

CAPSA and Entrepreneurship Projects

Career Awareness and Post-Secondary Access (CAPSA) – MASN supports the expansion of what was termed “college and career readiness” opportunities in middle school and high school afterschool programs around the state with the CAPSA initiative. It was determined CAPSA better describes the numerous avenues students have to enter the workforce. This initiative exposes students to the many career and education opportunities awaiting them after high school and aids them in developing employability skills through summer enrichment and before/afterschool programing.

- **Building Business/Community Partnership for Afterschool Success Grant**– This grant provides an opportunity for local Chambers and other community organizations to receive funding to build partnerships with local afterschool programs and work together on projects related to the broad umbrella of workforce development. Partnerships focus on the areas of career awareness, post-secondary planning, STEM, and entrepreneurship education.
- **Curriculum** – MASN contracts with 220 Leadership and VentureLab to provide programs with career awareness and skill building curriculum free of charge. These nationally recognized organizations produce high quality curricula that enhance students’ natural abilities while preparing them for future success.
- **Manufacturing Academy** – The Manufacturing Academy for middle school students highlights the manufacturing industry in Missouri in a way that generates career awareness and sparks interest in all careers related to the field. This project was developed to address the diminishing manufacturing workforce in Missouri in recent years as well as ameliorate common misconceptions about the field. The pilot program was developed through a partnership with Missouri S&T, Missouri 4-H, Brewer Science, Regional Professional Development Centers, and Missouri AfterSchool Network.
- **Student Leadership Summits** – MASN has contracted with 220 Leadership and VentureLab to offer Youth Leadership Summits held at Missouri college campuses. These summits energize middle school and high school students while showing them how to take control of their lives and prepare for their future.
- **Peer Learning Community** – This is a group of professionals from afterschool, business, and public service organizations interested in engaging middle school or high school students in career literacy and/or entrepreneurship in the out-of-school time space. The group meets monthly through Zoom. Meetings consist of sharing CAPSA and entrepreneurship resources, best practices, and discussion concerning the successes and challenges of each program.
- **Taskforce** – MASN regularly convenes meetings with prominent members of workforce, college, and career education communities across the state to provide updates on projects and solicit input. The goal of the taskforce is to help MASN check blind spots, learn from members, and improve upon their work with the CAPSA initiative.
- **Resource Library** - MASN warehouses a resource library on their website that contains a wealth of links to content across the internet that aid afterschool programs in providing quality instruction that supports students learning about careers and preparing for the workforce.

Entrepreneurship – Entrepreneurship education allows students to apply the entrepreneurial mindset and skillset to any career path they choose. Afterschool programs have access to nationally recognized curriculum, community-driven programs, and Missouri entrepreneurial ecosystems that support and empower K-12 students as they develop and practice skills through exploring entrepreneurship, developing their own ideas, discovering opportunities beyond high school, and connecting with others in their community.

- **Entrepreneurship Microgrant** – This grant is awarded to Missouri afterschool programs to support entrepreneurship projects for middle and high school students. Objectives of the grant include: 1. Unleashing the potential of students as entrepreneurial thinkers and problem-solvers. 2. Engaging middle and high school students on a youth entrepreneurship pathway. 3. Growing afterschool program capacity for entrepreneurship programming. 4. Sparking new partnerships and networking between afterschool programs and local/regional ecosystems 5. Raising awareness of afterschool’s impact on education, workforce, and entrepreneurial development.
- **Peer Learning Community** – This is a group of professionals from afterschool, business, and public service organizations interested in engaging middle school or high school students in career literacy and/or entrepreneurship in the out-of-school time space. The group meets monthly through Zoom. Meetings consist of sharing CAPSA and entrepreneurship resources, best practices, and discussion concerning the successes and challenges of each program.
- **Pitch Challenge** – The Missouri Pitch Challenge is a competition for students in grades K-12 that connects their passion with the solution to a problem. They develop a pitch for their solution and perform the pitch on video. Participants compete for entrepreneurship scholarships, prizes, and the opportunity to represent Missouri in the National Pitch Challenge. The Pitch Challenge teaches students critical workforce readiness skills, creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, and presentation skills while developing a mindset for 21st century careers.
- **Taskforce** – MASN regularly convenes meetings with prominent members of the education and entrepreneurial communities across the state to provide updates on projects and solicit input. The goal of the taskforce is to help MASN check blind spots, learn from members, and improve upon their work with the entrepreneurship initiative.
- **Curriculum** – MASN contracts with 220 Leadership, VentureLab, and YEI to provide programs with entrepreneurship curriculum free of charge. These organizations have gained acclaim as leaders in their fields and produce high quality curricula that enhance students’ natural abilities while preparing them for future success.
- **Youth Marketplace** –MASN hosts an annual youth marketplace during their MOSAC conference. Students have an opportunity to sell products they have developed through their afterschool program and experience the thrill of receiving income for goods they have created.
- **Regional Meetings** –MASN hosts meetings in various regions across the states in an effort to learn more about programs’ work and how it might be connected to youth exploring entrepreneurship. Guests network with other professionals in entrepreneurship education, share what they have to offer, and discover how they can work together for the good of all.
- **Resource Library** – MASN warehouses a resource library on their website that contains a wealth of links to content across the internet that aid afterschool programs in providing quality instruction that supports student learning and enhances their entrepreneurial skills.

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