Education Works invests in after-school programs and career pathways, and builds endowments for scholarships.

**timeline**

**September 2014** | Dr. Jackie Copeland-Carson leads the annual Board Retreat. Trustees accept her recommendations to streamline the grantmaking process and invest in local education-for-employment efforts.

**January 2015** | Grants and communications departments are combined to build support for Education Works.

**Spring & Summer 2015** | Staff overhauls grant programs, condensing 17 grant programs to seven and reducing the Community Grants’ application by two-thirds.

**Fall 2015** | At the annual grantseekers meeting, CFNIL launches Education Works and announces the criteria for after-school programs and career pathways. CFNIL unveils the changes to Community Grants and other programs. Grants worth $574,920 are made to activities that align with Education Works.

**December 2015** | CFNIL announces Rubin Education Challenge—a challenge grant program to build scholarship endowments for students attending local colleges or universities. Rockford University, Highland Community College, and later Rock Valley College take up the Challenge. Once completed, the endowments created by the Rubin Education Challenge will be worth $8 million, with CFNIL contributing a dollar for every dollar raised by the schools.

**Spring 2016** | CFNIL accepts applications for Community Grants and awards $373,788 to activities that align with Education Works.

**Fall 2016** | CFNIL accepts applications for Community Grants and awards $616,876 to activities that align with Education Works.

**Spring 2017** | CFNIL investigates its grantmaking policies and criteria and examines the impact of past grant cycles.

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CFNIL has distributed 50% of funds from Community Grants to Education Works activities since Fall 2015.
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS | 5 GRANTS TOTALING $373,198

Boys & Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County

After-School Academic Enrichment Program
The Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County provides afterschool academic enrichment programs. Students in the year-long program engage in academic enrichment activities, employment readiness training, career exploration, music and dance programs, and mentoring.
$144,920 | $49,330 for the first year, $47,765 for the second and third

Chicago International Charter School

CICS Jackson After-School Enrichment Program
CICS Rockford Charter School Organization will run an after-school enrichment program offering access to community-based extracurricular programs, including opportunities for students to explore the performing arts, receive problem-solving and leadership skills training, experiment with science and engineering projects, and build awareness of career opportunities.
$60,000

Rochelle Community Consolidated Elementary District # 231

“Helping Us Build (HUB) a Smarter, Stronger, and Healthier Community”
The HUB Project is an extended learning program for students and families. The HUB Project aims to improve student learning and awareness of career pathways, build stronger families, and create a healthier community. HUB is a collaboration of 40 community partners.
$100,000

Rockford Public Schools #205

After-School Academic Enrichment
Working in collaboration with Rockford University Education Department, Rockford University students will tutor students at Whitehead School. Tutors will work with groups of students for 90 minutes, four times per week, in the areas of numeracy, literacy and language arts.
$11,200

United Way of Rock River Valley

King Elementary School After-School Program
At the King Elementary School After-School Program, students receive academic and social support through a variety of community partners. Students who receive intellectual stimulation outside of traditional school hours perform better in school and are less likely to fall behind their peers.
$57,078 | $20,119 for the first year and $36,959 for the second
CAREER PATHWAYS | 6 GRANTS TOTALING $243,678

**Discovery Center Museum of Rockford Inc.**
*Career Discovery for Children and their Families*
Discovery Center is introducing comprehensive career-focused programming in the museum. This four-phase program includes: career-focused kiosks highlighting local people at work; career graphics in each gallery illustrating jobs in specific fields; special programs to spark interest in career exploration; and career learning opportunities for students who participate in the after-school programs at Discovery Center. 
$33,734 | $26,084 for the first year and $7,650 for the second

**Kids Around The World, Inc.**
*Youth Career Development 2016*
Kids Around the World and Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc. / YouthBuild Rockford are partnering to provide vocational skills training. Participants will receive certification in welding and forklift operation and will learn their craft by refurbishing playground equipment. Trainees will also receive high school equivalency preparation, leadership training, life skills, and employability skills training. 
$63,264

**Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance**
*Addressing the Skills Gap through Talent Pipeline Management in Northern Illinois*
The Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance, in collaboration with Northern Illinois University, area economic development partners, employers, training and workforce providers, will develop an effective talent pipeline management system. This will give students, workers, and employers a clear understanding of the skills, experience and credentials required for specific jobs in the region. NIWA and its partners will develop a plan to implement a local talent pipeline model. 
$50,870

**Rockford Rescue Mission**
*Furnishings for Classrooms*
Residents in Rockford Rescue Mission's Crisis and Life Recovery programs will use the classrooms in Pitney Place to prepare for their GED, improve literacy and computer skills, define career objectives, prepare effective resumes, and learn how to interview for jobs. 
$12,710

