



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

158 Students, Grades 9 - 13

32 Graduating Seniors

11 Pursuing IMPACT/5th Year

21 Pursuing Postsecondary Credentials and/or Employment

MATC

Carroll University

U.S. Marine Corps

MSOE

Alverno College

UW-Milwaukee

UW-Whitewater

City Year

Next steps for 15 IMPACT Year Graduates:

UW-Milwaukee (4 students)

MATC (6 students)

UW-Whitewater (1 student)

Hamline University (1 student)

51 Students Defend for Mastery Credit
(61% first time pass rate)

400 Exhibition Attendees

30 External Partners providing
70+ IMPACT experiences

PATHWAYS HIGH 2023 - 2024 YEAR-END UPDATE

With the completion of the 2023/24 academic year, it's a joy to reflect on the many **shining moments** Pathways High (PH) experienced throughout the year. We hope that sharing our collective accomplishments will provide inspiration and joy to others. PH's mission to unleash all learners' potential now is reaping great rewards for our young people and broader community.

1 SHINING MOMENT: 2024 GRADUATES

The students tell PH's story best. The following are excerpts from their 2024 graduation speeches.

"I am proud of the skills, experiences, and knowledge I have gained during my time at Pathways High. Early on, Mr. Meyer helped set me up with the Project Kindred program, where as a Counselor-in-Training, I fostered real-world impact by working with elementary school students, shaping my leadership and advocacy skills. We all had opportunities like this to make a real word IMPACT."

- Tate G.



"From the moment you walk into the building, whether shadowing or attending your first day, you understand the school's energy and motivation..."

We may not have followed the traditional path, but we forged our way and came out stronger for it. To all the teachers and mentors here today, we were the base, but you gave us the tools and the opportunity to build our cathedrals. So thank you, thank you so much!"

- Abby W.

Shining Moments

- 1 2024 Graduates
- 2 Project Pitch It Success
- 3 Making a Law
- 4 Advanced Technology Project

5 NCAA Accreditation

6 Culinary Innovation

Partner Spotlight

7 PEAK Initiative

8 Near West Side Partners

Alumni Spotlight

Elliott Brotherhood

Anisha Prather



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ELLIOTT BROTHERHOOD

"Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere." - Albert Einstein

It's no wonder the above quote is Elliott Brotherhood's favorite. As a Pathways High inaugural year student and then the first optional IMPACT/5th Year student, Elliott's boundless imagination created many opportunities for himself and others. Elliott wrote and directed "Finding the Suit," an empowering play about a student coping with anxiety, that was performed at the Milwaukee Rep's Studio theater - an incredible professional theater experience for all involved! After an IMPACT Year including college psychology and marketing courses at MATC and an internship at First Stage Children's Theater, Elliott received over \$250,000 in scholarship offers and chose to attend Ohio University. After two years, he transferred to DePaul University in Chicago to finish his bachelor's degree in communications.



Elliott's imagination and entrepreneurial skills continue to serve him well. He's the co-founder of Secret Handshake Productions, creating substantive and relevant audio entertainment for all ages. In addition to writing and producing original audio stories, Elliott is the lead character in "Close Your Eyes," a mystery/thriller podcast series about a man's search for his brother that leads him to join a mysterious cult. Check it out on your favorite streaming app!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ANISHA PRATHER



Anisha Prather embraced every opportunity that Pathways High introduced to her as she pursued her passions for art, animation, and game development. A role model and leader at school, she consistently deployed her gifts of creativity, empathy, entrepreneurship, and service to others.

During her junior and senior years at Pathways High, Anisha participated in the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design's (MIAD) pre-college courses and summer internships where she worked at the graphic design firms, Hanson Dodge and Core Creative. These experiences provided valuable insight into how to navigate college courses and meet the expectations of a professional design firm, and solidified her desire to pursue a degree in animation. After completing the IMPACT/5th Year at Pathways High, Anisha had a tremendous head start towards completing MATC's associate's degree in animation this spring. She looks forward to a career in video game development.

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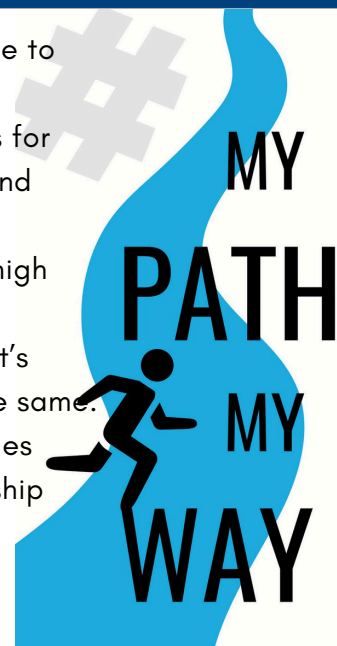
Pathways High students and alumni are on their unique path to success and fulfillment due to several reinforcing components of the Pathways High model as follows:

1) Real-world Engagement through interdisciplinary seminars, field experiences, projects for real clients, public exhibition of work, and mastery defense presentations to community and industry leaders

2) Extensive Network Development that opens doors to opportunities during and after high school because "who you know" is equally, if not more, important as "what you know."

3) Curation of a Mastery Transcript, similar to a digital resume, that showcases student's academic and life skills, accomplishments, and work artifacts. Like people, no two are the same.

