

PR/Award Number: U411C190109
Legal Name: Center for the Future of Arizona

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Innovation and Improvement
Washington, DC 20202-5900
Grant Program: Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program
CFDA Number: 84.411C
Proposal Title: Career Connected Pathways
Absolute Priority: AP1 and AP3
Competitive Preference Priority: Computer Science
Applicant: Center for the Future of Arizona

Abstract

The Center for the Future of Arizona's (CFA) *Career Connected Pathways (CCP)* project addresses the urgent need to increase enrollment—particularly of high-need students—in pathways focused on preparing students for careers in STEM fields, including Computer Science, with a focus on cybersecurity (CS/Cy). *The CCP project will create an effective strategy to address the problem of weak or non-existent college and career advising structures and strategies in K12 schools that leads to under-enrollment in the STEM pathways that increase students' college and career readiness and prepare young people for careers that are vital to our economy.*

Definition of High-Need Students: Children at risk of educational failure or in need of special assistance or support, such as children from low-income families, English learners, and foster care youth.

Students Served: 24 high schools, serving 2,400 students

In order to increase enrollment in STEM pathways, the *CCP* project will develop:

- 1) a *Career Connected Toolkit* designed to effectively inform and guide students and families in making educational decisions with an emphasis on career pathways in CS/Cy, in which high-need students are traditionally underrepresented
- 2) a *Co-Advising Framework, to include a Near Peer Mentoring Model*, designed to provide high school students in CS/CY pathways with additional support for successful achievement and persistence

Success metrics:

- 1) increased enrollment, especially by high-need students, in CS/Cy pathways
- 2) increased number of dual enrollment credits earned, especially by high-need students, in CS/Cy
- 3) improved educational attainment rates

Project partners: CFA, Jobs for the Future, LeadLocal, and SRI International (evaluator)

Initial LEA and community college partners: Ampitheater Public Schools, Mesa Public Schools, Phoenix Union High School District, Sunnyside Unified School District, Central Arizona Community College, Maricopa County Community College District, Pima Community College