



all in for youth

United for school completion.

REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS

MARCH 2016, ISSUE VI



allinfor youth.com

IMPACT AND TRANSITION

Without a high school education, young people are less likely to find stable, long-term employment and are more likely to need social assistance over the course of their lives, live in poverty and become involved with the justice system. This is the reality for 3,000 of our Calgary youth every year.

As Calgarians, we all play a part ensuring the lifelong success of our next generations, starting with school completion. Across our city, in every school, youth have barriers to successfully completing school, many of which can be significantly reduced through mentorship, tutoring and connections with positive adults. These positive connections improve the odds that youth will complete school, leading to future possibilities and contributing to the success of our city.

Your incredible support of the All In for Youth initiative has resulted in 3,995 positive connections between adults and youth in Calgary.

All In for Youth has just completed its second fully scaled school semester, with programs in 20 high schools and Bow Valley College. The All In for Youth movement is having a significant impact on removing barriers for youth to be successful.

In the coming months, our intention is to expand our youth connections in our existing schools. We will work closely with our partners to realize All In for Youth's full potential. Another exciting development is the Deputy Minister of Education's decision to establish a High School Completion External Committee. The committee will inform the work of high school completion across the province and focus on moving forward with high school re-design. United Way of Calgary and Area's All In for Youth team has been invited to sit on this committee as a key stakeholder to offer insights and recommendations that will create systems-level change.

The All In for Youth partners are now focusing their attention on co-developing a strategy and action plan for after our current five-year funding period ends in June 2017. Together, the collaboration's partners are closely examining opportunities that lie ahead and the role that each will play in the transition. We expect the transition strategy to be finalized by June 2016.

As All In for Youth moves further along the path, we are learning so much about the issues that youth are facing and the challenges of trying to create a future of success. We will continue to help overcome barriers to success by working with youth to meet their complex and individual needs in new and flexible ways, one young person at a time.

Craig Foley,
Director, All In for Youth

NOVEMBER 2015

All In for Youth organizes a Workplace Learning meeting, designed to investigate alternative ways to engage students in critical learning opportunities. Workplace Learning opportunities are provided by local businesses that allow high school youth to experience workplaces, while attending high school.

JANUARY 2016

All In for Youth hosts 150 attendees at the School Summit on January 21st. This year's theme was Connecting the Dots: Bringing Community into Schools.

DECEMBER 2015

All In for Youth completes the Bishop McNally High School contribution analysis case study. Results indicate the school's culture change led by the principal, combined with All In for Youth efforts led to a 10 percentage point increase in high school completion.



IN CALGARY, 3,000 YOUTH DO NOT COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME EACH YEAR.

All In for Youth is a citywide initiative focused on school completion. **We are guided by three principles: keep youth in school, bring youth back to school and connect youth to future possibilities.** Working with schools, government, corporations, agencies and individuals, we are building a system of supports to help youth reach their potential. Our goals are:



REDUCE THE HIGH
SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE
BY 50% BY 2017



The Calgary Board of Education is very appreciative of the comprehensive support that our vulnerable youth are receiving through All In for Youth. This strategy creates opportunities for our youth to return to school, supports engaged learning and is coupled with transition planning to future possibilities beyond high school. This is a great example of how shared community responsibility makes high school success a reality for all youth in Calgary.

– Elizabeth Gouthro, Director, Learning Services, CBE

FEBRUARY 2016



In the Lead, a Calgary Youth Justice Society leadership-based program, graduates its first cohort of students from Father Lacombe High School.

FEBRUARY 2016

Deputy Minister of Education, Lorna Rosen invites All In for Youth to participate on the newly formed High School Completion External Committee that focuses on high school completion in Alberta.

FEBRUARY 2016



Two new cohorts begin In the Lead, one at Father Lacombe High School and one at Crescent Heights High School.

