



Annual Report 2025



EXPLORE - 8th Grade Career Exploration Day



Parent and Student Career Planning



Career Panels



Youth Empowerment Program



Postsecondary Days



Industry Tours



Elgin Neighborhood Network



Teacher Pipeline



Employment Preparation Workshops



Summer Internships



Community Outreach



Regional Job Fair

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Alignment Collaborative for Education is a collective impact organization of business and community leaders working in partnership with school districts U-46, 300, 301, 303, and Northern Kane County Region 110 to deliver a qualified, future workforce eager to live and work within their communities.

Visit our website, www.Align4edu.org to learn more about Alignment's impact in our communities.



EXPLORE:

More than 80 business community

exhibitors showcased ten industry clusters and employment opportunities to 2,372 U-46 8th grade students.



Parent/Student Career Planning:

Beginning in 8th

grade, the EXPLORE event prepares parents to plan now for postsecondary careers by learning more about the U-46 high school academies and CTE programs.



Career Panels:

Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood

high schools facilitated over 2,400 students benefiting from Alignment's industry partners sharing their career experiences.



Youth Empowerment Program:

Partnering with

Larkin High School, Alignment mentors students helping them with career and life management goals.



Postsecondary Days:

U-46 sophomore, junior, and senior

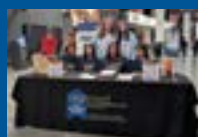
students participated in two postsecondary days visiting with universities, colleges, and trade institutes along with military personnel, financial aid advisors, and U-46 alumni.



Industry Tours:

More than 30 industry partners opened their doors

to the region's students in business, finance, healthcare, heavy equipment maintenance, insurance, and manufacturing providing students a glimpse of multiple workplace settings in the region's fastest growing industry sectors.



Elgin Neighborhood Network (ENN):

Youth Mental

Health and Wellness becomes the next priority for the Elgin ENN joined by Ecker Center, Family Service Association, Hanover Township, Kane County Health Department, School District U-46, and Streamwood Behavioral Health Systems.



Teacher Pipeline:

Alignment, Northern Kane

County Region 110, and School Districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303 provided 42 paid summer internships for future teachers.



Employment Preparation Workshops:

Over 3,400

students participated in resume preparation workshops to prepare for summer internship applications and the regional job fair.



Summer Internships:

Students from the 11 high schools

in the region earned over \$243,000 working in a career field matched to their future interests.



Community Outreach:

Alignment works with Nicor Gas to

promote the greater Elgin Community, positively impacting resources for Elgin residents.



Regional Job Fair:

More than 70 employers met high school seniors

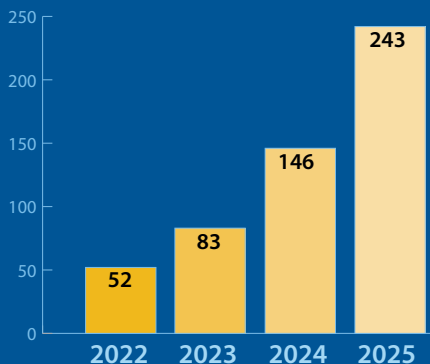
and underclassman at this year's fair held in the ECC Event Center where they offered opportunities for full-time and part-time employment.

OVER **>40% Increase!**
15,000
Middle & High School STUDENTS SERVED

VOLUNTEER HOURS
13,258
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT RETURN
\$894,915

30%

INTERNSHIP POSITIONS FILLED



CALL TO THE COMMUNITY

Community and School Partners,

As we prepare to conclude 2025, thank you for your commitment to our region's students and their families. By partnering together, we provide, year over year, more dedicated opportunities for students to graduate from high school ready for successful futures.

