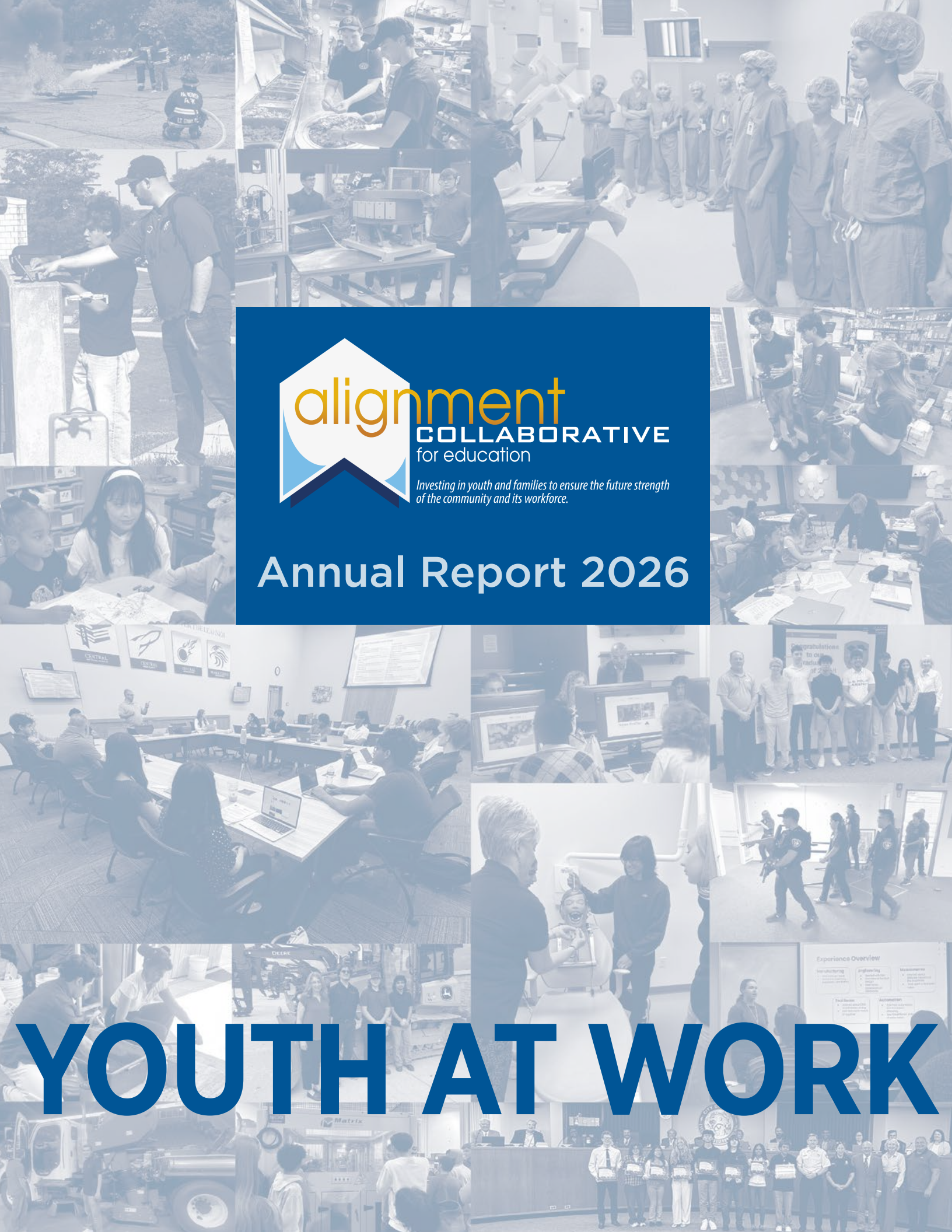


alignment COLLABORATIVE for education

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

Annual Report 2026

YOUTH AT WORK

School Year 2025-2026

OVER **15,000** Middle & High School STUDENTS SERVED

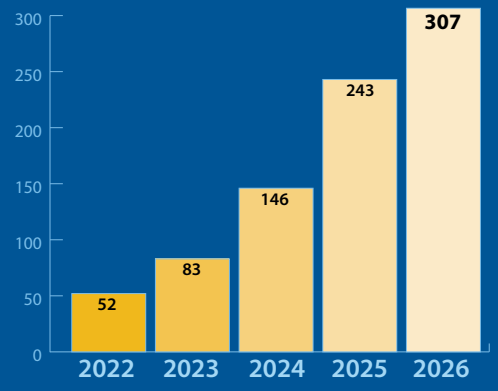
19%

VOLUNTEER HOURS **17,540**

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT RETURN **$1,065,555**

July 2025 to June 2026, excluding Summer 2026 internships

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT GROWTH



SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2026

72 ORGANIZATIONS

307 PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

>$330,000

FINANCIAL BENEFIT PAID DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS

CALL TO THE COMMUNITY

Community and School Partners,

As we prepare to conclude 2026, we celebrate you and your commitment to our region's students and 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 are diverse, aligned with student's individual career interest. Some students will enter the workforce through apprenticeship programs while others may choose to prepare for careers that require advanced degrees. 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 willingness to invest in these students and these partnerships bringing together the business community with schools has resulted in:

- Reaching more than 15,000 students with career planning resources across School Districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303.
- Contributing more than 17,000 volunteer hours to students during the 2025-26 school year representing over $1 million investment to the schools and the region.
- Growing paid summer internship placements from serving 52 students in 2022 to 307 in 2026 partnering with Northern Kane County Region 110 and Elgin Community College's *Taking Back the Trades* grant.
- 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. As we prepare students today to be contributing members of the future workforce, we ensure a future for the region that shines with economic and social prosperity.

Please join me in celebrating the successes we have achieved together, never discounting the positive difference we wish to make for each and every student we reach.

Best regards,

Nancy Coleman
Executive Director

alignment COLLABORATIVE for education

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

31 South Grove Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
