What does your child need to be certain he or she has a bright future?

As parents we can probably come up with a whole host of ideas. From our own personal desires for our children to the hope that they find great success in life, no matter what’s in store your child will be faced with financial decisions and the task of earning income.

It’s not totally new to 4-H. The 4-H program has traditionally connected young people’s personal interests with financial management lessons. From understanding cost per wear of an outfit to figuring cost per pound of gain for a pig, financials are a part of the 4-H program. But it’s time to take financial literacy and the recognition of employability skills the 4-H program teaches to the next level in a totally new approach.

Fund65 is designed to connect with teens in a hands-on way to bring financial literacy and employable skill building to the forefront. The Fund65 program connects our community’s top youth with financial advisors and experts in Lyon County to build a true network of resources. Lessons will range from resume building to understanding financial record keeping and banking in a modern world. We have talented local professionals who see how society is changing first hand and can prepare these young people to thrive in a new world.

Fund65 will open doors for an elite team to gain from experiences outside of the norm for 15 and 16 year olds. The program will connect youth in a rewarding way in jobs where they may never have thought they could find summer internship experience. An internship stipend will be earned by Fund65 participants if they complete a 50-75-hour internship and the complete workshop program. This stipend is then expected to be invested in an individual retirement account by the youth participants in September with their parent’s custodial support. Yes, 4-H wants to help young people get started with retirement savings while growth and personal investment is favorable for true life-long practice and learning.

4-H is truly taking individual skills and passion all the way from a marketable experience to a bright financial future. Will you encourage your child to explore Fund65?

Timeline:
May 31 – Fund65 applications are due to the Extension Office (application form will be available online about May 15.
June 3-7 – Interviews will be conducted to select the 10-member Fund65 team
June 10-14 – Fund65 Boot camp will prepare 4-Hers for internship employment. Camp may be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or an afternoon session depending on what may fit youth schedules best. Training this week will be important in preparing the participants for their internship experience.
June 14 – Local businesses will interview intern candidates
June 15-Sept. 15 – Fund65 members will complete 50-75 hours of internship work during this timeframe. Businesses will determine an appropriate schedule with their intern. Sept. 15 – Fund65 members will be paid the internship stipend. All state and federal withholding taxes and insurance will be withheld from the stipend. Sept. 18 – This is the Retirement Investment night. $750 of internship stipend will be invested in their own retirement account with the help of local investors. Fund65 participants will select who and what company they want to begin building their financial future – it’s a relationship they will choose. Jan. 2 – Capstone Presentations by Fund65 participants will conclude the program. Community and business partners will be in the audience.

Participants will also be required to attend various workshops throughout the summer and fall. They will focus on financial literacy and various skill building. These workshops might be a simple lunch hour learning session or an afternoon class. Dates and times will adjust as the program develops with the elite team identified.

Tentative Workshop dates:
June 26 Aug. 21
July 10 Oct. 16 or 23
July 24 Nov. 20

We will learn in mid-May if Fund65 will be funded by the Kanas 4-H Foundation for the 2019 year. With that tight timeline, I wanted to share this amazing opportunity now so that families can consider, prepare for and hopefully be a part of this program. Enclosed is a flyer appealing to you, as the parent, as well as one for the 4-Her in your household who is freshman or sophomore complete. Please share the youth-targeted flyer with your teen.

By targeting 15 and 16 year olds, parents will have an investment in getting their child to the internship as well as the workshops and other opportunities. Fund65 is truly investing in a bright financial and successful employment future for your child. Please contact me via email at clpatt@ksu.edu if your child is interested in exploring Fund65.

Sincerely,

Corinne Patterson
4-H Youth Development Extension Agent