

# **Staples Job Bank Upgrade Proposal: QuadJobs Westport Youth Commission in Partnership with Staples PTA**

## **1. Executive Summary**

We want to improve the ability of Staples students to discover and get jobs in Westport. There are many benefits to teenage work experience, as it is directly linked to personal growth. Jobs can help teens learn valuable skills, time management and can help them develop confidence in their abilities. Importantly for Staples students, jobs provide a sought-after experience that higher education values and also provides them with an income stream.

The Youth Commission has taken the lead in finding a solution. Our process included benchmarking other Fairfield County high schools and speaking to various parties, including job board providers and school administrators. After an extensive search, we recommend QuadJobs, the provider of Greenwich High School's job board. The Youth Commission is recommending placing a link to QuadJobs on its website so Staples students can access it.

## **2. Alignment with Mission**

Studies have shown that employment connects teens to their local communities. Young people learn about local resources and opportunities. At the same time, community members learn how skilled their young people are. This project aligns with the Youth Commission's goals as it promotes the positive development of the Youth of Westport. It aligns with Staples High School's Mission to "inspire learning, foster integrity and nature empathy."

## **3. Current State Assessment**

Staples offers a Job Bank through the College and Career Center, part of the Counseling department. It is managed by Sandra Zeigler, the College and Career Center Coordinator. It is a Google sheet that, on average, has 5-10 jobs at any given time. It can only be accessed by Staples students via their email address. In our opinion, it is antiquated and can not be improved or scaled in its current form. These deficiencies mean that there is very little student awareness or usage, and it is not known to employers. A new solution is necessary, and it needs to be supported and promoted.

## **4. QuadJob Overview**

QuadJobs is a private company based in Greenwich, CT, that provides a job platform for schools that link students with local employers. Quadjobs is free to the schools & students but charges employers \$50 a year for unlimited postings. For Staples, QuadJobs will let employers post their first job for free and then share a portion of the revenue with Staples.

## **5. Benefits**

Quadjobs is a "win-win-win" for the students, the school, and the job poster. For students, it will provide them with job listings and will introduce them to the professional world. For Staples, it is easy to maintain (no work required) and reinforces their mission of empowering students. For job posters, it will connect them with a motivated workforce to fill much-needed roles.

## 6. Risks

The safety of our Westport students is our top priority, as Quadjobs has many built-in safety features to protect students. All job posters must have a valid credit card, all job posts are vetted by their customer service team and can be taken down at any time, and students must have parental consent for access.

## 7. Implementation Plan

It is free to Staples and their students, so there is no budget request. QuadJobs does not require a contract, so there is no QJ document to review. Once we have your approval to put their link on the YC website, we will work with the PTA and the Career Center to ensure our page is accessible to Staples students. We will also work with other Westport schools such as GFA. The Youth Commission plans to own this initiative and will help promote it to both students and employers.

## 8. Stakeholders

Name	Organization	Role
Elaine Daignault	Human Services	Sponsor
Kevin Godburn	Youth Commission	Driver
Jake Shufro	Student, Youth Commission	Driver
Sandra Zeigler	Staples, Career Center	Approver
Elena Caggiano & Jodi Harris	Staples PTA	Contributor
Eileen Flug	Town Attorney	Approver
Natalie Carrignan	DOE	Consult
Andrew Colabella	RTM	TBD
Matthew Mandell	Chamber of Commerce, RTM	TBD
Maxx Crowley	Downtown Association	TBD
Stafford Thomas & Christine Cincotta	Staples, Administration	Informed
Thomas Scarice	Westport Superintendent	TBD