Those futures vary with some students prepared to directly enter the workforce. For others, additional postsecondary training and education are required. The common element these successful students share is that they have a viable career plan resulting from them receiving invaluable exposure to the workplace that no classroom alone can provide. Your investment in these students and this partnership has resulted in:

- Reaching more than 15,000 students with career planning resources across School Districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303.
- Contributing 13,258 volunteer hours in our partner school districts representing over a \$890,000 return on investment to the schools and the region, a 30% increase since 2024.
- Growing summer internship placements by 66% partnering with Northern Kane County Region 110 and Elgin Community College's *Taking Back the Trades* grant to offer students from all eleven high schools in the region paid opportunities aligned with their future career interests.
- Generating more than a 20% increase in donations and grants to support additional programming in the high schools.
- Expanding, as part of the Elgin United Way Neighborhood Network, opportunities for students and families to access career planning services while also beginning to address the critical challenge of youth mental health and wellness, knowing it impacts a student's ability to adequately prepare for the future.

These milestones would not be possible without your human and financial investment. We share a commitment to collaboratively bring schools and communities together to positively impact the future workforce. We prepare students today with their families to ensure a future of economic and social prosperity.

Thank you for the successes we have achieved together and the positive difference we continue to make.

Best regards,

Nancy Coleman
 Executive Director



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JANUARY – MARCH



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

A. Alignment welcomed **Parker Thompson** as **Elgin Neighborhood Network Facilitator** as it expanded the ENN focus to include additional community needs such as public health, food and nutrition, housing, transportation, education, and other future workforce development initiatives.

B. **Career Professional Panels** connected 1,665 students across **Bartlett, South Elgin, and Streamwood high schools** with 22 industry professionals across local business, healthcare, engineering, and manufacturing sectors.

C. Six **Resume and Interview Workshops** served 3,418 students across **school districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303** featuring career skill development in preparation for summer internship applications.

D. **Teacher Pipeline Education Day at Elgin Community College** introduced 47 future educators to careers in education.

E. School District U-46 named Alignment its **Business Partner of the Year 2025** at the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.

F. The **Inaugural Internship Recognition Breakfast** event honored 41 internship host sites. The event featured a panel with six former interns and representatives from **Advocate Sherman Hospital, Bartlett Police Department, Bob Loquercio Auto Group, Elgin State Bank, Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc., Hoffer Plastics, and West Side Tractor**, who shared how their experiences impacted students' post graduate plans and the community's future workforce.

G. **Sophomore and Junior Postsecondary Day** benefited a record number of 4,238 students from **School District U-46** with 28 colleges, universities, and partner organizations participating.

H. Automotive program students from **Elgin and Streamwood high schools** toured **Altorfer CAT's East Dundee facility** to explore their ThinkBig apprenticeship program.

youth and families to ensure the future



APRIL – JUNE



I. **Elgin Neighborhood Network** launched its **Youth Mental Health Work Group** with representatives from **Ecker Center, ENN Steering Committee, Family Service Association, Hanover Township Mental Health Board, Kane County Health Department, School District U-46, and Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System.**

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2025
55 ORGANIZATIONS
243 PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
> \$240,000
BUSINESS, COMMUNITY & SCHOOL PARTNER INVESTMENT

J. The fifth annual **Regional Job Fair** brought together 562 students from **school districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303** with over 70 business and community organizations at **Elgin Community College.**



K. Alignment's paid **Summer Internship Program** attracted over 1,000 student applications competing for 243 internship placements across the Kane County region.



L. **Hanover Township** named **Alignment** its **Outstanding Organization of the Year** at its annual Supervisor's Community Service Award Breakfast.

M. **YWCA Elgin** awarded **Executive Director Nancy Coleman** the **YWCA Leadership Award in Education** at its annual Leader Luncheon.



N. U-46 alum **Annabelle Mique** joined the Alignment staff as **Program Coordinator** in support of Alignment's work in the 11 high schools.



O. **First Responder Internship** success at **Bartlett Police Department, Hanover Park Fire Department, and Hanover Township Emergency Services** led to **Elgin Fire and Police Departments** launching a new pilot program.



