

# Highlights 2024-2025



## Xello & EDP Support

During the school year, we partnered with KPS Middle and High Schools to complete EDP Ramp Up experiences. Xello reports were provided to help schools target which students needed to complete a Plan in Xello. At the EDP Ramp Ups that KRESA supported, over 280 students completed a Plan and spoke with a consultant or coach about their future. KRESA provides EDP integration support through training and materials for all KPS educators.

In Middle School Computer Applications classes, over 2000 KPS students were offered Career Connect's two-week unit that included Self Awareness and Career Exploration lessons, including using Xello.



Over 5600 KPS 6-12th grade students completed Xello Matchmaker.  
Over 3100 KPS 6-12th grade students completed a Xello Plan.

Elementary students (and families) had an opportunity to play the Xello Career Town game at Greenwood Literacy Night. Xello Elementary is available for all KPS students. Training and support is available from your KRESA consultant.

## Career Champions

The Prairie Ridge Elementary Career Champions team included teachers Liza Bucknell, Julene Wellington, Nick Hall, Whitney Puente, Laura Payne, Heather Bates, and Brittney Huepenbecker. Payne and Bates worked with their 4th grade students to create a student-led Market Day. All 3rd and 4th grade students earned money and shopped at student storefronts. Bucknell, Wellington, and

Huepenbecker organized and ran the 3rd Annual Career Fair for all K-5 students. The team also developed an Elementary Career Fair toolkit to be shared with all K-5 schools in the county.



The KPS Middle School Career Champions team included Jake Sanford (KPS Instructional Technology Coach), Nora Snead, Steve Spybrook (Linden Grove Counselors), and Josh Kruger (Milwood Counselor). The Careers in Tech Club met weekly and connected careers in Technology with hands-on activities, including 3D printers (purchased by the district), robotics, and drones. Industry tours included the WMU Innovation Center, Engineering School, and Esports Program.

The KPS High School Career Champions team included Annie Hampel (Kalamazoo Central Counselor) and Jocelyn Wright Newman (Loy Norrix Counselor). The team developed lessons focused on self and option awareness for all 9th grade and some 10th grade students. Students will use information from their EDPs to engage in activities and discussions designed to make that information more relevant and connect it to choices they are making about course registration and future planning.

## Experiences

Students from KILP participated in a Get Real! Reality Fair. This interactive financial learning experience is a hands-on simulation giving participants a taste of real-world financial realities.

The Career Connect Discovery Lab spent 20 days total at each middle school during each trimester. Over 1730 6th and 7th grade students from the Computer Apps classes attended. This year focused on careers in Manufacturing. Next year, the Discovery Lab will be an escape room experience focused on careers in Information Technology.

Career Connect supported both the Loy Norrix Post-Secondary Fair and the Kalamazoo Central College and Career Night with several programs. At the Kalamazoo Central College and Career Night at the Kalamazoo Promise, families were able to use KPS Transfr virtual reality technology to explore careers.

Approximately 1000 KPS students attended MiCareerQuest Southwest, an innovative career discovery event for eighth grade students. Local employers highlight careers within several pathways: information technology, health sciences, manufacturing, construction and professional trades.



Lincoln International Studies and Prairie Ridge students learned Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy through the Lemonade Day! unit, culminating in community events. Students marketed and sold lemonade and gave back to local nonprofits. We are grateful for the support from the Southwest Michigan CRA Association.

Students in the KPS Academically Talented Program participated in IDEA Slam, a unit teaching Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship, and Presentation skills culminating in their development, marketing and pitching of a product. Linden Grove students, led by Nora Snead, also participated in IDEA Slam and presented their products at WMU Innovation Expo, where they had a 1st place team!

### Resources/Training

Lorri Batsie and Dr. Tracy Miller developed a Google Classroom: Career Exploration and Development Resources.

Work Based Learning Professional Development was provided by Lorri Batsie and Lori Pelton at the Back to School Professional Development.

KRESA Career Connect provided training and support for KPS Summer School for multiple units, including Future Me, Financial Literacy, and Lemonade Day.

### Notable Partners

Xello training was provided to Communities in Schools and The Kalamazoo Promise to support EDP Engagement.

Shondresa Wrighten, a Communities in Schools Success Coach, worked with students in sharing their Xello profiles with families as part of Career Champions.

### Future Opportunities

**Family Engagement**-Career Newsletter and Corner templates were created to be used in 2025-2026 to communicate the Promising Progressive Pathway Plan to families and share Xello information.

**Transition to Semesters**-As KPS makes this transition, KRESA will partner with KPS to create and implement Career Education and Experiences into semester classes, including the Discovery Lab.

**Elementary Xello**-As partners, we will continue to develop career education at the elementary level with training for teachers and age appropriate materials. This year there were over 11,000 logins to Xello in Grades K-5.

### 2024-25 Career Development Consultant:

Lorri Batsie

[lorri.batsie@kresa.org](mailto:lorri.batsie@kresa.org)

Jaci Glaser (Discovery lab)

[Jaci.Glaser@kresa.org](mailto:Jaci.Glaser@kresa.org)



*Photos: Transfr VR, WMU Innovation Expo, IDEA Slam, Reality Fair, EDP Ramp up, Discovery Lab, Literacy Night, Drones, Lemonade Day, and Career Connect Campus Grand Opening*