnered with **U-46's Equity and Student Postsecondary Success** initiatives to offer students and parents postsecondary opportunities at its historically black college and universities (HBCU) professional panel represented by students and alumni from **Grambling State University, Howard University, North Carolina A&T University, and Tuskegee University.**



Alignment named to lead Elgin's first **United Way Metro Chicago (UWMC) Neighborhood Network** focused on future workforce development with seed money from **Nicor Gas**. Joined by U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi; Elgin's Mayor David Kaptain, Nicor's President and CEO, Wendell Dallas, and UWMC's President and CEO, Sean Garrett, community and school partners celebrated the announcement with lunch and tours provided by **Elgin High School** students on March 15, 2023. The seed money provided by Nicor and UWMC is a multi-year commitment to *invest in youth and families to ensure the future strength of the community and its workforce.*

SECOND QUARTER



Elgin High School's Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) students received the "red carpet" treatment with their visit to **Northern Illinois University (NIU)**. Students had the opportunity to meet NIU students and teachers touring programs in NIU's College of Education. YEP is a partnership program with the **Elgin Police Department** focused on career and personal development for participating students.



School District U-46 held its first **Junior Postsecondary Day** in April attracting 1,842 juniors from U-46's five high schools. The day featured visits with over 20 colleges and universities in addition to sessions dedicated to FAFSA, Military Service, NCAA, and local employment opportunities.



Elgin High School's counselors partnered with Alignment to introduce 257 juniors and seniors to professions in the automotive, electrical, healthcare, large equipment maintenance, manufacturing, and welding industries. Thank you to our visiting business professionals from **Advocate Sherman, Altorfer, AVID CNA School, ECC, Elgin Sweeper, IBEW Local 117, IDES, ITW Shakeproof, Lauderdale Electric, Bob Loquercio Auto Group, MCIP, Nicor Gas, and Well Child Center** for your investment in these students.



Alignment hosted its annual **Senior Job Fair** for 397 seniors graduating with career and technical education (CTE) credentials. Representatives from approximately 60 businesses, corporations, non-profits, municipalities, trade unions, colleges, and universities were present to meet with students about career and employment opportunities ranging from healthcare to welding. As a result of the fair, some students graduated in May and began work immediately following graduation in June. Alignment looks forward to hosting the event again at ECC on April 18, 2024.



Future educators from **Bartlett High School, Larkin High School, and South Elgin High School** visited **Judson University** to learn more about their teacher preparation programs under Judson's School of Education. Thirty-two (32) students from U-46's Education CTE programs participated in the day as part of Alignment's efforts in partnership with U-46, District 300, and District 301 to regionally build a future teacher pipeline.



Alignment launched a Pharmacy Technician summer internship pilot program hosted by **Advocate Sherman Hospital**. Ten U-46 students were selected and successfully completed this highly competitive pilot program. Over 60 hours, interns completed the necessary classroom hours facilitated by Talent First to receive licensure to qualify to work in local pharmacies. Clinical hours required were led by **Advocate Sherman's Pharmacy Staff** with students spending a minimum of 30 hours, one on one, with Advocate's pharmacy professionals.

THIRD QUARTER



A record 15 interns from U-46 and District 300 were selected for the architecture and civil engineering paid internship program hosted by **Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc.**, and **Judson University**. All 15 students successfully completed the 60-hour internship introducing them to careers in architecture, civil engineering, environmental engineering, design principles, surveying, and traffic management.



Alignment introduced internships in public health at the **Well Child Center**. Three current seniors had the opportunity this summer to view public health and family medical assistance from the lens of non-profit services offering dental and nutritional services to the community.



Elgin Sweeper and **ITW Shakeproof** introduced students to the mechanical engineering and welding professions. Three students from **Bartlett High School's STEM Academy** worked with ITW engineers to design safety enhancements within ITW's machining operations. Two other current seniors interested in mechanical engineering helped design customized harnesses for Elgin Sweeper. Three students, one from U-46, 300, and 301, were fully deployed as part of **Elgin Sweeper's journeyman welding team** learning side by side experienced welders.



Taylor Family YMCA, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (PEL), Bartlett Park District, City of Elgin, Hanover Township, and Streamwood Park District offered students experiences in the education, culinary, and youth service professions as part of Alignment's teacher pipeline initiative. Interns experienced classroom management tips, best practices in student engagement, and also food services preparation as part of their internship experience serving over 1,000 children this summer in their family outreach programs.



ALTA offered first internships in large equipment maintenance. Two highly skilled seniors from **South Elgin High School's Automotive Program** had the opportunity to transition their skills from the automotive lab to the large equipment maintenance industry working on diesel equipment with senior level technicians within ALTA's facility in South Elgin.



Alignment hosted four interns from **Bartlett, Elgin and Larkin high schools** to document and communicate the 83 summer internship experiences through video, print media, and photography along with one intern helping with year end financial audits and marketing. Learn more about their experiences in the Summer Internship Highlights video on Alignment's website, align4edu.org.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
25 ORGANIZATIONS
83 PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
\$75,000
BUSINESS, COMMUNITY & SCHOOL PARTNER INVESTMENT

FOURTH QUARTER



Over 2,200 8th grade students from U-46's middle schools spent the day at the **NOW Arena** touring business and community career exhibits, learning about U-46 academy and CTE programs, and dual credit opportunities across 12 industry pathways. Business and community exhibitors along with volunteers invested 1,400 hours in this showcase event.



More than 25 universities, colleges, and organizations joined Alignment and School District U-46 for the second Senior Postsecondary Virtual Day. There were 683 individual seniors benefiting from an array of opportunities: visiting with university and college representatives, receiving assistance with FAFSA, learning about future employment opportunities, military service opportunities, etc.

ALIGNMENT'S FUNDING

74%

FROM INVESTMENTS BY
BUSINESS, COMMUNITY
AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERS



Students from School District U-46, District 300, and District 301 spent the day at **Northern Illinois University's** Teacher Pipeline Conference. Students from Larkin, Elgin, Dundee Crown, and Central participated in various teacher preparation sessions followed by a discussion session with current **NIU** education students providing postsecondary advice.



Working with **Northern Kane County Region 110**, Alignment partnered students and teachers with local manufacturers celebrating October as Manufacturing Month. School districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303 joined together to provide this experience to students. Thank you to Alignment's partners: **Harting, Hoffer Plastics, Lakeview Precision, and Matrix** for opening their doors to attract more students to careers in manufacturing.



Hosted by **Junior Achievement**, business CTE students and teachers from Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, and Streamwood had the opportunity to visit **Zurich Insurance** to learn more about the company's apprenticeship programs offering students upon graduation the opportunity to join the Zurich workforce while also completing their associate degree at **Harper College**.

**Support Alignment's future
workforce development
mission.**

Invest today:



<https://www.align4edu.org/donate>

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