MAKING PROGRESS

Measurement note: All In for Youth data collection aligns with the local school semester schedule. To ensure reporting consistency, the project results reported here reflect only the most recently analyzed complete semester data. These figures are cumulative up to and including June 2015.



CONNECTING YOUTH TO POSITIVE ADULTS

Without the support of a positive adult, high school students can even find small tasks daunting.

+ Success Coaches in 12 All In for Youth high schools have provided one on one support to **1,495 students**. Through this support and guidance, multiple barriers to success are removed enabling youth to go on to achieve success in school and life.

+ After working with a Success Coach, **96% of students** felt like they had a connection with a positive adult in their school.



+ Through Big Brothers Big Sisters' mPower program, **126 youth** have been connected with mentors. Mentors encourage and empower high school youth to identify their strengths, explore their passions and achieve their goals as they journey towards adulthood. **96% of the students** supported by an mPower mentor reported they felt better about the kind of person they were becoming.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO YOUTH SUCCESS



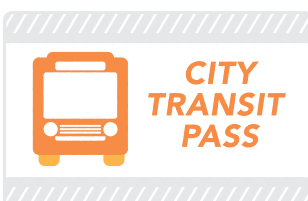
Completing school is hard, even for students with access to resources. It can be even harder for those facing barriers to school completion.

+ **275 students** have been provided with bus passes through the Transportation Project. Students who benefitted are those who come from low income families struggling with financial burden, and who live great distances from their school. Schools reported higher than average attendance rates for the students who were involved in the project.

+ **Eight students** attending All In for Youth schools were provided with prescription eyeglasses.



+ By May 2015, All In for Youth had supported **35 students** in the Detour program at Bow Valley College. Detours provides a route to high school completion for those students who were not successful within a traditional high school program or who are returning to school after taking time away from school. **100% of the students** surveyed reported their overall school experience was more positive because of Detour. One student said, "I am thankful for the people who are willing to invest in me. This gives me hope and the motivation to overcome difficulties."





HELPING YOUTH REALIZE THEIR FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Students need support exploring future career and education possibilities before they graduate.

✚ From February to May 2015, 40 Career Talks were held in 18 All In for Youth schools. A total of **853 youth** have engaged in a Career Talk in areas such as healthcare, trades, arts and public service. Career Talks help students to recognize the vast world of career options, while encouraging them to complete high school and pursue further education.

✚ **84% of students** who worked with a Success Coach reported they had an opportunity to discuss their future education and career goals.



✚ After attending Career Talks, **90% of students** reported they had additional information necessary to help identify future career options, and **80%** reported they had uncovered more about their own skills and interest areas. As one youth reported, "There isn't only ONE WAY to get to where you want to be!"

ENGAGING CALGARIANS FOR GREATER SUCCESS

We are All In. Calgarians support our next generations to complete school on time and open their futures to possibility.



✚ Our Founding Corporate Partners continue to offer incredible support through All In for Youth presentations. They proactively encourage their employees to provide their time and talent to help youth succeed. In 2015, Imperial's presentations about how positive adult connections can help youth succeed in school resulted in **13 mentors** giving **998 hours** of service and **14 math tutors** giving **420 hours** of service.

✚ Jim and Susan Hill have long believed in the potential of Calgary youth and were early contributors to All In for Youth. Jim and Susan also hosted a Career Talk event at the Esker Gallery for students interested in careers in the arts. "The cost to the individual and society when a student drops out of school has been well documented but the solution is incredibly difficult. My wife and I are thrilled to support United Way's All In for Youth program because it draws together multiple skills and agencies in a concentrated, meaningful solution." Jim Hill

✚ Volunteers are key to our goal of supporting students to complete high school. They support tutoring and mentoring and share career experiences. **458 volunteers** have been deployed through All In for Youth. Last semester, **88 volunteer tutors** provided **1,357 hours** of free math tutoring to **234 youth**. **70% of volunteer tutors** returned to the YMCA program to continue tutoring.