**Rockford Public Schools #205**
*FIRST Robotics in the Rockford Public Schools*
In conjunction with FIRST Rockford Robotics, the Rockford Public Schools are establishing after-school robotics teams in every school. Having robotics programs throughout District #205 will increase students' technical skills. By engaging K-12 students in science, technology, engineering and math, District #205 is building the next generation of manufacturing professionals for our community. 
$73,100 | $29,500 for the first year and $43,600 for the second

**University of Illinois Foundation**
*Engaging Teens in STEM Experiential Learning through the FIRST Robotics Competition*
The Flaming Monkeys 4-H Club provides students an opportunity to develop skills in conceptualizing, designing, building, programming and testing robots that perform in the FIRST Robotics Competition. The goal is that members will develop skills for careers in engineering, manufacturing, and other STEM fields. This grant will purchase supplies for robot and outreach programs. 
$10,000

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EDUCATION WORKS GRANT RECIPIENTS | #3
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS | 6 GRANTS TOTALING $188,731

Boys and Girls Club of Rockford

SPARK · Spheres of Proud Achievement in Reading for Kids
The SPARK Early Literacy Program is designed to improve the early learning outcomes of high-need kindergarten through third grade students in public schools. SPARK aims to get all students reading at grade level by third grade by developing students’ cognitive, social, and emotional readiness. $40,000 from the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund

Circles of Learning

School Age Summer Program
Each summer, Circles of Learning provides a summer program for 120 children ages 5-11. Due to increased community need, the program is expanding to include an additional 20 children this summer. The program’s goal is to retain academic skills during the summer break. The School Age Summer Program features guest speakers, field trips, and arts and crafts. $18,399 from the Bengt & Mary Kuller Fund

Ken-Rock Community Center, Inc.

Enhanced AfterSchool Reading Project
Ken-Rock seeks to increase certified reading instructor hours in its afterschool program. The program focuses on math and reading skills for more than 40 students from five District #205 schools each year. Ken-Rock will increase one-on-one tutoring from four to 15 hours per week, while accepting more students. $54,000 | $18,000 for three years from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Remedies Renewing Lives

Academic Success for Remedies Residents
When adults and children flee their home due to domestic violence, students and parents must have access to a computer work station to keep up with homework assignments and communicate with teachers and school personnel. This grant will allow Remedies to purchase a computer station so residents may stay connected and maintain academic success while residing in the shelter. $1,232 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Rockford Public Schools #205

AfterSchool Academic Enrichment
Working with the Rockford University Education Department, Whitehead School will host future teachers from Rockford University to serve as tutors in its AfterSchool Academic Enrichment program. Each tutor will work with a group of students for five hours per week in the areas of numeracy, reading, writing, and character development. $30,100 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

United Way of Northwest Illinois

Dolly Parton Imagination Library
The Imagination Library is a unique book gifting program that mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth to age five. This program creates a home library and helps cultivate a love of books and reading from an early age. The program was created in 1996 by Dolly Parton and since has prepared students for kindergarten in more than 1,200 communities. $45,000 | $10,000 for the first year, $15,000 for the second, and $20,000 for the third from the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund
CAREER PATHWAYS | 5 GRANTS TOTALING $185,057

**Alignment Rockford**
*Alignment Rockford Academy Expo*
The Academy Expo is a career exploration event for all 9th grade students in Rockford Public Schools. Founded in 2012, the event provides hands-on career demonstrations from hundreds of local employers. Alignment Rockford's fifth Academy Expo will inspire and inform 2,500 9th grade students about their academic and career pathways.
$54,000 | $18,000 for three years from the Barber-Colman Management Fund

**Burpee Museum of Natural History**
*SPROUTs (Supporting Primary Readiness, Observation and Understanding Through Science)*
The SPROUTs Learning Lab is designed to engage children ages 18 months to 8 years in hands-on learning experiences in natural science. Children will explore careers in animal science, biomedical science, ecology, geology, paleontology, resource conservation, and zoology.
$29,507 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**CEANCI**
*21st Century Workforce Development*
CEANCI will provide curricular implementation and student acquisition of industry-recognized credentials in high school career and technical education programs for local students. More than 4,000 students will receive certifications in early childhood education, manufacturing, food handling, Microsoft Office, and graphic design and publishing.
$91,050 | $45,525 for two years from the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund

**North Boone High School**
*North Boone Vocational Internship Program*
The funds will be used for this first-ever Vocational Internship Program, a partnership between students with disabilities and local businesses. The program will emphasize the education-to-career transition for students by providing them with real-world work experience. Students will receive classroom instruction regarding the essential attributes for long-term employment.
$5,500 | $5,000 for the first year and $250 for the second and third from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

**YMCA of Rock River Valley**
*YMCA Intern Challenge*
The Intern Challenge is a team-based competition that develops leadership skills. Local high school and college students will work with businesses and community organizations to address real needs in the community. Students have the chance to secure college scholarships and paid internships, while receiving a stipend for their work.
$5,000 from the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS | 7 GRANTS TOTALING $186,322