Tel: 224-227-7534
www.align4edu.org

Alignment Collaborative for Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Elgin Neighborhood Network introduces the first art therapy program at **Kimball Middle School** partnering with **Teaching Therapy**.



Elgin Township and **U-46** launched youth mental health services for the Larkin feeder pattern investing over $300,000 in student wellness.



Twenty-two (22) summer interns from **Advocate Sherman Hospital, VNA Health Care,** and the behavioral health host partners were certified in teen mental health first aid.

Mental Health FIRST AID®
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING®

Alignment provided tMHFA instructor certification training to partner organizations in the **Youth Mental Health Working Group.**

alignment COLLABORATIVE for education

ELGIN NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Workforce Development
Youth Mental Health and Wellness
Food & Nutrition (2027)

Nicor Gas

SUNNYDALE MUSTANGS

Alignment assisted **Nicor and U-46** with a coat drive at **Sunnydale Elementary**.



ENN's Youth Mental Health Working Group launched seven behavioral health summer internships partnering with **Ecker Center, Family Services Association, Luna Behavioral Health Center,** and **Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System.**



Alignment partnered with **Well Child Center and VNA Health Care** to place 12 summer interns with career interests in public health to include dentistry, food services, and nutrition education.



Alignment partners with the *Youth Empowerment Program* funded by the **City of Elgin** enabling students to share their career and mentoring experiences with **Elgin's City Council**.

ELGIN NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK ORGANIZATIONS

Steering Committee and Youth Mental Health Working Group

AID (Association for Individual Development)
Boys and Girls Club of North Central Illinois
City of Elgin
Ecker Center
Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning
Elgin Township
Family Services Association
Gail Borden Public Library
Golden Corridor Family YMCA
Hanover Township
Hoffer Foundation
Kane County Health Department
Luna Behavioral Health Center
Nicor Gas
School District U-46
Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System
Teaching Therapy
United Way Metro Chicago
VNA Health Care
Well Child Center

One of 18 Neighborhood Networks funded by United Way Metro Chicago.

