

Career Opportunities for the Youth of Arlington



Kathryn Stone, *Community Manager, First Rate.*

Kathryn Stone has been with First Rate since its origins in 1991, however since 2019 she has been serving in a more official capacity as the First Rate Living Manager. She is passionate about engaging the disconnected or disengaged through hospitality and encouragement to see changed lives at work and at home.



Marshall Smith, *Managing Director, First Rate Ventures.*

Marshall Smith has been with First Rate since 2006. First Rate Ventures invests in Seed and Series A WealthTech companies globally. He is married to Shannon, has four kids, and lives in Southlake, TX. He serves the community as a lay leader at Church at the Cross, active in Foster Care and Adoption ministry and Business As Mission initiatives. Marshall is a graduate from Dartmouth College, where he studied Economics and Religion.

Project Description:

According to the [Texas Tribune](#), 60% of high school students in Arlington are considered at a risk of dropping out of school. To impact and engage with these students, this initiative seeks to provide youth in the Arlington community with career opportunities to empower our students, teach marketable skills, and provide avenues for careers. This Working Group will focus on connecting and learning from existing organizations, schools, and employers on current programs and seeking to fill gaps in engaging with youth in the community. The overall goal is to create a sustainable pipeline of talented, motivated, and empowered individuals who can contribute to the betterment of their community through their own engagement and work.

Project Goals:

1. Explore current needs in the community to engage the youth in Arlington.
2. Engage high schools, technical centers, and colleges to learn existing programs.
3. Explore opportunities for alignment and collaboration to engage with youth through events, training, career opportunities, and mentorship, etc.
4. Invite other organizations in Arlington to join in the development of career opportunities for youth through their own values and programs.

Project Metrics:

1. Increased awareness and collaboration of current initiatives for youth.
2. Increased participation, skills training, and career opportunities.

Who is involved? Who else needs to be involved?

Potential organizations: AISD Career and Technical Center, Arlington businesses, Chamber of Commerce, local high schools, and colleges