What Tomorrow’s Workforce is Saying Today

Job reports often predict which careers will be most in-demand in the future, but how will we know if the future workforce is prepared to fill those roles? Or even still, what roles do today’s youth want to fill?

In a recent Exploring survey, 150,000 students from 6th to 12th grade were asked to gauge their interest in more than 200 career options. The National Exploring team came away with some pretty interesting findings, including:

- STEM leads the pack with 45 percent of respondents interested in STEM careers, followed closely by career paths in arts and athletics.
- Only 3 percent of respondents expressed interest in skilled trades.
- Gender differences persist in engineering, health, business and technology.
- Exploring program poised to bridge the gap from career interests to career experiences

"In addition to informing career choices, the workplace experiences provided through Exploring can help debunk some of the stereotypes and social patterns that persist today," Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh explained. "If we can help students see that people from all walks of life can succeed in a wide range of fields, we can open their eyes to career opportunities that they may not have previously considered."

The survey resulted in a top 10 list that ranged from in-demand medical positions like nurses and physicians to more aspirational positions like professional athletes, singers, and actors. (Story courtesy from our National Exploring Team)
This spring, 75 students from all across the metro have come together to learn more about the fields of engineering and architecture. UNL Durham Explorers came from 18 different schools across the area including: Bennington, Burke, Benson, Blair, Central, Creighton Prep, Elkhorn, Elkhorn South, Fremont, Gretna, Gross, Millard South, Millard North, Millard West, Papillion La Vista, Ralston, South, and Skutt. During their time in the program, students will learn how to apply the laws of physics to gain an understanding of the structural side of architectural engineering, fundamentals of construction, mechanical/acoustical side of engineering, and take part in a lighting/electrical lab demonstration. See below for some pictures of when Explorers participated in an activity related to structural engineering. The UNL Durham Exploring program runs once a year during the spring. Check it out and see what this exciting career field has to offer!