2026 alignment COLLABORATIVE for education Investing in

JANUARY – MARCH



A

A. The Student Resource Day at **Elgin High School** reached nearly 500 students with grade-level programming on career pathways, postsecondary options, financial literacy, behavioral interviewing, and mental health awareness. Partners included **School District U-46, Elgin Community College, Elgin Neighborhood Network, NAMI, Northern Kane County Region 110, Wintrust Bank, Fox Valley Fire & Safety, IHC,** and **Pregis**.


B

B. ECC Education Day introduced more than 140 students from **School Districts 300** and **U-46** to careers in teaching through campus tours and 2+2 transfer information from **Elgin Community College, Aurora University,** and **Northern Illinois University.**

C. **Central High School** students visited **Camcraft** and **Matrix** to study the latest automation and robotics applications in manufacturing, in partnership with **Northern Kane County Region 110** utilizing FANUC robots recently implemented in **Central School District 301** for students interested in engineering and precision manufacturing careers.


C

D. Region 110 named Executive Director Nancy Coleman the **Illinois Association of Career and Technical Education (IACTE)** Carl Perkins Community Service Award winner at the annual IACTE conference in Springfield.

E. Automotive and electronics teachers from **Dundee Crown** and **Hampshire** high schools toured **Flender** in Elgin during Kane County Institute Day to see how high-precision wind turbine gear boxes are built and repaired and how that work applies to their CTE program instruction.



D

F. Career Panels at **Bartlett High School** reached nearly 500 students, and resume and interview workshops benefited more than 1,900 students across **School Districts U-46, 300, 301,** and **303** as summer internship applications opened.

G. Virtual Sophomore and Junior Postsecondary Day connected more than 3,600 **U-46** students with 35+ colleges, universities, and the **U.S. Armed Forces** across 32 Zoom sessions.

H. The Regional Job Fair at **Elgin Community College** welcomed more than 600 students from 11 high schools to meet 81 businesses and community organizations, including 21 offering summer employment with on-site applications.


E


F



G


H

youth and families to ensure the future

APRIL – JUNE



I


J


K


L


M

I. The Elgin Neighborhood Network Youth Mental Health Workgroup released a new Youth Mental Health Resources directory for Mental Health Awareness Month, connecting families to behavioral health support and crisis intervention with partners **Association for Individual Development, Ecker Center, Family Service Association of Greater Elgin, and Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System.**

J. **Larkin High School's** HOSA team placed third at the state competition in Mental Health Promotion with its "Connectable" campaign on building human connections beyond social media. Team member Emily O'Hearn also serves as student representative on the ENN Youth Mental Health Workgroup.

K. **Seigle Foundation** awarded Alignment $47,250 to expand work-based learning for middle and high school students across **School Districts U-46, 300, 301, and 303** resulting in the necessary funding to continue to serve students in all four school districts reaching over 15,000 students during the 2025-26 school year.

L. **Hoffer Foundation** provided an additional annual gift of $25,000 to grow the summer internship program, while also including six students from **Central, Elgin, Larkin,** and **St. Charles East high schools** in a manufacturing rotational internship exposing students to the plastic injection molding industry.

M. **Elgin Township** awarded a $21,600 grant to Alignment supporting summer internships and invested more than $300,000 in youth mental health programming for U-46 students. More than 20 summer healthcare interns began internships earning Teen Mental Health First Aid certifications.

N. The first 12 days of internships placed more than 300 high school interns at over 70 host locations. First-time host **Bennigan's** hired its intern immediately following the completion of the 60-hour internship.

O. The First Responder internship entered its third year with the **Bartlett Police Department, Hanover Township Emergency Services,** and the **Hanover Park Fire Department** while launching its second year at the **Elgin Fire Department** and the **Elgin Police Department.** Thank you to the **City of Elgin, Hanover Township, Village of Bartlett,** and the **Village of Hanover Park** for building this future pipeline of public safety professionals.


