

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ROBERT SKLENAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Five College bound members were honored at the PFCU Annual Meeting held March 12, 2020 at the La Vista Police Conference facility. Scholarships went out to Heidi McPherson, Jaclyn Negrete, Emily Saafeld, Parker Reyes, and Gregory Gonzalez.

Also pictured are Sharon Sklenar and CEO Mary Johnson.



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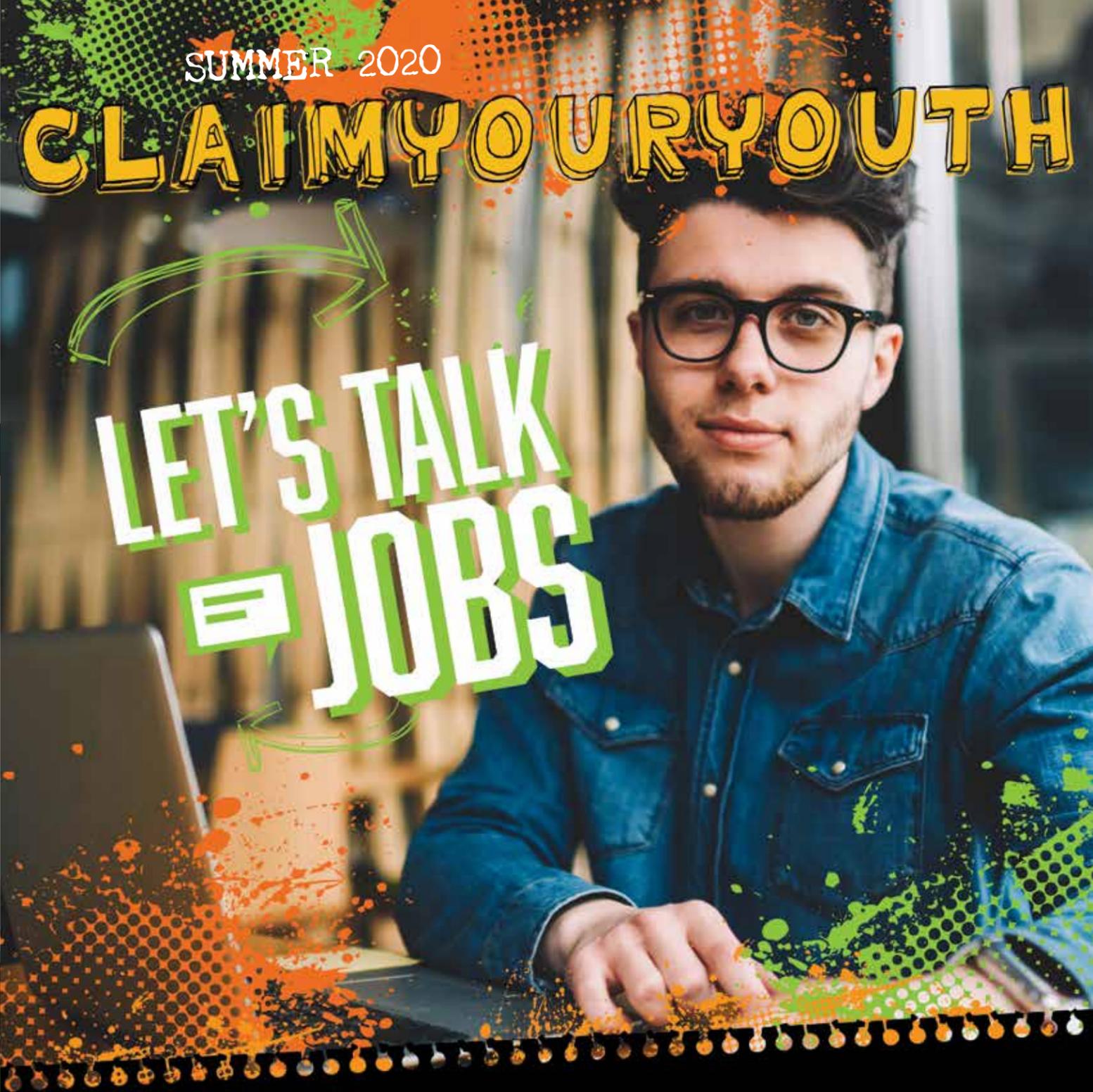
FITTING IN

PG. 3

GETTING AROUND 
IN THE SUMMER  **PG. 3**



What's
Inside



Flipping burgers or working retail during the summer are no longer the only work options for teens during the break. Unfortunately, one reason being is that fewer teens are taking advantage of the golden opportunity of gaining experience.

