

Meet the Panelists!



Debbie Taylor, Youth CareerConnect

YCC is a regional initiative in Central Oregon that provides Internship opportunities for high school and college age students. Through these opportunities, local employers provide “real-world” work experience for students. YCC has simplified the process for industry education by connecting Central Oregon students to relevant career opportunities through local Internships. YCC aims to achieve a “work-ready” labor force through successful placements of young adults in Internships.



Josh Hjelmberg, Polk County Community Services Consortium

The Polk County Community Services Consortium Youth Program offers a variety of services and experiences to help build skills for the future and engage youth in career exploration. Beyond their foundational services in skill building, employment, education, and training, they have developed excellent amenities like their makerspace and the youth garden.



Gloria Fallini and Josh Lagalo, COIC Youth Compass Program

COIC’s Youth Compass Program connects youth ages 16-24 to education and employment opportunities while also providing: resume writing and interview preparation, career planning, mentoring and leadership development, college transition support, and paid internships. Their internship programs provide youth with enriching and engaging work experience with local businesses all over Central Oregon.



Robin Alonzo, Heart of Oregon Corps

HOC has a simple, but impactful focus: provide vocational training and continuing education to opportunity youth ages 16-24. Their work offers significant, life-altering opportunities to local young people who need and deserve them. They have a WORK, EARN, LEARN model to create pathways out of poverty for youth and encourage self-sufficiency. Their impact is multifold; in addition to teaching youth job skills, the projects they work on help to keep our community beautiful and healthy, while the wages they earn stimulate regional economic growth.