

Making a Difference

2018 Lubbock County “Skills for Living”
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Relevance

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013, “Nearly all young people—98.6 percent—hold at least one job between the ages of 18 and 25. The average young person holds 6.3 jobs between 18 and 25. Some work part-time or summers only, while others see full-time permanent employment as their path to economic independence. Employment can be beneficial for youth by teaching responsibility, organization, and time management and helping to establish good work habits, experience, and financial stability (Child Trends,2010). Knowing how to find and keep a job is critical for admission to the adult world but is also an important survival skill for which there is little in the way of formal, structured preparation.

A recent survey by Teen Research, Inc. showed that American teens spend over \$169 billion yearly, up from \$122 billion over the past five years. With this spending power, the importance of helping teens to learn how to manage their money is imperative. The spending habits that they are developing now, will carry through with them into adulthood. Providing educational opportunities to teens in the area of money management will help them to develop the necessary skills to assist them in achieving their life goals.

Response

The 2015 Texas Community Futures Forum conducted in Lubbock County identified Work Ethics and Job Skills, as well as Graduation/Drop Out Rate, and Youth Financial Management as issues affecting Lubbock County Youth. The Lubbock County 4-H Youth and Adult Advisory Board determined that these issues should be addressed through Extension programming efforts. Agent Alexander developed an educational series in order to address this issue and marketed the “Skills for Living” and “Dollars and Sense” programs through the Tech Prep Career Expo. The goal of this plan is to educate high school youth so that they are able to find and obtain employment, help them to develop the skills necessary to be a good employee, maintain employment, and to be able to effectively manage their money, once they are gainfully employed. This year, the series was conducted through the New Deal STEM program at New Deal High School. Series components included: “Skills for Living” - Resume Development, Interviewing Skills, and a Job Skills Quiz Bowl; and “Dollars and Sense” - Budgeting, Credit, Setting Goals and playing the “Game of Life.” A post evaluation was conducted at the end of each series. Eleven youth were reached through this programming effort. Approximately 50 handouts on resume development and job skills were distributed to students attending the Tech Prep Career Expo.

Results

Post-test evaluations on “Job Skills” and “Dollars and Sense” were conducted with 7 New Deal students.

JOB SKILLS PROGRAMMING - New Deal Seniors STEM Class - Participant Knowledge Gained:

- 55 % (4 out of 7) of participants learned how to prepare for a job interview.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants learned how to create a resume.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants learned how to effectively interview for a job.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants learned the importance of personal appearance in the job search.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants learned how to complete a job application.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants learned the importance of the skills necessary to get along with employers and coworkers.
- 28% (2 out of 7) of participants increased their overall knowledge about basic employment skills.

Participant Intent to Adopt New Practices:

- 85% (6 out of 7) of participants plan to develop a resume.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants will complete a job interview.
- 42% (3 out of 7) of participants will practice for a job interview.

During the class series, two students used the skills learned through the class to obtain employment.

DOLLARS AND SENSE - New Deal Seniors STEM Class - Participant Knowledge Gained:

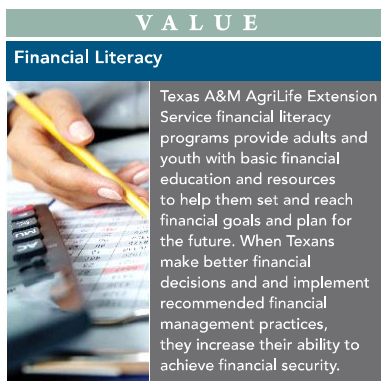
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants learned how to create a written budget.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants learned how to use a written budget.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants increased their overall knowledge about money management.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants increased their level of understanding regarding the cost of using credit.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants learned how to set and achieve financial goals.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants increased their understanding of the importance of financial planning for their future.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants increased their knowledge of planning for savings.

Participant Intent to Adopt New Practices:

- 71% (5 out of 7) of participants plan to use a budget to manage their money.
- 71% (5 out of 7) of participants plan to create a budget.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants plan to include savings in their budget.
- 55% (4 out of 7) of participants will develop a plan for saving money.
- 55% (4 out of 7) participants plan to set financial goals for themselves.
- 55% (4 out of 7) participants plan to set career goals for themselves.

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