



Youth Radio's Youth Jobs Desk

Youth Radio is the nation's premier youth-driven journalism organization with stories distributed on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and All Things Considered, APM's Marketplace, National Geographic, The Huffington Post, the CBS Radio Network, just to name a few.

For more than two years, Youth Radio was contracted by the New Options Project to explore stories related to youth employment, career training, and the skills gap. Archived here are a selection of the roughly 150 stories produced over that period.

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Innovative Solutions:

Stories about programs designed to train and employ young people with a particular focus on public/private partnerships between education institutions and industry.

[Failing Students Get 'Wired' For Success At Georgia](#)

[Factory](#), NPR, Morning Edition

An electric wire factory in western Georgia is staffed almost entirely by teenagers. A local company named Southwire teamed up with the Carroll County school system to try to reduce the high school dropout rate and provide a pipeline of qualified workers.

[Program Gives Youth A Boost In Business World](#)

Marketplace

A program called Year Up provides training to high school graduates or those with a GED who might otherwise have a hard time breaking into the working world, and then places them in internships at leading companies in growing sectors of the economy like technology and high finance.

[County Tries Turning Juvenile Offenders Into EMTs](#)

NPR, All Things Considered

One county in California is trying to transform the lives of some youth offenders by training them to become EMTs — and then connecting them with ambulance jobs in the county.

[Utility tries to head off 'Silver Tsunami'](#)

Marketplace

The northern California utility giant Pacific Gas & Electric estimates that nearly half of their workforce will be eligible to retire in the next five years. This story looks at a program designed to train a new generation of workers to replace the impending tidal wave of retirees.

[In Fixing Schools, Bay Area City Looks To Harlem](#)

[Model](#), The Huffington Post

Feature profiling recipient of a multimillion dollar Promise Neighborhood grant from the Office of Innovation and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education, which aims to create a continuum of cradle-through-career services to support children.

[Nevada Program Tries To Bridge The Skills Gap](#)

Marketplace

A Nevada pilot program called "Right Skills Now" is trying to narrow the skills gap, and give job seekers the skills they need to land a position in just 16 weeks.

[Hoping to Solve Job Placement Woes With A Test](#)

NPR, All Things Considered

In New Mexico, many jobs that used to require high school diplomas or GEDs are now considering applicants with benchmark scores on a test called the Work Keys assessment, which some argue will make it easier to find the best candidates for a job.

[How A School Curriculum Can Lead To Health Jobs](#)

The Huffington Post

With youth employment at its lowest level in 60 years, a Oakland, California high school is trying its hand at preparing students for jobs in the health care industry with the launch of a new public health academy.

[Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Find Me A Part-Time Job](#)

NPR, All Things Considered

The national unemployment rate is 8.1 percent, but the underemployment rate — that's people who work part time but want full-time work — is much higher. For many people, making ends meet means cobbling together various part-time jobs. And there are some apps for that.

[Tattoo Removal Program Gives Young People New](#)

[Start](#), The Huffington Post

Tattoos can prevent a person from landing a job. A program sponsored by a county health department provides free tattoo removal for residents who find their ink is holding them back.

Youth Perspectives On Employment:

How do teens go from minimum wage jobs to a career? When looking for a summer gig, is any job a good job? What are the complications of having a juvenile record when looking for work?

Clocked In: Putting Young People to Work

Marketplace

With the youth unemployment rate at double the national average, many young workers are finding that the path they thought would lead to a career -- go to college, work hard, land a job -- may not be for them.

Some Kids Who Have To Think About Work-Life Balance, Marketplace

Families with lots of cash have safety nets -- nursing homes when elderly relatives get sick and daycare for young children. But for working class families, young people are often the default safety net.

Jobstacles: For Teens, Soft Skills Are Hard Skills

Marketplace

Teen unemployment is at 24.4 percent, three times the national average. With opportunities so scarce, young jobseekers need to think about all the little things that could hurt their chances.

For Teens, Is Any Job A Good Job?

