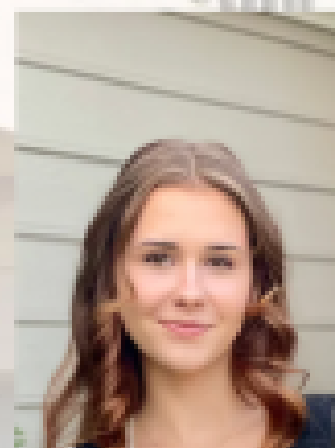




WELCOME 2024/2025 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE P20 COUNCIL!



Charlie Bender



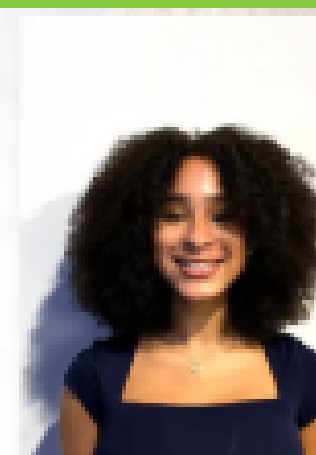
Kyla Christensen



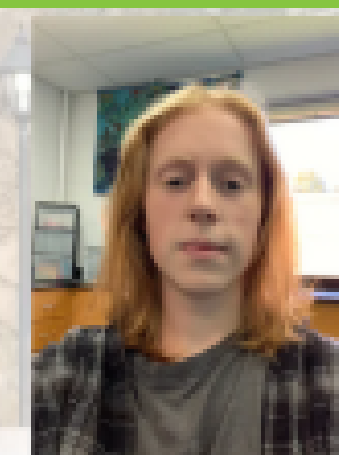
Citlally Diaz-Mar



Jemma Richards



Selah Simpson



Shawn Ware

- Asheville HS
- Madison Early College HS
- North Henderson HS
- A-B Tech
- Brevard HS



Matthew Lupo



Erin Mitchell



Greysen Motley



Aiden O'Donnell

- North Buncombe HS
- Hendersonville HS
- UNCA
- West Henderson HS

Congratulations! You Have Done A Great Job!



IN THE FALL OF 2024, SCHOOL COUNSELORS ACROSS 4 COUNTIES RECOMMENDED STUDENTS TO OUR PROGRAM

They were then carefully selected by the P20 staff and officially began their journey as P20 Student Representatives.

Their first task was to conduct interviews with five of their peers, asking each a set of 18 questions, while also responding to 11 reflective questions themselves. This effort generated over 100 unique insights per student representative. Then, Hurricane Helene struck...

This life-altering event profoundly impacted not only the student representatives but also the peers they had engaged with, shifting the tone and depth of the responses collected.

For their second assignment, they were originally set to attend an Action Team meeting and present their interview findings, data, and emerging themes. However, due to the storm's impact, we adapted the assignment to consist of virtual interviews with Katlen instead.

The next slide features a short video highlighting those meaningful conversations:





GIVING WNC STUDENT VOICES A PLATFORM.....



Land of Sky P20 Council
Student Representative Program
Fall 2024

**Thank you
students for your
honesty and
vulnerability!**





2025 PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH OUR ACTION TEAMS AND COUNCIL!

We recognized the value of fostering face-to-face connections between the students and our council. As a result, the students' next assignment was to develop a slide presentation based on the interviews they conducted in the fall. We encouraged them to incorporate both qualitative and quantitative data to support their insights.

In April 2025, each student shared their findings during one of our three Action Team meetings. Their presentations were thoughtful and informative. You can watch each session on P20's YouTube channel to see their impressive work firsthand.

For their final assignment, students prepared for today's event by exploring the pros and cons of job and college fairs, and examined the challenges surrounding effective communication between students, employees, school administration, and employers.



SCAN HERE





If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

I would attract them by setting up a fun photo booth station alongside a simple and eye catching table featuring primary colors and my company's logo. "Swag" like ball caps and t-shirts with your logo for give aways. I think that if you had a fun food, or candy station it would also help. I'd include an easy to scan QR code that links to a quick form where attendees can share their contact information. With that information, we could follow up by sending hiring opportunities directly to them via text.