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LET'S TALK = JOBS

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This isn't necessarily due to laziness, but rather some teens choose to spend time abroad, volunteer to strengthen their resume or take summer courses to graduate quicker. Also, the work force is competitive, and certain jobs aren't just for certain demographics anymore. That doesn't mean you need to just find something to earn money, you have options, and you can start planning well before the summer begins. Let's explore three paths: internships, academic services and co-ops.

Though many internships aren't paid, they're a great way to gain workplace experience, network and better pave your path toward your future goals—especially if in the industry you're pursuing.

Academic services are about utilizing your skills to help others, but also preparing you for a strong fall semester. You can earn money tutoring or teaching a skill outside the

realm of academia, and that looks great on your resume. Plus, you'll focus on your passions and keep your mind in school mode without the stress of actual school.

Lastly, the co-op option is very appealing because it allows you to provide a service while possibly working with your friends and also helps you gain a keen business sense. You can start a lawn, housekeeping, babysitting or pet walking service, for example. Start small, and learn about team-building, problem-solving, the importance of communication and also money management.

There are plenty of ways to earn money or gain experience without smelling like grease after your shift or becoming lethargic behind an ignored cash register. Plan ahead, explore your options and gain that experience.

ALWAYS BE FITTING IN

It's already difficult enough trying to fit in at school, but you have to do so outside the classroom as well. You wouldn't think that issue happens in a professional setting, but there are some similarities, so it's good to be prepared.

Each company has a different set of values, practices and beliefs shared by management and employees. If you're fortunate enough to earn a part- or full-time position or summer internship then matching that company's culture to your personality is important. You don't want to be somewhere that makes you uncomfortable because it will ultimately affect the quality of your work.

Before you apply for summer internships or positions, decide what type of business would fit you best. Target an industry that supports your interests or future goals, but also consider if you think you would be more comfortable in a large or small setting to narrow your scope. Once you have a solid list, it's time for some research.

It should be common knowledge by now that employers take notice of an applicant's social media use, but that doesn't mean you're not able to do the same. Check out a company's social media accounts and website to get a feel for the atmosphere. Some companies may have a more formal approach to business while others may be more casual with their content. This way you not only learn about the culture through your research, but also the business as a whole. You can even take it a step further and see if there is any news surrounding the company—perhaps there's mention of accomplishments, or detrimental activity.

If you've earned an interview at the company, take note of how the place is decorated, what people are wearing, how they're interacting with each other and even the tone and mannerisms of the person(s) conducting the interview. Now, remember to focus on the questions and answers and respect the culture while there; if you spend too much time psycho-analyzing the situation, people will notice. The important part of the meeting is to land an offer, and then you can reevaluate the company on your own time, not theirs.

With that being said, don't be hesitant to ask questions pertaining to the culture because it shows potential employers that you're interested. If they don't seem interested in answering those questions, then that may be more of a red flag for you than the inquiries are for them. Gaining an understanding from the company's priorities to how they celebrate achievements and treat employees helps you read the overall culture of the business.

Lastly, don't write off a company solely based on what others have said or what they have posted on the wall—especially if it's your only option. Gaining experience is important, but remember you're not there to change the culture, and the company isn't there to cater to your personality. You're there to fit in, and if you can adapt, you'll do great as a professional.



GETTING AROUND = IN THE SUMMER

Summer likely started early for many of you. You may have been earning money working for a while already or hopefully spending quality time with your friends. Whether you are traveling to work or you are able to see your friends, and if you don't have your own vehicle, you may need to find an alternative in order to fully utilize your free time.

Ideally, if you have your license, you may have access to your own vehicle or your parents' rides. However, they need their cars because most careers don't offer a summer break—and you probably don't want them chauffeuring you to meet up with your friends anyway.

Public transportation is always an option. Metro systems in bigger cities are a great way to get to your destination, but most areas have at least a reliable bus system. There are summer bus passes available for teens offered at a lower cost so they can commute easier and without a major financial burden affecting their decision to go or not to go.

Ride-sharing is increasing in popularity. Though services like Uber and Lyft require passengers to be 18 or older, there have been other platforms coming to market suitable for teens. Depending on your area, these include HopSkipDrive and VanGo, but even though the drivers are checked and verified, talk with your parents before booking these services.

Lastly, you already have a cheap and green approach to getting around: your legs. You can walk or bike to where you need to go depending on how far. Planning to work or have fun near your home can help you save a lot of money and stress regarding transportation.

If you or one of your friends don't have a vehicle, there are definitely other options to getting around. You're still free.

