

The CollegeKeys Compact[™]

2012 Catalog of Effective Practices

Programs and practices that
expand options for students
from low-income backgrounds

Pre-Professional Internship Program

Trinity High School

Garfield Heights, Ohio

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION Trinity High School students receive a thorough academic preparation for college that includes internship experiences closely aligned to their course work. The program allows all students to explore career and professional paths prior to enrolling in college. The goals of the internship program are to:

- Enrich a traditional college-preparatory education with an expanded network of professional learning sites so students gain real-world experience and application of their academic course work;
- Help students refine their career choices and understand the educational requirements needed to attain their aspirations; and
- Enable students to collaborate with college-trained professionals and develop a mentor relationship.

The program was designed to help instill in all students a desire for postsecondary education and develop within them the skills necessary for college and workplace success. Internship sponsors are drawn from Cleveland-area businesses that want to help shape the future workforce and cut down on the brain-drain common to the area. Research indicates that the best and brightest students seek employment elsewhere upon graduation from college.

Ninth-grade students spend their freshman year preparing for their internship experience by engaging in career exploration, completing interest and skill surveys, and engaging in workplace readiness classes. Toward the end of that year they choose an internship path aligned with their career aspirations. They can select highly specialized internships in medicine, graphics and animation, or information management and system design. They can also choose internships centered on business or the liberal arts. During grades 10, 11 and 12, students spend one day each week at an internship placement aligned to their career path and specific course of study. The school day and year have been lengthened to assure students are in classes long enough to earn a traditional Carnegie unit.

MEASURING SUCCESS College-bound Trinity seniors earned a mean score of 529 in critical reading (national = 497), 515 in mathematics (national = 514) and 515 in writing (national = 489). The combined scores show Trinity High School students achieve the suggested SAT benchmark score of 1550, indicating a 65 percent likelihood of achieving a B average or higher during the first year of college. Trend data collected over a five-year period indicate steady growth in SAT mean scores.

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For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.

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