

Track 2 Field Talk Session

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Empowering Personal Agency Toward Healthy Decision-Making and Thriving

- ❖ **QUESTION 1: What are the most innovative strategies your program implements to engage youth?**
- ❖ **QUESTION 2: How does your program empower youth to develop personal agency toward decision-making?**

Innovative Strategies

- Use Mentimeter to engage young people.
- Create podcasts.
- Make commercials like public service announcements to share information.
- Work with a web developer to create a social media campaign to “stop the swipe” and optimize your social media exposure.
- Transfer all training to PowerPoints for virtual implementation.
- Use interactive apps and technology.
 - Visual spinners
 - Everywhere Poll
 - Incorporate videos
- Use virtual reality trailers to incorporate textbook learning with career exploration in specific career clusters like auto mechanics and computer programming.
 - Virtual reality experiences increase student buy-in and engagement. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their future. Virtual reality for career exploration addresses topics A and C of the required

A-F topics. The goal is to increase self-sufficiency and decrease poverty by putting students in high-demand, high-skills jobs.

Music

- Incorporate music and using different platforms – anything with links to keep the youth engaged.
 - Jigsaw
 - Kahoot
- Integrate hip-hop into programming.
 - Discuss the significance of freestyling.
 - Incorporate African American history (or history relevant to the youth being served) and current events.
 - Play both positive and negative songs about decision-making and analyze the art of hip-hop.
- Incorporate a pre-class routine using music and a countdown (3 minutes until videos are on) to prepare students to engage in virtual learning. The final countdown is 3-2-1, videos on!
- Success Sequence
 - Create a Life Map to show how to transition through different stages of life and bounce back from missteps.
 - Conduct financial literacy classes to show how current decisions can impact their future financially.

Social/Emotional Support

- Show compassion and care by doing social and emotional check-ins with youth prior to delivering curriculum.
- Incorporate a friendship lesson to discuss friends who challenge you to be your best vs. those who may lead you in the wrong direction.
- Conduct a virtual crafts class and relate the craft to the topic.
- Develop a talk show where students have the opportunity think critically about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.
- Use humor to connect with students.
- Use role-playing to provide students the opportunity to practice different interactions.

Events

- Conduct a Teen Expo with breakout sessions. Youth get to choose their path in the breakout sessions.

- Use video game tournaments to promote workshop attendance—workshop attendance is a prerequisite for the tournament.
- Film camp conducted in the summer

Partnerships

- Work with community partners to provide community service opportunities for students.
- Use this time to build relationships with schools.
- Facilitate virtual field trips to museums with an African American history component. This has been an effective tool, in addition to the regular classes.
- Work to strengthen relationships with teachers, schools, and the school district rather than assuming they will embrace the program you are offering.
- Maximize face time through a school saturation approach.
 - Train teachers in the curriculum, but also have a trained facilitator in the room.
 - Secure permission from the school to have access to parents' cell numbers to send push messages to parents. The messages include open-ended questions that parents then ask their children to increase the parent-child connection.
 - Create homework assignments and provide small gift cards for completion.
 - Use a remote learning platform for sessions.
 - Connect at different levels – Heart, Head, and Hands. Students are very interested in learning about their love language and what makes them tick.