N


City of Elgin SWAT O



Hanover Park Fire Department O


First Responder Intern Graduations O

strength of the community and its worl

JULY – SEPTEMBER


P



P


Q


R

P. Healthcare internships reached a milestone with more than 500 applications and a record 70+ paid internships, including 35 students at **Advocate Sherman Hospital**, supported by **Elgin Community College's** *Taking Back the Trades* grant (third year) and **Northern Kane County Region 110**. New behavioral health placements were offered through **Ecker Center, Family Services Association of Greater Elgin, Luna Behavioral Health Center,** and **Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System.**

Q. **Northern Kane County Region 110**, Alignment Collaborative for Education, and the **St. Charles Chamber of Commerce** partnered with Chamber members' Chris Higgins and Erik Doersching, to launch the inaugural AI in Industry internship program partnering with four organizations in Elgin and St. Charles: **Explore Elgin, Industrial Treasures, Lakeview Precision**, and **American Legion Post 342**. Dr. Todd Stirn from Region 110 described the program as the opportunity for "students to bring the curiosity, business brings the challenges, and AI reveals the possibilities."

R. **Rosati's** partnered for the second year to share its Corporate Internship Program with high school students, offering them opportunities to learn from business professionals in accounting, marketing, restaurant operations, and social media bringing the practical application necessary to see and do these roles mentored by professionals from the culinary industry.

S. Through a **Microsoft** grant and partnership with **genera8tor**, students worked with employment and IT specialists completing the necessary training to earn the CompTIA certification while also gaining practical experience working side by side with IT professionals at **Opiquad** and **Central Unit School District 301**. In its second year, this internship's inaugural year has led to students placing in rigorous postsecondary IT programs in Information and Decision Sciences.

T. Alignment, **Northern Kane County Region 110**, and **Central Unit School District 301** launched the first Drone Internship at Central High School. Eleven student interns completed a 60-hour curriculum and earned the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate.

U. Alignment is excited to welcome **Katelyn Mucci Segura** as Associate Executive Director and **Daija Bates** as Community and School Program Coordinator. Their combined experience in education, student engagement, community partnerships, and workforce development brings valuable new perspectives to Alignment's ability to connect students, schools, businesses, and community partners.


S



T


Katelyn Mucci Segura,
Associate Executive Director
U


Daija Bates,
Community and School
Program Coordinator
U

OCTOBER – DECEMBER


V

V. EXPLORE 2026, held October 1 at NOW Arena, welcomed more than 2,600 eighth-grade students from nine **School District U-46** middle schools to meet 71 business and community partners representing five career pathways and over 100 careers, while also learning about all that U-46 has to offer high school students in career and technical education.

W. **Nancy Coleman** was named one of five National Finalists for the prestigious ACTE Community Service Award.


W

X. More than 25 universities, colleges, and organizations joined Alignment and **School District U-46** for Senior Virtual Postsecondary Day, reaching 1,851 attendees across 16 sessions.

Y. **Zurich Insurance** hosted business career-focused students from **Bartlett, South Elgin,** and **Streamwood** to learn about the company's premier apprenticeship program and tour its award-winning headquarters.

Z. Sixth grade students at **Kimball Middle School** are piloting an art therapy program facilitated after school by **Teaching Therapy**. The theme of the program is *Rooted in Resilience*. Thank you to **United Way Metro Chicago** for funding this pilot program.



X

1. Fatima Reyes from **AVID CNA School** visited with students at **Central High School's** inaugural HOSA organizational meeting attended by more than 100 future healthcare professionals.

2. **Northern Kane County Region 110** provided high school students across the 11 high schools the opportunity to tour more than 20 industry sites exhibiting multiple precision manufacturing processes.


Y

3. **Northern Illinois University** welcomed more than 200 future teachers from the four school districts to its campus for the Educators' Rising Mini Conference to promote teaching professions.

4. **Flender Corporation** hosted "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" night, exposing girls to an array of career opportunities in engineering. Students were "hands on" with Flender's engineering team, learning how to assemble gear boxes as well as experimenting with wind turbine blade modeling.


Z

5. Alignment celebrated the amazing **72 partners and host organizations** that invested in the futures of 307 high school students through providing valuable internship experiences.