Erin Mitchell, AB Tech, Sophomore



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

One thing I've noticed at job and college fairs is that many tables seem catered more toward adults, with less focus on engaging younger attendees. While the information is valuable, the presentation could be more appealing to a younger crowd. Adding trendy decorations, interactive elements, and pop culture-inspired activities would make the experience more relatable and inviting for students and recent grads. Creating a vibe that feels current and fun could really help draw people in and spark more meaningful conversations.

I also think that these fairs should offer printing and resume stations for people to have easier access.



Erin Mitchell, AB Tech, Sophomore



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

If I were an employer or college going to a local high school college/job fair, this is what I would do to attract students to my table and make a lasting impression:

My Table Visuals:

- **Visually Appealing:** colorful banners, cool graphics, and a clear sign
- **Free Stuff:** I would provide fun gifts like stickers, lanyards, tote bags, or snacks. Additionally, I'd make sure everything was branded with the college/establishment so students remember us.
- **Interactive Element:** I would also include a spin-the-wheel for prizes (anything that makes students want to stop and learn more)!

Communication:

- **Friendly Approach:** I wouldn't bombard students with boring facts. I'd ask what they're interested in, what their goals are, and then tailor what I say to that response.
- **Quick & Clear Info:** I'd keep it simple with no long speeches. This would look like short brochures or QR codes that link to videos or student stories.
- **Relatable Reps:** I'd bring recent grads or younger employees who can talk to students and provide a sense of relatability!



Selah Simpson, Asheville High School 11th/2025



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

I have never been to a job or college fair, but here are some additional recommendations I would suggest to make it more effective:

- Include hands-on or interactive activities: mini games, trivia, or quick challenges related to the job or program can make the experience more engaging**
- Show real success stories: short videos, or testimonials from past students or employees who found success through the organization**
- Offer instant resume or application tips: provide quick feedback or advice on resumes, cover letters, or interview skills**
- Create a chill space to talk: Set up a couple of chairs or a casual lounge spot so conversations feel more relaxed and not rushed.**
- Q&A**



Selah Simpson, Asheville High School 11th/2025



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

To attract students to my table at a college/job fair, I'd keep it simple and professional with a clean setup and informative materials. I'd engage with them directly, asking about their goals and sharing relevant opportunities, then follow up with personalized emails to keep them in the loop.



Kyla Christensen, Hendersonville High School, 2026



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

At job and college fairs, it's great to see so many colleges and employers in one place, and the reps are usually really friendly. But it can get overwhelming with the crowds. It would help if there were more organized workshops on things like resumes and interviews to make it easier for students to get the info they need.



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

I would attract students to my table by having an **interactive game** that either helps them **narrow down** or **communicate** their **interests**. One of the common issues with college and career fairs at my school is that the booths are not designed to be tailored to students. Their focus is instead on blindly distributing information. I understand that representatives are trying their best, but the only way to increase the **effectivity** of booths is to cater to each student's goals and passions.

My table would look colorful and include pictures, but I would make sure it doesn't look chaotic.

I would communicate with them effectively during the event by giving them the chance to share their interests. That way, I can tailor my promotional speech around them and the future they are wishing to pursue. This, in some cases, will mean not trying to pitch the most extreme form of involvement with my college or business (enrolling at a school or working at a business). I would instead pitch the form of involvement- either small-scale or large-scale- that would best fit their interests.



Jemma Richards, North Buncombe High School - Grade 12



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

Things being done right:

- Students are stopping at tables
- Contact information is given out
- Students are having the chance to see a variety of options
- Students are directly connecting with collegiate and business representatives

Things that could use improvement:

- Students aren't receiving help to process the information and how it applies to them
- Students aren't receiving one on one help to navigate their interests and how those fit into career options
- In general, booths and fairs don't cater to student interests effectively



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

I would want students to be naturally drawn to my table and make myself look inviting, comfortability is key when in a usually awkward situation. My table would be colorful and not too cluttered, too much paper gives the sense that you're going to have a lot to take back with you. When communicating with students I would be excited but not overly energetic because some kids really need to feel it out for themselves so there's a balance of energy.



Greysen Motley, Brevard High School, 11th Grade, 2025



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

I personally haven't been to any college or job fairs and not many people I know have either. The information that it's happening isn't always pushed out as it could be. From our online meeting it sounds like having a more personal way of informing students is great. Improvements could be not piling a bunch of kids into a gym and having them awkwardly walk around. Just depending on the student it could be hard to ask questions and really get what a fair is worth.