African-American Resource Center at Booker
AARCB After-School Program
AARCB After-School Program provides youth and children with academic support, character development, and builds racial understanding through mentoring, drama, music, dance, ethnic history, and sports. AARCB After-School Program attendees improve their academic performance, classroom behavior, health, and nutrition. $15,000 from the Bengt & Mary Fuller Fund

Discovery Center Museum of Rockford, Inc.
STEM Learning Opportunities in Rockford Public Schools
The Discovery Center will deliver hands-on interactive STEM activities twice a month to nine Rockford Public Schools. Discovery Center will host a school-wide STEM Family Night at each school and STEM-focused field trips for all students in the After-School Achievement Program. $27,422 from the Barber-Colman Management Fund

Galapagos Rockford Charter School NFP (GRCS)
GRCS After-School X
GRCS After-School X provides academic support for struggling scholars; opportunities for scholars to travel to Washington, D.C., New York City, and Costa Rica; and opportunities to learn from program partners like Northwestern University and Rockford University. The program’s goal is to expand students’ intellectual and experiential horizons. $25,000 from the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund

Rochelle Community Consolidated Elementary District # 231
Helping Us Build (HUB) a Smarter, Stronger, and Healthier Community
The HUB Project is an extended learning program for students and families. The HUB Project aims to improve student learning and awareness of career pathways, build stronger families, and create a healthier community. HUB is a collaboration of more than 40 community partners. $100,000 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Rockford Public Library (RPL)
Storytime, Anytime & Hora del Cuento en Cualquier Momento
The Rockford Public Library’s recently-launched “Storytime, Anytime” app reads aloud a new book each week. RPL will add books from the United Way’s Success by 6® school-readiness initiative, which prepares children for academic success. All books will be read in both English and Spanish. $5,000 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

Rockford University
Science Equipment Program
Enrollment in Rockford University’s Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Psychology, and Nursing programs are growing. In order to meet current needs and prepare students for challenging careers, the Starr Science building will be modernized with upgraded science instruments. $22,200 from the Vera Maureen Fisher Fund

YMCA of Rock River Valley
Black & Hispanic Achievers College Exploration Tour
The YMCA will take high school students on tours of public universities in Illinois. The tours will allow first-generation, college-bound students from Rockford Public Schools and the Harlem School District to explore the institutions and fields of study that will be available to them after graduation. Students will also get a chance to interact with current college students and professors. $5,200 from the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund
CAREER PATHWAYS | 7 GRANTS TOTALING $388,598

Oregon Community School District #220

Building Community Careers: Manufacturing Productive Students & Employees
Building Community Careers will create a state-of-the-art welding lab at Oregon High School. The lab will provide valuable experience in welding and manufacturing technology to Oregon High School students, Highland Community College students, and current professionals in need of ongoing training. Ogle County has a significant and growing need for welders and fabricators.
$106,686 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

RAMP

Youth Employment Services - YES!
RAMP will ensure students with disabilities are prepared and confident to join the working world by bridging existing student empowerment programs with adult employment services. The program's goal is to educate, elevate, and eliminate unemployment for students with disabilities.
$25,000 for the first year and $25,000 for the second from the Vera Maureen Fisher Fund

Rock Valley College

Academic Pathways & Engineering Career Services (APECS)
The APECS program will connect NIU@RVC engineering students to internship and mentorship opportunities with local employers. The program will make the region a global destination for aspiring engineering students and the companies looking to employ them. APECS will ensure that today's engineering students become tomorrow's engineers.
$23,290 for three years from the Howard D. Colman Memorial Fund

Rockford MELD, Inc.

Job Training for MELD Mothers
MELD mothers will receive tuition assistance for job training in high-demand healthcare careers like Certified Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, EKG Technician, Dental Assistant, Physical Therapy Aide, and others. $5,000 from the Barber-Colman Management Fund

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford

Growing the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals
Beginning fall 2017, 55 first-year medical students who would have traditionally spent their first year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus will complete all four years on the Rockford campus. The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford will purchase equipment for a new Team-Based Learning™ classroom and anatomy and virtual dissection labs to accommodate the influx of new students.
$188,622 from the Dr. Louis & Violet Rubin Fund

University of Illinois Foundation

Engaging Youth in STEM Through the FIRST Robotics Competition
The Flaming Monkeys 4-H Club members conceptualize, design, build, program, and test robots that will perform in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Members will develop skills useful for working in STEM fields and mentor younger students who are interested in robotics. The Flaming Monkeys' goal for the 2016-2017 season is to reach the World Championship in April 2017.
$10,000 from the Barber-Colman Management Fund

YMCA of Rock River Valley

YMCA Intern Challenge
The Intern Challenge is a leadership development program for local high school and college students. Participants complete projects for businesses and community organizations and have the chance to secure college scholarships and paid internships with local organizations, while receiving a stipend to support their work.
$5,000 from the Howard D. Colman Management Fund