Marketplace

Should teens avoid extreme short-term jobs because they can be red flags on a resume, or, with a dearth of opportunity, is any job a good job?

Unemployed Teens Search For Life Lessons

Marketplace

17-year-old Kendrick Calkins couldn't find a summer job until he looked for a trade close to home. Calkins is working with his grandfather, fixing washers and dryers...and getting a load of life lessons.

Young, With A Juvenile Record, And Looking For Work, Marketplace

Dozens of cities and states are rethinking the checkbox on employment applications asking job seekers to disclose criminal history.

The Complications Clearing A Juvenile Record

KALW & Huffington Post

Having a juvenile record can affect a person's ability to find work, get an apartment, or even apply for a college scholarship. Youth Radio explores the complexities of one state's record sealing process.

'What's Going On': A New Generation Answers, NPR, All Things Considered

An ensemble of youth radio students remixes Marvin Gaye's classic What's Going On addressing the problems of a new generation...including joblessness.

Meet the Occupy Wall Street Press

NPR, All Things Considered

Radio feature about the unlikely media team behind the Occupy movement, and how some aspiring journalists came to Zuccotti Park to gain journalism experience in hopes of parlaying it into a paid job.

First Live Chat: Connecting Youth To Job Pathways

YouthRadio.org

Youth and adults from across the nation discuss possible solutions to youth employment.

Second Live Chat: Possible Solutions To Youth Unemployment, YouthRadio.org

Youth and adults from across the nation discuss possible solutions to youth employment.

Third Live Chat: Connecting Youth to Job Pathways

YouthRadio.org

Youth and adults from across the nation discuss possible solutions to youth employment.

Interviews With Influencers and Change Makers:

Conversations with leading experts, educators, program directors and business leaders about youth employment, career readiness, and CTE education.

[Valerie Jarrett, White House Senior Advisor, Talks Summer Jobs](#), The Huffington Post

Youth Radio interviews Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President, about youth employment and summer jobs.

[An Interview With Gerald Chertavian, Founder of Year Up](#), The Huffington Post

Youth Radio talks with Year Up founder Gerald Chertavian about the recipe behind the celebrated youth employment program.

[Young People Employed At Lowest Levels Since WWII: An Interview With Andrew Sum](#),

The Huffington Post

Andrew Sum, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies, speaks with Youth Radio about the state of youth employment and how things got to be so bad.

[Will Measuring Creativity In Schools Help Youth Be Workforce Ready?](#) The Huffington Post

Youth Radio speaks with Mary Wright, Associate Director for The Conference Board, who helped identify key skill sets employers thought were important for their employees to have. Creativity and innovation were among the top five.

[Diane Ravitch Calls Herself A Voice For Teachers In a Cruel Reform Movement](#), The Huffington Post

Former Assistant Secretary of Education argues that college for all is “a ridiculous goal.”

[Expert Says "College Ready For All" Will Not Solve Dropout Crisis](#), The Huffington Post

President at the University of California, and director of the California Dropout Research Project, Russel Rumberger discusses his most recent book all about dropping out.

[The College Board Takes On Career Readiness](#)

The Huffington Post

Youth Radio sits down with Jean-Claude Brizard, Senior Advisor at the College Board. Brizard is charged with expanding the organization's college-ready focus to include career readiness.

[Sealing A Juvenile Record Has Its Benefits and Barriers](#), The Huffington Post

Rourke Stacy, professor of law and an attorney at the Los Angeles County's Public Defender's Office, discusses the bureaucratic hurdles, fees and court appearances often required to seal juvenile criminal records. Unsealed records often inhibit young people's ability to find jobs.

Jobstables Video Series:

What's the path to that dream job? How does one job lead to another? Youth Radio finds out in our *Jobstables* video series.

[Jobstables - From Banking To Hosting A TV Show](#)

The Huffington Post

Adam Sessler says, "When you're young you kind of get the sense that what you're doing now is what you'll be doing for the rest of your life. But things can change." Find out how Sessler went from earning a degree in English, to banking, to hosting a TV show about video games.

