



## Career Pathways

Within U Prep's Career Pathways is an immersion of exploration in unique career fields that are either in high demand or lack gender and race diversity. A selected number of students are chosen for our pathways, and an accompanying partner - either a learning institution or an industry partner supports the area of study. Upon completion of requirements, students leave with employable skills to enter into the workforce. Even with the year, we have experienced in the pandemic and the many unknowns that have surfaced, our schools have remained committed to providing hands-on experiential learning to our scholars through our career pathways.

At UPSM, Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT®), our Material Science & Advanced Manufacturing pathway partner has provided home-kits to our scholars at U Prep Science & Math, and engage in experimentation and exhibition through our online learning platforms. This has empowered our scholars and required them to act as the demonstrators and scientists, leading lessons and performing the hands-on experiments in their own homes. Earlier this month students hosted a webinar and provided viewers with a look into what they have learned and been introduced to in the online space. Please click the link [here](#) to join in the experience.



The Zoology & Aquarium Studies pathway continues to offer immersion in the curriculum, derived from a model used at one of Michigan's local universities, lectures from experts in genetics, virtual lab dissections, aquaculture case studies, and internship opportunities. Our Amazon Future Engineers Computer Science Pathway offers students the opportunity to acquire exemplarity skills in game development, graphic design, audio production, and web design. Upon completion of this pathway, students will have built an original multi-player game and will gain the opportunity to secure a \$40,000 scholarship to a four-year college or university and paid internship with Amazon.

We are proud of our students enrolled in the Urban Ecology pathway at UPSM High, who are in the development stages of erecting a greenhouse in the City of Detroit. Their vision is to plant and grow greenery and healthy foods to help fight the air pollution and the disparities with access to healthy food for Detroit youth. The long-term goal is to leave the greenhouse as an alumni legacy to future U Prep scholars who enroll in the Urban Ecology pathway. This pathway, in partnership with Michigan State University faculty, provides students the opportunity to take part in case study learning at the Belle Isle Park and Nature Center. The work is target-focused on urban ecosystems and the environmental impacts of the urban jungle, urban forest biogeochemistry, forest hydrology, waste management, clean and free energy, water purification, biodiversity and the impact of human development on Detroit's green infrastructure. Students are offered paid internships with Belle Isle Park. The goal is to prepare students for jobs in forestry, wildlife specialty, and federal positions with the Department of Natural Resources.

As part of the graduation requirements at UPAD, seniors must complete The Senior Mastery Process, dedicated to allowing students to participate in self-discovery and personal development. Through this two-year discovery, students examine personal character traits and their effects on future goals. They establish goals and career exploration through a practical investigation of career opportunities, using various research methods. Included in this process is a second year, when students engage in a summer internship in an area of interest identified during year one. The final step, the *Senior Defense*, involves the students investigating a relevant problem within their career and developing a research question, that they later defend before a review panel of their peers, teachers and school leadership. Every student graduates with career development skills and a professional portfolio.

We are excited about the upcoming launch of the Ford Law Career Academy at UPA High School! In partnership with Ford Motor Company, the Ford Motor Company Fund and Henry Ford Learning Institute, this four-year program design will immerse students in the exploration of a future career in Law. The Ford Law Career Academy is scheduled to launch at UPA High School next school year.

For more information on our career pathways offered in the U Prep Schools network, visit our website, [UPrepSchools.com](http://UPrepSchools.com)