Have you heard of Youth Forward?

Did you know the state has a program to help students make informed decisions regarding their career paths? The Youth Forward office, a division of Workforce Development, helps provide students and parents with information about North Dakota colleges and universities, financial options for paying for college, and local internship/job opportunities.

ND Youth Forward has a website with tons of valuable information to help students answer these questions with the following resources.

- Links to research careers by industry, education, and occupation.
- Career Conversations are videos of professionals talking candidly about how they started in their profession and what their job entails.
- Information on options such as dual credit and extended learning programs which are ways to complete college courses while still attending high school.
- Job shadowing is also a great way to discover careers. Most businesses will host students and educate them on what career options can be available in their field of profession. Becoming involved in career fairs is another tool used to highlight their businesses to students.
- Options for paying for college. Youth Forward's website has links to the Bank of North Dakota's College Planning Center and various scholarship opportunities.

Parents also have a section to help them research financial options and help with career exploration.

As a business, this is a great resource to spotlight your office and feature some of the great career opportunities in your business field. Hosting job shadowing events or internships is a good way to connect to the future workforce while they are still in school. The Youth Office uses social media and their newsletter to help promote these events to students, teachers, parents, and other interested parties.

If your business would be interested in participating in a career conversation or have the Youth Office promote upcoming events, please contact Jennifer Dahl at jdahl@nd.gov or 701-328-7268.

Find us on our website or connect through social media on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NDYouthForward) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/NDyouthforward).