

Polk County Prevention Program Update

FEB. 2024



Program Updates

2024 Polk County Youth Conference: The 2024 Polk County Youth Conference will include over **600 Polk County** students from 7 schools across the region. Students will spend the day at Western Oregon University learning from over 30 local industry professionals in a field of interest to them.

2024 Youth Activities Mini-Grants: The Polk County Prevention team awarded 14 youth serving organizations a total of **\$40,000** to provide engaging youth programming across the county. All funded programs were scored and selected by a group of youth advisors. These programs will provide safe and fun spaces for young people across the county.

\$100,000 Youth Support & Engagement Funding: At the end of 2023, the Polk County Prevention and School Based Mental Health team were awarded a total of **\$100,000** from the Willamette Health Council to expand youth engagement and prevention programming across Polk County.

Polk County Youth Engagement Opportunities: The Polk County Prevention team is offering a number of ways for youth to learn important job-related skills. These opportunities include:

- **Job Readiness Program:** Students enrolled in the 4-week program learn from various professionals, participate in mock interviews, develop important job-ready documents, and gain other job-ready skills.
- **Internship Program:** Students enrolled in the 6-week program get on-site experience with various Polk County employers. Students gain real work experience with the support of engaged worksite supervisors, and the Polk County prevention coordinator.
- **Dallas Youth Garden:** Students enrolled in the summer program learn important agricultural skills, gain soft skills, and make important connections with supportive adults and peers.



