

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MISSION & VISION

Formed in 2010, Alignment Rockford is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to align community resources in support of public school strategies to raise student achievement, improve the health and happiness of our children, and advance the economic and social well-being of our community.

Alignment Rockford does this through a unique partnership with Rockford Public Schools in which school personnel and community members work together in teams to develop strategic programs and opportunities for students.

Alignment Rockford's teams are created in response to a need identified by Rockford Public Schools and connected to outcomes within RPS 205's strategic plan.

In 2012, Alignment Rockford worked with RPS 205 to develop and implement the College & Career Academies of Rockford. Redesigning the high school experience helps to ensure that graduating students are college & career ready.

Academies are small learning communities that provide real-world experiences with local businesses and professionals, linking schoolwork and the workplace. Regular coursework, including Core Curriculum, Global Electives, and College and Career Pathways, is presented within the context of the academy's focus.

ENGAGEMENT/PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Join an Alignment Rockford working team.** Become a member of one of Alignment Rockford's working teams, made up of various community members and school district personnel. These teams meet regularly in a boardroom-style environment to design solutions and implement pilot programs within the schools to support specific school district outcomes such as kindergarten readiness and college & career readiness. Teams include:
 - a. **Academy Expo:** Design a quality career exploration event for freshmen students.
 - b. **Healthy Starts:** Equip families of children ages 0 – 5 with the tools needed to excel in school
 - c. **Career Awareness:** Create a K – 12 system to increase student career awareness.
 - d. **Pathways:** Increase student engagement, preparation, and placement in postsecondary training and employment or education.
 - e. **College Readiness:** Create an engaged school and community culture where all students expect to pursue higher education or professional training beyond high school graduation.

2. **Become an Academy Support Team member.** Academy Support Team (AST) members serve as ambassadors to connect the community with teachers and students as a positive advocate for the academies in the community. Responsibilities of ASTs may include:
 - a. **Provide Curriculum Guidance-** Share with staff the skills, tools, and knowledge needed to succeed in your career so teachers can incorporate these needs into their instruction.
 - b. **Support Equitable Resource Allocation-** Work with teachers to evaluate their teaching resources (equipment, materials, facilities, guest speakers, etc.) to ensure all students and teachers have consistent support from the district and the community.
 - c. **Recruit Community Members-** Share the opportunity to advance the teaching and learning which occurs in our schools by inviting your colleagues and other career experts you know to join the ASTs and serve as guest speakers, mentors, etc.
 - d. **Develop Project Ideas-** Sharing projects which you encounter in your work so teachers can provide students with similar experiences within their courses. For example: providing a car for restoration which can be used to connect a student's language arts, math, social studies, and science with their automotive courses.
3. **Host a Booth at the Academy Expo.** Host a booth at our annual career demonstration event. Over 2,000 freshmen students attend the event to learn more about regional career opportunities in order to help them make an informed Academy decision.
4. **Host a site visit at your business/organization.** Host a 90-minute site visit for groups of 10th grade students, providing a facility tour and overview of the careers available within your business or organization.
5. **Host a job shadow at your business/organization.** Host a 4 – 5 hour job shadow experience for a small group of students. The job shadow experience would showcase one or two specific careers and allow students to participate in an activity associated with a career.
6. **Support a student capstone project.** Mentor a student participating in English Capstone 12, an elective course in which students choose a senior seminar project connected to a workforce or community need or innovation. Support would include meeting with the student and providing community connections or guidance to help them obtain resources for their project.
7. **Host a workshop for senior students.** Support English Capstone 12 students by hosting a one-time workshop on communication etiquette; professionalism; collaborative discussions and team work; project management; or how to deliver an effective presentation.
8. **Become a math tutor.** Tutor middle school students in math, assisting them with basic math concepts and classroom work.
9. **Be a guest speaker.** Speak to students about the path to your career, including but not limited to your education, career trajectory, or current job responsibilities.
10. **Participate in mock interviews and/or project evaluations.** As needed, listen and evaluate student projects and/or participate in mock interviews.
11. **Become a program partner/owner.** Work with Alignment Rockford to help coordinate, administer and implement programs developed by Alignment Rockford's working teams (A-Teams).

Thank you for your interest in Alignment Rockford.

Please place an X in the box under “Select” to select the engagement activities in which you/your organization wishes to participate.

Select	Engagement	Time Commitment	Student interaction?	Point of Contact
	Alignment Rockford working team (A-Team)	1.5 hours per meeting / regularly two meetings per month	No / Rarely	
	Academy Support Team	Varies by school Minimum 2 hours per quarter; maximum 6 - 8 hours per month	Yes, a variety of students at school of your choice	
	Host a booth at the Academy Expo	One day with set up the day before, tear down the day of the event. Event takes place in September/October	Yes, freshmen students from all RPS 205 schools	
	Host a site visit at your business/organization	90 minutes, not including prep time, 1 to 2 times per year	Yes, sophomore students in small – medium sized groups	
	Host a job shadow at your business/organization	4 – 5 hours, not including prep time, 1 to 2 times per year	Yes, junior students in very small groups	
	Support a student capstone project	Meetings vary based on student needs; decision made in partnership with teacher and student	Yes, one to two senior students at school of your choice	

	Host a workshop for senior students	50 minutes; one time during school year	Yes, senior students at school of your choice	
	Become a math tutor.	50 minutes; one time per week during school year	Yes, middle school students at Lincoln or Kennedy Middle School	
	Be a guest speaker.	30 – 45 minutes; one time during school year or as needed	Yes, varies	
	Participate in mock interviews and/or project evaluations	50 minutes; one time during school year or as needed	Yes, varies	
	Become a program partner/owner	On-going, regular support	Yes, varies	

Thank you for your support of Alignment Rockford and Rockford Public Schools.

Please provide contact information for the point of contact for this Partnership Pledge if not specified above.

Name/ Organization: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alignment Rockford Contact information:

Katy Haun, Community Engagement Coordinator

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