TRANSITION PLANNING

The All In for Youth team is taking a proactive approach to transition planning by collaborating with our community, school system and government partners to determine a strategic direction for when our five-year funding period ends in June 2017.

In the fall of 2015, information was gathered for the transition planning process. The team, in conjunction with involved community partners, completed in-depth reviews of our 13 major projects, like Success Coaches, Detour and the tutoring programs. Projects were evaluated for their effectiveness and alignment with All In for Youth goals, and recommendations were made.

Over the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016, all partners in the collaborative were engaged in a process to explore and determine their roles going forward. This has involved a workshop series with the Partners Advisory Committee to co-design the transition process and develop goals for the post June 2017 period. As well, the team met with senior leadership at United Way to understand internal priorities and ensure paths forward align with United Way's business plan. The All In for Youth team is holding similar meetings with each partner through March and April 2016 to support the co-development process. All of these pieces will feed into the development of a high-level strategy by the end of April 2016 and an implementation plan by the end of June 2016.

BISHOP MCNALLY CASE STUDY

In the fall of 2015, the All In for Youth team conducted a case study of Bishop McNally High School, the first of 20 high schools to join All In for Youth. The aim of the study was to explore how All In for Youth contributed to a shift in school culture at Bishop McNally.

In recent years, new leadership at Bishop McNally introduced a vision of student success around the idea that success is different for every student and requires flexibility. In part, this vision emerged out of the school's experience with All In for Youth's Call Back program, which invited students to return to school. A key learning was students needed options other than returning to the same school environment that had not worked for them the first time around.

All In for Youth was influential in putting the new vision into practice by providing unique supports that enabled school staff to do things differently. Key outcomes of All In for Youth at Bishop McNally include: more successful students (for example, increased course completion, attendance, confidence and graduation rate); increased staff awareness of students' barriers to success; increased willingness on the part of staff to help students manage their barriers; and new and expanding relationships between the school and community agencies. Crucial to the positive impact of All In for Youth was strong leadership at the school. The new vision of student success resulted in McNally's high school completion rate improving to 79% in the 2014-2015 school year, from 69% the previous year.

BRAYDEN AND CHRIS

As someone who preferred staying home and playing video games, Brayden wanted to gain more confidence in his abilities in sports and school. At the start of high school, he tried out for the football team and was picked to play, but felt like he didn't fit in with his teammates and soon dropped out.

Brayden approached All In for Youth's mPower mentoring program to find a mentor who could help him get more involved in an active lifestyle and improve his confidence. He was soon matched with Chris, a young, active professional who wanted to work with a mentee interested in sports.

As soon as Chris was introduced to Brayden he recognized the shy, young man's burning desire for personal growth and lifestyle changes. To support Brayden's goals, Chris scheduled activities that would get Brayden trying fun, new things like playing golf, going to the movies and grabbing frozen yogurt.



Wanting to further motivate Brayden, Chris suggested he try out weight training. Chris accompanied Brayden to the gym and created a program with routines that slowly increased in difficulty. The program taught Brayden patience, while challenging him to compete with only himself to see results.

Brayden's dream is to become a pro level football player or mechanic after high school, and Chris encouraged Brayden to rejoin the football team, while applying what he'd learned through weight training and dedicating time and energy to being a positive teammate.

Chris came to some of Brayden's games to cheer him on, while further challenging him through weight training. With Chris' support, Brayden worked so hard in his rookie year of football that he was awarded Lineman of the Year, something he says is the only thing he's ever felt proud of accomplishing.

Brayden was excelling in sports in a way he never thought was possible, and Chris knew that if he tutored Brayden and helped him apply his newfound focus and motivation to learning, he could excel at school too. Brayden is now receiving his highest-ever grades.

Brayden and Chris know that together, anything is possible.

Looking to the future, both Brayden and Chris hope they have a long mentorship and friendship. They are both excited for Brayden to find his path and build his future. They know that together, anything is possible.

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