

# United Way of Southwest Virginia *Careers Expo for Youth*



United Way of  
Southwest Virginia  
UnitedWaySWVA.org

## **The Issue:**

- 1- According to the Virginia Department of Education, less than ½ of high school graduates in Southwest Virginia go on to technical training, two-year/four-year higher education or the military.
- 2- Based on local employer feedback, Southwest Virginia is experiencing a workforce shortage and cannot fill open positions.
- 3- According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in 2015, 12% of all youth between the ages of 16 and 24 weren't in school or working. In Southwest Virginia, that means approximately 3,840 young people.

## **United Way of Southwest Virginia's Work:**

Unparalleled programs and services across the region from cradle to career

- 1- Smart Beginnings brings together community partners dedicated to creating a quality early childhood system of care that improves the access to and the coordination of services for young children and their families.
- 2- Virginia Quality leads the way for high quality early education for our youngest Virginians by setting standards for quality and providing a path for continuous quality improvement at child care centers, preschools and family child care homes across the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 3- Ignite sparks students' interest in career opportunities. By connecting schools and students with employers and employees through career guidance, shadowing, mentoring, and work-based learning.

## **The Event:**

### ***SWVA Careers Expo for Youth***

Bridging the worlds of learning and work

## Hosts:

- United Way of Southwest Virginia
- Ignite
- United Way Volunteer Center

## Participants:

7<sup>th</sup> grade students from across SWVA, representatives from SWVA employers, teachers from across SWVA, volunteers

## Goals:

- Introduce middle school students to career choices in SWVA
- Connect schools and students to employers and employees

## Event structure:

- Two-day hands-on learning expo September 26-27, 2017, 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Washington County Fairgrounds
- Students participate in activities provided by local employers
- Employers set up experiential work activities for students at booths. For example, students will be able to:
  - Climb utility pole
  - Try on SWAT gear
  - Practice CPR and giving shots
  - Chemistry experiment
  - Use a 3-D printer to create a 3-D object

## Impact measures:

- Pre and post student survey
- Pre and post employer survey

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## Chamber Ambassador Program

Being a part of the 2017 SWVA Careers Expo for Youth is a partnership opportunity to get the business community involved in showcasing what employment opportunities are available to our youth. We would like to invite your Chamber to be a part of this opportunity with us in the Chamber Ambassador Program.

As a participant with the Chamber Ambassador Program, you will be one of our local contacts within our region. There are three requirements to being an Ambassador:

- Advocate the 2017 SWVA Careers Expo for Youth by sending the information out to your distribution list.
- Recruit or refer to us at least three - five (3-5) employers who would be willing to set up a booth at the event and provide an activity.
- Provide a minimum of two (2) volunteers during the event (two people - two full days).
- Be acknowledged as an Ambassador by providing your logo usage on the event website and on other event material.
- Receive meal vouchers for volunteers who work 3 hours or more per day.

This event is a great way to get your chamber involved with the future workforce and have an opportunity to show your support by helping middle school students learn about their future career possibilities. To participate, simply complete the form below and return it to us by fax (276-628-8484) or email it to your United Way contact.

For additional information on the 2017 SWVA Careers Expo for Youth, please contact Crystal Breeding at [cbreeding@unitedwayswva.org](mailto:cbreeding@unitedwayswva.org) or by phone 276-525-4073 or visit [www.unitedwayswva.org/expo](http://www.unitedwayswva.org/expo)

Chamber Name:
Chamber Contact:
Contact Email:
Contact Address:
Contact City, State, Zip:
Contact Phone Number:
Number of Volunteers from your Chamber: