WorkReady Philadelphia is the city’s workforce preparation system for youth and young adults. Overseen by the Philadelphia Council for College and Career Success and funded by investments from government agencies, employers and foundations, WorkReady’s year-round and summer program models introduce participants to careers, develop their work-readiness skills, and serve as catalysts for education and career planning. Established in 2003, the long-term successes of the WorkReady system are attributable to the collective commitment of a broad range of private, public and non-profit partners to ensuring that Philadelphia young people have access to high-quality opportunities that equip them for future success.

Work Locally, Think Globally, the theme of WorkReady Philadelphia 2011, recognizes that rapidly changing international economic trends will require our young people to compete on a much larger stage than ever before. In this sense, Work Locally, Think Globally serves both as a programmatically themed, and also as a clarion call to utilize our regional resources in ways that cultivate a talented, competitive local workforce prepared to negotiate an ever-changing global economic landscape.

As you read this report, you will glimpse the bigger picture of the WorkReady system: the dozens of summer and year-round programs that operate under the WorkReady umbrella, and the multitude of stakeholders that make them possible. Most notably, you will see WorkReady’s reach and the benefits its programs bring to young people, and – by extension – to all of us.
workready
PHILADELPHIA

Youth Applications Completed
14,779
Total Youth Served
5,336

WORKREADY SUMMER

Internships
Targeted for youth ages 14-21 with limited or no work experience, these programs blend work experience with work-readiness training, underscoring the importance of academic achievement and career exploration. High school students benefit from participating youth develop work-based learning projects that demonstrate knowledge gained and provide opportunities to enhance academic skills, work readiness and career awareness.

Service Learning
Service learning programs organize young people ages 14-21 into teams that perform work and service in their communities, resulting in a positive impact to both the local or global community. Along with career exploration, service learning provides a project connected to their service experiences that enhances work readiness and academic skills.

Work Experience
Targeted for youth ages 14-21 with limited or no work experience, these programs blend work experience with work-readiness training, underscoring the importance of academic achievement and career exploration. High school students benefit from participating youth develop work-based learning projects that demonstrate knowledge gained and provide opportunities to enhance academic skills, work readiness and career awareness.

Sani
As a participant in the Agapan Urban Nutrition Initiative program, Sani and her colleagues hit the streets of neighborhoods in West Philadelphia to survey the availability of, quality, locally-grown produce. The group’s findings informed their practice to bring healthy food to residents who lacked access. Sani’s big picture view: "Just as I’m being helped through WorkReady, I’d like to think that I can help other people.”

IMPACT

Youth Applications Completed
3,529
Total Youth Served
14

21st Century Continuum
Career Experience
Industry Pipeline
School-Year Internships

DRE’QUAHN

A senior at C.H. Cesar High School of Engineering and Science, Dre’Quahn is in his second year of the Industry Pipeline program operated by ACE Mentor Program. Through his participation, Dre’Quahn has been involved in real-life projects, including the renovation of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. "Big picture discovery. Dre’Quahn found a few errors in the schematic of the project and reported them so that changes could be made. It was really fun to know that I contributed.”

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

E3 Centers
Job Placement
Occupational Skills Training

To read more about the WorkReady youth experience, go to: workreadyphila.org/youthstories

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142 attainment vocational certification in the following areas:

124 were placed in employment post-secondary education

53 obtained a GED or HS diploma

Youth served: 224

293 Youth served: 387

91% of 12th graders graduated high school

88% of 12th graders graduated high school

360 Education Pathway

1,199 Job Placement

3,529 Total Youth Served

5,336 Youth Applications Completed

614 Employment Pathway

795 Employment youth participate in more than one pathway

53,369 Youth Applications Completed

14,779 Total Youth Served

Impact on Academic Skills and Education Goals

Impact on Work-Related Competencies and Career Goals

Overall Program Satisfaction

Youth served: 395

Youth served: 3,529

Youth served: 5,336

Youth served: 3,529

Youth served: 5,336