P. **Seigle Foundation** awarded a \$44,000 grant to Alignment, marking its fourth consecutive year of support.



Q. Students pursuing business and financial services gained experience working for local companies and organizations through 31 paid internships. Thank you to **Central Unit School District 301, Centro de Informacion, City of Elgin, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Elgin Area of Commerce, Elgin Development Group, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Explore Elgin Area, Gather Pingree, Gowns for Good, The Haight, The Office of State Representative Anna Moeller, Rosati's, School District U-46, and Wintrust.**

strength of the community and its work

JULY – SEPTEMBER



R. Healthcare internship offerings grew to serve 45 students with new programs. Thank you to **Advocate Sherman Hospital, Athletico, Orthollinois, VNA Health Care, and Well Child Center.**

S. Forty-three students gained valuable engineering experience interning at prominent manufacturing and precision machining companies in the region. Thank you to **Advanced Compressors, Bucher Hydraulics, Community Unit School District 300, Elgin Sweeper, Hampton, Lenzi and Renwick, Inc., Hoffer Plastics, ITW Shakeproof, Lakeview Precision, Service Concepts, Shales McNutt Construction, and WT Group.**

T. Well Child Center hosted ten students in its new **Project SMILE Program** and promoted careers in dentistry through clinical shadowing, creative group projects, and public health discussions.

U. The Teacher Pipeline Initiative prepared the region's future teachers through 41 paid internships focused on careers in education. Thank you to **Advanced Preschool, Bartlett Park District, Central Unit School District 301, Community Unit School District 300, Golden Corridor YMCA, Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative, NISRA, Precious Angels, School District U-46, Two Rivers Head Start, and Village of South Elgin.**

V. Alignment's first visual art internship mural project at the **Golden Corridor YMCA** received **Daily Herald** front page news coverage and featured work by **student artists Gia Mangriotis, Avrie Lilly, and Malcolm Wilson** from Bartlett and Larkin high schools.

W. Microsoft IT fundamentals provided 13 students industry certification with practical industry hours provided by **Central Unit School District 301 and Opiquad.**

X. Automotive internships provided 16 students with diverse hands-on learning in the automotive and large equipment maintenance industry. Thank you to **Bob Loquercio Auto Group, KS Autocare, School District U-46, Westside Tractor, and Village of Bartlett.**

OCTOBER – DECEMBER



Y. Explore 2025 served over **2,300 students** and more than **400 family members** who benefited from **89 exhibits** showcasing **five career pathways** that included architecture, arts, automotive, business, culinary, digital communication, education, engineering, first responder, financial services, healthcare, human services, IT, large equipment, manufacturing, and welding careers.

Z. Advocate Sherman Hospital and VNA Health Care hosted six interns in a fall internship rotation providing mentorship and clinical experience.

1. The Youth Empowerment Program at **Larkin High School** reached students in bi-weekly meetings focused on developing leadership and life-management skills.

2. A record number of U-46 seniors participated in **Senior Postsecondary Day** which introduced over 1,342 students to more than 20 colleges and organizations, and financial assistance resources.

3. Northern Kane County Region 110 provided **over 600** high school students across the 11 high schools the opportunity to tour 24 industry locations and learn about various manufacturing careers.

4. Wintrust provided over 300 **Bartlett High School** seniors with personal finance planning focused on why credit matters and student loan advice.

5. Northern Illinois University welcomed **over 100** students from the four school districts to its campus for the **Educators' Rising Mini Conference** to promote teaching professions.

6. Zurich Insurance hosted business-career focused students from **Bartlett, Larkin, and Streamwood** to learn about the company's premier apprenticeship program.

7. Alignment celebrated the amazing **55 partners and host organizations** that invested in the futures of 243 high school students through providing valuable internship experiences.

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Northern Kane County
REGION 110
EDUCATION THAT WORKS



For additional information on our Leadership Teams,
please visit our website: www.Align4edu.org.

Working together to prepare students to
graduate academic and career ready.