



Welcome to the Real World Youth Summit

Event Date: March 19th, 2020

Dear Local Businesses,

I am hopeful you will accept this invitation to participate in the ***Real World Youth Summit*** this year. Several local agencies including Johnston County Industries, Department of Social Services, Johnston County Public Schools, Adolescent Parenting Program, Johnston County Youth Services, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, Children's Home Society of NC, Sinno Law Office, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice, NCLINKS and ILR, along with several other agencies, are organizing this event for the purpose of teaching life skills to youths, ages 16-21 years old. The ***Real World Youth Summit*** will attract many youths from the surrounding area. This program has been quite successful and proven to make a powerful impact with participating youths particularly in areas of budgeting, educational attainment, and career development. Goals include:

- Helping youths recognize how their educational and career decision match up to their lifestyle choices,
- Teaching youths the life skills necessary to meet their goals as productive adult citizens, and
- Providing a one-day simulation based on how to make daily responsible, financial decisions necessary for adult life.

The local agencies for youths has been successful in helping young people develop life skills, including carving out educational and career plans, learning the basics of getting and keeping a job, and locating appropriate housing, **but** mostly, it has introduced youth to the variety of options that are available to young people. We believe that by exposing youths to *better options*, youths will make *better decisions*. This is proving true every day.

The Real World Youth Summit is a one-day simulation of the real world. The event will concretely address education and employment decisions youths make in combination with lifestyle choices (such as housing, transportation, leisure, etc.). Participating youths will be given an occupation based on an employment-educational assessment. The occupation will provide a salary (some with benefits). Youths will be challenged to take their salary and develop a budget based on every day needs (food, electricity, rent, etc.) and situational crises such as medical, emotional, social, and accidental. This event will help youths re-evaluate occupational choices based on lifestyle preference. For some youths, it will mean finishing high school, for others this event may prompt furthering their education at a community college or university.

Your participation in this program is essential to its success. We are seeking sponsors in a variety of ways including: donations for door prizes (items they will *need* in the *real world*), teaching a 25-minute morning session (practicing social skills, banking, insurance or budgeting), and staffing booths displaying real life needs (transportation, housing, food, etc.). See the enclosed sponsor form for more details about how to participate in this exciting event.

The Real World Youth Summit will be held on March 19th, 2020 at Johnston Community College in Smithfield. Participants will receive mini-workshops in the morning and participate in the exhibit (vendor booths) segment after lunch. As a sponsor, you are invited to participate in any segment of the day (morning, afternoon, or all day). *Benefits include: lunch, free advertising, possible media coverage, and the potential for future employees and customers.* Both newspaper and television journalists will be invited. The success of this program will provide the momentum necessary to operate similar events throughout our area.

The following agenda may help you determine your level of participation in the program:

The Real World Youth Summit –Agenda:

7:30 a.m.	Participants check in and receive occupational information.
8:00 a.m.	Orientation to the Real World Youth Summit experience
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Morning skills workshops (youths must rotate through four workshops: Social Skills, Insurance, Banking, and Budgeting)
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Lunch
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Orientation to the Real World Youth Summit
11:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Real World Exhibit experience
12:45 – 1:15 p.m.	Follow-up Activities and evaluations: Youths will meet with their adult advisors to re-evaluate educational and employment goals.
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Grand prizes
1:30 p.m.	Snack bags and dismissal

Please take a moment to consider being one of our **The Real World Youth Summit Sponsors**. The conferences are free to the participants so we truly count on our community for support. Please complete the enclosed **Sponsor Form** indicating your area of participation and **return it (email or mail) as soon as possible**. A response by February 20th, 2020 will be appreciated.

I am truly appreciative of your support and eagerly await your response. Please call me with questions, or ideas of other ways you may sponsor this event. I can be contacted at 252-702-0966 or amanda.tyndall@jcindustries.com.

Sincerely,

Amanda Tyndall

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