

## All in For Youth (AIFY): Career Talks

### Who we are...

**All in For Youth (AIFY)** is a multi faceted approach to keep youth in school, bring youth back to school, and to introduce high school students to a broad range of careers.

### What it is...

**Career Talks** promotes high school completion by having volunteers share their personal stories and journeys into their respective professions through small, informal discussion groups (1-10 students). Each Career Talk focuses on the importance of setting obtainable goals, navigating the world of work, overcoming challenges and self discovery.

During the 2016-2017 school year we had a very diverse pool of speakers who generously volunteered their time to share with students their personal journeys into their professional careers. Below are examples of professions and industries that have been represented:

Music DJ	Health Care Aide	Pilot	Painting Contractor
Electrician	Financial Consultant	Travel Consultant	Truck Driver
Firefighter	Welder	Professional Make-Up Artist	Paramedic
Tattoo Artist	Constable (RCMP/CPS)	Hair Stylist	Dental Assistant
Sous Chef	Small Business Owner	Construction Manager	Recreation Therapist
Web Advisor	Pharmacist	Nurse	IT
Youth Outreach Worker	Pipefitter	Game Developer	Social Worker

### Who it's meant for...

**Career Talks** are most suitable for students who may not be strong academically, are facing barriers to high school completion, need extra support/guidance and motivation to achieve their goals and/or just don't know what they want to do with their lives! Our greatest emphasis in volunteer recruitment is to engage positive role models from diverse backgrounds who are currently employed in careers with varying education paths to their chosen field.

### Where they take place...

Over the past year we have held each talk in an informal area in host AIFY schools (lounge, board room, resource areas etc.) to encourage group discussion and participation. Each Talk is facilitated by a City of Calgary Youth Employment Counsellor to further support students in attendance.

**What volunteers talk about...**

**Career Talks** are not professional presentations, recruiting events, hiring fairs or a way of convincing students towards a certain career path. They are best used as a hook...a way to motivate students to explore an array of career opportunities. Everyone's journey is different. Feel free to tailor your talk to suit your own individual style and circumstances.

Topic	Information Discussed
<b>Your personal journey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your name, where you went to high school</li> <li>How was your high school experience? Favorite subjects? Ones that you struggled in? Have thoughts of dropping out?</li> <li>Are you in the career you were dreaming about when in high school?</li> <li>If not, how and when did you decide on your current career? (Did you meet someone who inspired you? Did you find a new passion? Were you introduced to an interesting training program? Other?)</li> </ul>
<b>Current work/position</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where do you work? What is your title?</li> <li>Do you work alone or on a team?</li> <li>What are the prerequisites for your position?</li> <li>What is the salary range for your position? (Entry level and experienced)</li> <li>How has your career progressed (i.e. new roles or positions)</li> </ul>
<b>A day in the life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a typical work day for you?</li> <li>If you work on site, talk about the amenities, services, leisure facilities, etc.</li> <li>What do you love/dislike about your job?</li> <li>What is the most important skill for the work you do? (Driving, communication skills, writing skills, other)</li> <li>What are the steps to be taken to get where you are? Are there different paths?</li> </ul>
<b>Networking/Associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What associations are you a part of?</li> <li>How does that benefit you professionally?</li> <li>How might students network with others in your profession?</li> </ul>

**Want to get involved? Contact...**

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*Thank you to all the amazing volunteers that have supported Career Talks and we look forward to working with you for the upcoming school year.*