[Jobstables - How I Became A Plumber](#)

The Huffington Post

Sal Algaba is a plumber, but he didn't always know that was what he wanted to do. In fact, it took Algaba years before he found his way into the trade. He says, "You have to get experience from working...that's how you learn responsibility." Watch the video to find out how Algaba's career unfolded.

[Jobstables - Cutting And Styling For A Living](#)

Youth Radio

When Heather Collins graduated from high school, she tried out a couple of different jobs, but she always kind of dreamt of working as a hair stylist. Find out what she loves about cutting hair, and how she broke into the field?

[Jobstables: Slam-Dunking as a Career](#)

The Huffington Post

Jesus Ibn El makes his living flipping, spinning and dunking before huge audiences. El says, "It's not just

young people working jobs they don't like. There are a lot of adults working jobs that they absolutely despise." That's not the case for El though. Find out how he made his passion into a career.

[Jobstables: Teens Navigating The Job Scene](#)

[\[Episode 1\]](#)

Marketplace

Ryan Tran shares his experience trying to get a job through a training program called the Youth Leadership Council. Trouble was, mostly he just wanted to flirt with his fellow trainees.

[Jobstables: Teens Navigating The Job Scene](#)

[\[Episode 2\]](#)

Marketplace

After bombing his first interview, Dawit Gebremedin talks about leveraging some nepotism in order to get a third shot at impressing the bosses at Kentucky Fried Chicken. Let's see if he gets the job.

[Jobstables: Teens Navigating The Job Scene](#)

[\[Episode 3\]](#)

Marketplace

Merrick Yra really wanted a job, so much so he was willing to apply at Petco, even though he has major pet allergies. Sniffle sniffle. Scratch scratch. Let's see if he gets the job.

Job Chronicles Video Series:

Youth Radio's *Job Chronicles* video series tells stories of young adults looking for jobs, with a comedic spin. This is how *not* to get a job.

[Job Chronicles: Interviews Gone Wrong Episode 1](#)

Youth Radio

Demarcus goes in for a job interview with a bad attitude. Let's see if he gets the job...

[Job Chronicles: Interviews Gone Wrong Episode 2](#)

Youth Radio

Jesus goes in for a job interview wearing street clothes. Let's see if he gets the job...

[Job Chronicles: Interviews Gone Wrong Episode 3](#)

Youth Radio

Jabree goes in for a job interview and forgets to turn his phone off. Let's see if he gets the job...

Opinion:

Original commentaries from young people on jobs, education, and trying to fulfill their dreams.

[Where To Go After Dropping Out](#)

KQED & The Huffington Post

Joshua Clayton tries to figure out how to move forward after dropping out of high school.

[Wake Up Call - Finding Adult Success Requires Adult Responsibility](#)

The Huffington Post

Derek Williams describes the psychological hurdles teens often face when they don't matriculate to a four year college and lack a well-trodden path to success.

[Teaching In The Young Lion's Lair](#)

KQED & The Huffington Post

Pendarvis Harshaw was tasked with improving academic achievement and completion rates for African-American male high school students in Oakland, California.

[A Lone Holdout for the Dream Job](#)

WABE

Most of Rohjanae Mathis' friends have given up on their dreams of becoming lawyers, doctors or veterinarians, but she is holding fast to her dreams.

[School Should Make Me Ready To Work](#)

KCBS

High school junior Kendrick Calkins wishes his school provided more professional and practical experience.

[An Early College Economics Lesson For One Student](#)

NPR, All Things Considered

Sayre Quevedo always expected that he'd head to college after graduating high school. That all changed when he received the bill.

[One Man's Education](#)

KQED

Carlyn Bynes dropped out of high school, and then he got his life back on track.

[Story From A Student Borrower: Focus On The Day-To-Day](#)

The Huffington Post

Rachel Banach defaulted on her college loan debt, and now she's reconsidering if college was a smart investment.

[My Future's On Hold](#)

Youth Radio

Destiny Jackson is trying to balance her dreams of graduating from college with financial realities and responsibilities of a full time job.