1



2


3


4



5

GOVERNING BOARD

Executive Committee

Bill Wright
President and Chair
Managing Director
The Overture Group

Corey Dixon
Secretary
Councilman
City of Elgin

Adam Hogan
Treasurer
Vice President,
Commercial Banking
American Community
Bank & Trust

Pam Cumpata
Resource Development
Community Volunteer

Bill Hoffer
Resource Development
Chairman of the Board
Hoffer Plastics, Inc.

Dr. Suzanne Johnson
Superintendent
School District U-46

Sara Sabo
Operating Board Chair
Deputy Director
Chief Operating Officer
Gail Borden Public Library

Nancy Coleman
Executive Director
Alignment Collaborative
for Education

Board Members

Dr. Monica Boehle
Associate Director of
Curriculum
St. Charles Community Unit
School District 303

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President/CEO
Golden Corridor Family
YMCA

Rodney Craig
Village President
Village of Hanover Park

Pam Cumpata
Resource Development
Community Volunteer

Sheri DeShazo
President
Advocate Sherman Hospital

Corey Dixon
Councilman
City of Elgin

Dr. Laurie Elish-Piper
Executive VP & Provost
Northern Illinois University

Karen Fox
Community Volunteer

Carol Gieske
Community Volunteer

James Griffin
Community Volunteer

Dr. Peggy Heinrich
President
Elgin Community College

Bill Hoffer
Chairman of the Board
Hoffer Plastics, Inc.

Adam Hogan
Vice President,
Commercial Banking
American Community
Bank & Trust

Dr. Suzanne Johnson
Superintendent
School District U-46

David Kaptain
Mayor
City of Elgin

Ana Lalley
Chief of Police
Elgin Police Department

Dr. Amy MacCrindle
Superintendent
Central Unit School
District 301

Brian McGuire
President & CEO
AED Foundation

Yaneth Medina
President
Elgin State Bank

Melissa Owens
School Board President
School District U-46

Herb Porter
Trustee
Village of Hanover Park

Scott G. Richmond
Attorney
Ariano Hardy Ritt

Sara Sabo
Chief Operating Officer
Gail Borden Public Library

Dr. Leatrice Satterwhite
Assistant Superintendent
for Equity and Innovation
School District U-46

Dr. Martina Smith
Superintendent
Community Unit School
District 300

Lindsay Tintera
Executive Director
Elgin Area Chamber
of Commerce

Scott Weil
Director of Regional
Operations
Nicor Gas

Bill Wright
Managing Director
The Overture Group

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

OPERATING BOARD

Dr. Monica Boehle
Associate Director of Curriculum
St. Charles Community Unit
School District 303

Kelli Borden
Community Volunteer

Erin Brumfield-Grima
Director, Youth and
Family Services
Hanover Township

Stephen Buchs
College Pathways Director
Central Unit School District 301

Michele Chapman
Director of Postsecondary
Success
School District U-46

Sandra Gonzalez
Dean of College Transitions and
Secondary Partnerships
Elgin Community College

Yvonne Irving
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Consumers Credit Union

Michael Isaacson
Executive Director
Kane County Health Department

Jeff Janda
Executive Director
Streamwood Park District

Joan Kanute
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Population Health
Advocate Sherman Hospital

Bob Malm
Co-Chair, Educational Pathways
A-Team
Community Volunteer

Krisilee Murphy
President & CEO
Explore Elgin Area

Karina Nava
Assistant City Manager
City of Elgin

Amber Peters
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Chief Operating Officer
Gail Borden Public Library

Sarosh Saher
Director
Elgin Development Group

Joseph Sieczkowski
Director of CTE, Pathways, and
College & Career Readiness
Community Unit School
District 300

Denise Tracy
Community Volunteer

Karina Utreras
Accreditation & Recognition
Program Manager
AED Foundation

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS

CTE

Northern Kane County
REGION 110
EDUCATION THAT WORKS

U46 ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

300

301

Community Unit School District 303
1949

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