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Greysen Motley, Brevard High School, 11th Grade, 2025



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

Employers

Visual:

- Large, colorful images, graphs

Tangibles:

- Small pamphlets with pay figures, examples of past projects, and certificate requirements

Communication:

- Greet students by asking them about themselves or their day
 - Give a brief overview of the positions available (including what an average day looks like)
- Ask if they have questions, leave plenty of time for students to think of questions
 - Answer thoroughly

Post-Secondary Institutions

Visual:

- Images of campus/student life
- Photos of class projects

Tangibles:

- Small pamphlets with cost figures, class offerings, and application process

Communication:

- Greet students by asking them about themselves or their day
 - Give a brief overview of the education pathways available (medicine, engineering, arts, etc)
- Ask if they have questions, leave plenty of time for students to think of questions
 - Answer thoroughly

Aidan O'Donnell, Asheville High, 11th Grade



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

Done Well:

- Presenters were enthusiastic and willing to talk
- Tangibles like branded pens and stickers attracted people to the tables
- Various career opportunities represented

Career Fair Organization:

- Group similar career/college paths together (STEM-based vs Science-based), (Trade school vs 2-year vs 4-year)
- Give students a map of the college/career fair

Recommendations:

- Include more visuals to engage students
- Give time for students to process information and ask questions
- Be clear about specific job opportunities available - include necessary experience and education
- Be transparent about the benefits of the job (Pay, insurance etc)
- Overinform - students can always ask if they need clarification
- Include a signup list for students interested in receiving more information



Aidan O'Donnell, Asheville High, 11th Grade



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

Speaking to students on a personal level is the key to success.

Maybe luring the students in with candy works!

- **Ask personalized questions to start (Ex. fav class, interests after hs, etc.)**
- **Expand on what you now know about this person, real conversation.**
- **Give a range of options in which students can pursue this career path.**



Charlie Bender, Madison Early College High School, Junior



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

Having many of the job choices displayed at once is amazing!!!

Having the person read off a script is not :(

- Get all the people together beforehand and tell them about personalizing conversations**
- Less smushed all in one gym, more spread across the school**
- 2 of 5 students wished there weren't so many people**



If you were an employer or post-secondary institution, and were going to a local high school college/job fair how would you attract students to your table? What would your table look like? How would you communicate with them effectively both during and after the event?

When a college or employer visits our school at West Henderson High they usually set up their colorful signs and trinkets such as lanyards or brochures and other items advertising their school or opportunities being presented. In the cafeteria where they set up, it's very possible many students don't even notice that they're there. If I were an employer or post-secondary institution I would work with the school that we were visiting to announce to the school over the intercom that we will be visiting the cafeteria during lunch for the students to better broadcast that we're there. After the visiting event, they should offer brochures, papers or websites to gain more information and share with parents to continue further interest. In addition, I have seen the most reception in students to the tables set up when there is something to interact with. When the Army visits and sets up not only a table but a whole pull-up bar many people notice and find such a spectacle interesting as well as making slight competition which gains more interest and starts getting people at least thinking about the Army if they weren't already interested and gets students thinking about enlistment for our country in the process.



Shawn Ware, West Henderson 11th grade/Junior



Based on your experience with job/college fairs, what are you seeing that is done right and what can be better?

My only experience this far as a Junior from West Henderson High School is the career day over at Blue Ridge Community College. Based off my experience at the career day I was able to attend classes in periods/blocks to preview information about the career paths I found interesting. I was able to choose classes like finances, electrical engineering, and then lastly I used my last period of the three to learn about the apprenticeship program that Blue Ridge offers. I think that this system of directly inviting schools to preview opportunities is extremely effective to help students find what they think they'll enjoy getting to even see the campus and get to sit in the classes degrees/opportunities occur in. Things that could be better, I think that there were way too many schools there when we attended the career day, getting around to find a class was hard when there was so much foot traffic in the halls and if you did not find a class you were interested in for the allotted time you would be put into the nearest room in the event. Other than that it would have been nice to check out a few other classes and it was hard to narrow it down to three or so.



Shawn Ware, West Henderson 11th grade/Junior

OPEN DISCUSSION

**Council, what comments/
questions do you have
regarding the students'
presentations?**

