

Workforce Employability and Leadership Skills Program (WELSP) Grant Project Abstracts

FY 2020 Awards

Johns Hopkins University

Project Title: Kingdom Initiative 2.0

Project Director: Anita Young, Ph.D.

Award: \$80,000

Project Abstract: The Johns Hopkins University School of Education, in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools, promote the districts' vision to provide a rigorous educational program that prepares students for optimal college and career opportunities. The Kingdom Initiative 2.0 proposes to continue implementation of services that promote and increase 12th grade African American male student's abilities to make essential life skills decisions that results in positive post-secondary opportunities. The initiative includes four components: (1) Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication Strategies, (2) Apprenticeship and Career Exploration, (3) Enrichment Field Trips, and (4) Academic/Experiential Learning. The anticipated objectives and outcomes will help participants increase their leadership capacity, self-efficacy and increase access to college.

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Morgan State University

Project Title: The Twenty Squared Project Leadership Corps

Project Director: Dr. Christian Anderson

Award: \$68,000

Project Abstract: Morgan State University (MSU) is a student-led leadership development program designed to promote college and career readiness among high school students and their families attending Wicomico County Public Schools. Organized in the framework of project based-based learned, the Twenty Squared Leadership Corps will develop participants' leadership, communication, teamwork and collaboration, and presentation skills by researching, planning, and facilitating college and career readiness workshops for their school-aged peers and their families. In addition to the planning workshops, corps members will participate in leadership development workshops hosted on the campus of Morgan State University, and attend a Summer Leadership Conference in July 2020.

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Wor-Wic Community College

Project Title: Wicomico Workforce Employability and Leadership Skills Program

Project Director: Ms. Lori Smoot

Award: \$24,249

Project Abstract: The Wicomico Workforce Employability and Leadership Skills Program will serve Wicomico County's GEAR UP cohort. The project aims to expose more than 60 students to career pathways, introduce students to a college campus and the credit and non-credit programs available, inform students of post-secondary admissions and financial aid processes, provide students with soft skills and employability skills, and offer an employment experiences for a subset of students who demonstrate interest and an ability to benefit from work experience. GEAR UP students will have the opportunity to interact with college instructors to explore career fields, and campus visits will familiarize students with a college campus, admissions and financial aid processes, and the college's support services. Additionally, an employment opportunity will provide students a work opportunity coupled with a career research and development class designed to include soft skills and employability skills to improve student's skills in communication, job readiness, critical thinking, and teamwork and problem-solving, helping them to prepare for postsecondary education and future career opportunities.