

REWIND: Spring 2026 Student Success



Above: After the mock interview session on the last day of the Youth Employability Skills (YES) Academy week, students had the opportunity to hear directly from employer partners and receive general tips for preparing for the world of work. Students asked great questions, while employers took the opportunity to share their personal reflections and pro tips on what worked for them in their careers.

YES Academy **A week-long career-readiness training program, designed to equip students for today's world of work.**

During the week, students dive deep into learning what it means to be in today's workforce. They gain skills like email etiquette, goal setting, public speaking, interviewing, and more — and it all happens during their time off from school. **#TalkAboutCommitment**

Employers play a huge part in this week's success. They get to share their experiences and knowledge, and overall, they get to connect with what could be their future employees.

What's next? Most of the students use this week to prepare for their upcoming summer internships! To truly understand the impact of YES Academy, you can hear from participants and partners **right here**:

40+

The number of YES Academy employer partners.

200+

The number of students who participated in YES Academy.



I had a great experience at YES Academy. We had many hands-on activities. My favorite thing was that I learned how to budget and save my money. I am very happy I attended.

Jeter Casiano
New Britain HS, '29



This week was so much fun! I met many people, which really helped me to communicate in a professional way. I would recommend this program to any of my peers.

Darielys G. Serrano
Hartford Public HS, '29



Mock interview was my favorite activity. It was simulation on what I should expect on job interviews. It was very enlightening. I feel more confident, and I know now what to expect for future interviews.

Jose Rosario
Weaver HS, '29



YES Academy was phenomenal. Students were a bit nervous for the mock interviews, but I was amazed on how well-prepared they were for the session. I had a great time on the last day of the program.

Therelza Ellington
Continuing Education
Coordinator, CT State



Opportunities like YES Academy are a win-win. Employers provide work experiences, while students build skills for career success.

Michael Favor
Owner
Oakwood Sports Center



I had an amazing time with the students. My interactions and conversations with students during the mock interview session were great.

Maxien Robinson-Lewin
Manager, Financial Analysis
Hartford HealthCare

Student 5.0 Bootcamp

The ReadyCT Student 5.0 program works with high school seniors, preparing them with the skills they need to be successful in their postsecondary plans while simultaneously charting what that path will be!

13

The number of participants who completed the program.

During spring break, the team converted their 12-part workshop series into a week-long bootcamp. Participants underwent rigorous career training to take their next steps with confidence.