4) Supported Launch to Adulthood through the optional IMPACT/5th Year which provides students with opportunities to take dual enrollment college courses and pursue an internship while being supported by a Pathways High advisor





SHINING MOMENT: PROJECT PITCH IT SUCCESS



Since opening its doors, Pathways High has been a launch pad for students' entrepreneurial endeavors. Specifically, Saniya Smith learned about the opportunity to compete to pitch her startup, NARII Cosmetics, on Project Pitch It.

Out of hundreds of teen startup submissions, Saniya and 5 other teens made it to the final step in the Project Pitch It competition – presenting their startup on a recorded TV show that aired on May 11, 2024.

Pathways High's supportive environment provided Saniya with the opportunities to continue refining and growing NARII and prepare for her big pitch. Saniya made numerous connections with business developers, patent professionals, and fellow entrepreneurs at the UWM-Milwaukee Lubar Entrepreneurship Center. She also connected with other black entrepreneurs through Sherman Phoenix and other cosmetic business owners to gain even more insight.



SHINING MOMENT: MAKING A LAW TO PROVIDE LOW-COST DRIVERS ED

Perseverance and follow-through are valuable skills in any setting. They are indispensable when working in the halls of state government. Several Pathways High students, including Kahlil and Jahmorris, with support from Common Ground team members, demonstrated their tenacity as they met with legislators in Madison multiple times to advocate for low-cost driver education for students with high socioeconomic needs.

The result of their sustained efforts over two years was the enactment of a new WI state law providing \$35 drivers education for every student statewide who qualifies for free or reduced lunch.



SHINING MOMENT: ADVANCED COMPUTER SCIENCE DEFENSE PROJECT



Like a master's thesis defense, the Pathways High Defense process enables students to earn mastery or advanced mastery credit for a learning standard by expanding the project deliverables and/or utilizing their project in a community application. Miles's defense was centered on developing modifications (mods) to the Rain World video game, changing how the game looks or behaves. Miles has over 14,200 unique visitors and 3,200 subscribers to his Rain World game mod site, putting him in the top 40 of Rain World game "modders" worldwide.

Miles attributed his ability to excel at computer programming to his opportunities at PH to work with multiple industry-grade technologies in a technology seminar arc. PH offers a series of seminars, including programming, drones, robotics, and data analytics that students can spiral through multiple times, learning progressively more

complex programming languages and technical skills. Through its partnership with LAB Midwest, PH has brought in Mastery Coding and advanced manufacturing technology such as FANUC robot arms and Amatrol Skill Boss and associated curriculum that enables students to earn industry certifications.

Kris Falkner, CEO and Chairwoman of Server, was one of Miles' Defense evaluators. She commented that she was particularly impressed with Miles' presentation because he explained video gaming technology in a way that she, someone without video gaming experience, could understand. It is an indicator of deep learning when someone has the ability to teach others a subject.

Interested in participating as a Defense evaluator?





5 SHINING MOMENT: PH RECEIVES NCAA ACCREDITATION

Don't let Pathways High's small size fool you. Our scholar-athletes compete in several sports, including soccer, basketball, volleyball, and rowing. As we continue to enroll students who can compete in high-level collegiate athletics, it was important for PH to earn accreditation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the nonprofit organization that regulates student athletics among schools across the U.S. As PH has an innovative, mastery-based curriculum model, NCAA accreditation entailed submitting a detailed application describing our seminars and mastery grading. We're excited that Pathways High received NCAA accreditation and can't wait to see our alumni compete at the collegiate level.



6 SHINING MOMENT: CULINARY INNOVATION WITH GARDEN OF EDEN



Entrepreneurship is in Pathways High's DNA. Our students have started their own businesses and assisted other start-ups with their ventures. For example, Pathways High students worked with Garden of Eden Kingdom Living to help create their delicious Spicy Mango Vinaigrette Dressing and Marinade. We encourage you to pick up a bottle today at Metcalfe's, Piggly Wiggly, Outpost or a local farmers market. By working on projects with businesses of various sizes and across different industries, PH students gain first-hand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing these businesses.



7 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PEAK INITIATIVE



Pathways High partnered with the PEAK Initiative to create a one-of-a-kind co-taught seminar, Milwaukee PathMakers. Utilizing elements of the PEAK Changemakers program and PH Civic Engagement and Community Leadership standards, students split their time between learning and working on the PH campus, the PEAK Initiative space, and other community locations. Students researched issues plaguing the city of Milwaukee; connected with organizations and leaders working to address those issues; and wrote to legislators advocating for change and support.

Students used the knowledge gathered in those initial phases to create their own Community Improvement Plan, pitch their plan to stakeholders, and execute their plan as active change agents in their community. Some of the Community Action Plans completed include: a Near West Side neighborhood cleanup; a hygiene supply drive and distribution to the unhoused; cooking and serving food to those suffering from food insecurity; producing a podcast; and building a website for free coding training for students. These group-based projects challenged the students to master the skills of collaboration, compromise, collective problem solving, and communication.



8 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: NEAR WEST SIDE PARTNERS



An integral part of Pathways High's real-world project-based learning model is having students create projects for authentic clients. For example, students designed and painted murals for the Near West Side Partners' Concordia 27 Community Center. NWSP Executive Director Lindsey St. Arnold Bell described the consultative design process with the students and the final murals to be outstanding. The Center's grand opening provided an excellent opportunity for students to network with community leaders.