

InterLink Annual Report 2016

*Bridging the gap between business and education
for quality workforce planning since 1987*

 A Texas Model Program

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE TEAMS

By: Irene Nigaglioni, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP BD +C—InterLink President 2015-2016

In this time of exponential change, a strong link between the business world and educational institutions provides a solid platform for today's students to succeed. Although in theory working today is as easy as it



Irene Nigaglioni,
InterLink President
2015-2016

has ever been, a lack of necessary skills creates a real challenge for students entering the workforce. The old mentality of memorization and recall will no longer work as employers are looking for employees that can initiate and sustain complex work, and that can show an ability to continually learn. These skills are critically important in our new economy, as technological change and economic change will produce a very different job market for students leaving high school and college. While older generations enjoyed long term employment, many having only one job in their lifetime, research from GenDIY shows that employees entering the workforce today will have a dozen jobs in the next decade. It is therefore so critical that students are given the ability to practice deeper learning, so they can be prepared for college, career and beyond.

In addition, employees entering the workforce will also need to be able to work in teams. Highly productive teams result in increased productivity. Students need to learn how to communicate in a team setting, providing a safe environment for all to collaborate. We are fortunate in North Texas that so many school districts are changing the way learning

occurs in the classroom by encouraging more project-based learning, which supports the creation of highly productive teams. This approach results in students thinking differently about themselves, as they see themselves as learners and leaders. Students master core content while developing critical thinking skills, problem solving, collaboration and time management skills. Career and Technical educators have long worked to develop highly productive teams that produce amazing projects in diverse programs.

I am passionate about Interlink because it provides the setting for a highly productive team of educators and business representatives to come together and collaborate and create connections. Our highly productive team is able to bring the future and the present together for our students, providing each of them with a view into what is to come. This collaboration is essential to ensuring North Texas continues to thrive and grow, ensuring our economy is always stable, and always relevant. This collaboration helps create the platform for deeper learning opportunities for our students, as core content and skills are brought together in a pertinent and relevant manner.

As a mother of an 11-year-old 6th grader, I am incredibly grateful for Interlink, as it allows me to see what opportunities he may have, and what skills he'll need to develop to get there. Serving as President of this group is incredibly humbling, as it has provided me with the opportunity to continue my learning and expand my thinking. Our students are the beneficiaries of Interlink's team work, as witnessed in each student group that presents at our meetings.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of this highly productive team.

TECH TITANS PROMOTE STUDENTS LEARNING STEM



Tech Titans of Richardson recently encouraged students to showcase their

knowledge about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) by creating videos to promote the career opportunities in STEM careers.

29 students participated with the 2016 initiative which was sponsored by State Farm Insurance, by creating 17 STEM related videos featuring 3D/4D Printing, Autonomous Vehicles, Robots, All STEM Technologies, and The Internet of Things

Video winners were recognized at a reception by State Farm at CityLine on January 26th 2017, where they were presented with cash awards in amounts from \$250 to \$1000.

InterLink served on the Tech Titans STEM Video task force and judging panel.

InterLink will notify students about opportunities for the 2017 initiative through their school districts.

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IRVING ISD IDENTIFIES INTERLINK AS OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT PARTNER

As guests, including volunteers who participated with the Irving ISD 2016 Career and Technical Signature Programs, entered the Jack Singley Academy Building at Irving ISD for their annual Career Expo Luncheon on March 3rd, they were greeted by students in the Audio Visual Program who interviewed them about their commitment to the districts career programs.



Continuing down a walkway reminiscent of a Hollywood red carpet experience, guests were led to Signature Program displays by students in Architecture, Engineering, Criminal Justice, Fire Fighting and EMT, and Automotive Technology Programs. They ended at the Hospitality and Culinary Program serving area where students had prepared a gourmet meal.

The luncheon highlighted the success of Irving CTE Signature Program students who talked about their experiences and their plans for the future. Many will continue the programs of study through higher education.

Volunteers were honored for their commitment to the programs and students, including Candy Slocum and InterLink who were honored as the Irving ISD Career and Technical *Nonprofit Organization Volunteer of the Year*. *****

BIRDVILLE ISD RECOGNIZES INTERLINK'S SERVICE

Each year the Career and Technical Education Department of Birdville ISD hosts a fall School-to-Work Coalition Luncheon for volunteers and staff who have assisted with their programs. Students highlight their programs and discuss the impact they have made on their lives.



Dr. Linda Anderson, and Dr. Darrell Brown, Present Candy Slocum the InterLink Outstanding Business Partner award

On November 4, InterLink was recognized at the luncheon as the *Outstanding Business Partner* for 25 years of Volunteerism with Birdville Career Technical Programs by Dr.

