

Project C3:

A Remarkable Experience for Youth and Important Benefits for Employment

"My students are learning valuable work skills and how to contribute to their community. Project C3 has fostered independence and self-awareness that will aid in their transition to adulthood. These are excellent outcomes."

-Teacher

"Project C3 is the perfect activity for bringing together collaborators on behalf of youth. It proves that working together can lead to remarkable growth and experiences for youth."

-Teacher

"Students in Project C3 have gained real-world, competitive work experience that has helped them understand what it is to be an employee and brings them closer to their vocational goals."

-Teacher

Parents, youth, and professionals need access to resources. Youth should have experiences that build skills needed in real-world employment. Systems serving youth need ways to work better together. PACER Center's Project C3 created youth resource mapping activities that met these needs, and accomplished exceptional results.

PACER Center, working in close partnership with Pathways to Employment, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Employment

and Economic Development (DEED), provided paid internships to 157 youth statewide between 2005 and 2009.

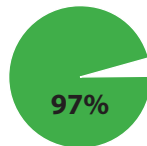
The internship program yielded a cutting edge Web-based resource mapping tool (c3online.org), an effective method for fostering collaborations among youth-serving agencies, and a nationally recognized model for providing paid work experiences to youth who traditionally would not have received such opportunities.



Youth Outcomes

Student interns (ages 14-21) with disabilities participating in C3 activities report they are more confident, self-aware, and have learned new job skills.

Project C3 has allowed me to develop skills that will help me get a job.



- "All the customer assistance skills and presentations I've made have challenged me, and now I feel better prepared to have an interview to get a job."
- "Project C3 helped me get over my fear of talking to people and I developed organizational skills."

I share information about Project C3 with other youth.



- "I've found that I love talking to people and helping them find the information they need online."

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Project C3 Outcomes

Community Collaborator—Leaders from youth agencies that facilitated C3 internships report C3 benefited youth and families and promoted interagency collaboration.



Project C3's Web site has improved the ability of youth, families, and professionals to access information about services for transition age youth in your community.



Project C3 has increased interest in collaboration and transition systems change to improve outcomes for youth in your community.



Educators who facilitated Project C3 internships report C3 advanced student skills, confidence, and knowledge of community resources.

Project C3 has allowed students to develop skills that will help them get a job.



- "Initially, my students were nervous but after some practice and encouragement, their confidence grew and their skills were strengthened."
- "These students now have a bigger knowledge base of themselves, their job skills, and agency supports inside their communities."

Students have used C3 to find employment and/or postsecondary education resources.



- "Students found valuable organizations and resources they weren't previously aware of and have shared information about C3 with other youth."
- "As a result of the employment skills and student confidence gained in Project C3, some interns were quickly hired from local organizations!"

Meeting the Need

Statistics show that many youth with disabilities will experience significant rates of **unemployment or underemployment as adults**. However, two main contributors to employment success for youth with disabilities are **work experiences and family involvement**. Project C3 mapping activities build work skills that employers are seeking while providing parents, youth, and professionals with an easy way to find resources in their area.

Youth participating in Project C3 have also experienced many unexpected rewards, such as the boost in self-confidence that comes from demonstrating the Web sites in front of groups of adults. In many cases, skills learned by participating in Project C3 have led to youth earning paid employment within their community.



c3online.org