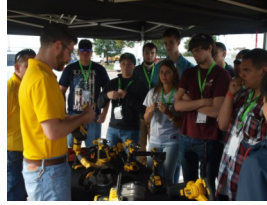
Linda Anderson, Principal of Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning, and Superintendent Dr. Darrell Brown.

Many Birdville CTE students have served as officers and participants with student organizations and have been successful in at regional, state and national levels competitions which develop leadership experience and result in scholarships.

Birdville's CTE Program Volunteers host an annual golf tournament resulting in scholarships for CTE Students to be awarded in the spring of 2017.*****

6th ANNUAL BUILD YOUR FUTURE EXPOSES STUDENTS TO CONSTRUCTION OPPORUNITIES

Year number six of the DFW Construction Education Foundation Build Your Future Career Day brought 1517 students from 44 regional school districts to Irving on October 26th where they experienced hands on activities and visited with 71 exhibitors and event sponsors.



Students visit with construction vendor at Construction Career Day

Over eighty construction industry volunteers exhibited skilled trades allowing students to interact with tools and equipment.

Polk Mechanical, TDIndustries, and Humphrey and Associates brought BBQ rigs and volunteered and cooked hotdogs for the students.

Source: DFW Construction Education Foundation

View the WFAA Video about the event: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/construction-companies-hold-job-fair-for-non-college-bound-students/342415645>



2016 InterLink by the Numbers

- ◆ 70 Labor Market Information requests filled
- ◆ 20 Labor Market presentations
- ◆ 2,175 Number in audience
- ◆ 11 Task Forces and Advisory Boards served
- ◆ 132,959 Website visits
- ◆ 1,327 Employers responded to InterLink's 29th Annual Regional Labor Market Survey, a 66% response rate

CAREER EXPO INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO AVIATION CAREERS

The annual DFW Aviation & Transportation Career Expo was held on October 21, 2016, at CR Smith Museum and American Airlines Hanger #5 to introduce K-12 and college students in North Texas to opportunities in aviation and transportation careers. An average of 3,300 students attend the event each year.

The event this year was sponsored by Dallas Fort Worth Airport, American Airlines, the C.R. Smith Museum, the Federal Aviation Administration and Tarrant County Community College. InterLink is always happy to help inform educators and students about this event.*****

INTERLINK 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jared Vanscoder, Autodesk

Travis Waddell—Region 10 Education Service Center

Leroy White, TSTC North Texas

Adrienne Williams, TxDOT

*Glenn C. Wintrich Jr., (Past President), Dell

Craig Wright, Arlington ISD

Barry Young, Oncor Electric Delivery

* Indicates InterLink Executive Officers ~ (A) Designates Advisors

THE REST OF THE STORY—ROCKWALL ISD SPACE EXPERIMENT



On April 17th, 2014, several groups of Rockwall ISD Students presented to the InterLink Board of Directors, their entries into the NASA Program which, if chosen, would be conducted in space on the International Space Station (ISS). The student experiment gauging the behavior of cancer cells in space was chosen for the flight and loaded onto the unmanned Antares rocket and Cygnus cargo spacecraft headed for the International Space Station. However the rocket carrying the student experiment blew up near its Virginia launch pad on October 28th.

Undaunted, the students recreated the experiment and loaded it onto another spacecraft which launched on January 10th, 2016. The experiment was conducted in space and unloaded from the capsule to be returned to Rockwall ISD just as an ice storm shut down the school district causing the students to miss out on a week to review the results. Unknown to the students, components used in the experiment had a shelf life which expired during that time — voiding the results. The students persevered and joined other students at a conference where they presented the lessons learned from the experience.

At the April 2016 InterLink Board Meeting, Board Member Jean Laswell, Director of CTE at Rockwall ISD, presented a video created by the Rockwall students documenting the project steps along the way. They indicated that the experience may have taught them more about perseverance from the failures of the process along the way than they would have learned from success.

INTERLINK ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations assist InterLink by providing information about the North Texas labor market, and are acknowledged with gratitude:

- AIA Dallas ~ American Institute of Architects
- CEF ~ Construction Education Foundation
- DFW NCDA ~ New Car Dealers Association
- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- GDAR ~ Greater Dallas Restaurant Association
- Manufacturing Assoc. of North Texas
- MTBC ~ Metroplex Technology Business Council
- NTC ~ North Texas Commission
- NTC Logistics Committee
- TEXO ~ The Construction Association
- TxDOT ~ Texas Department of Transportation
- TMAC /UTA~ Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center - UTA
- TAB ~ Texas Association of Business
- TWC ~ Texas Workforce Commission

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