



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
TRIO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
CENTERS PROGRAM

How a quick, game-based reinforcement tool increased engagement and strengthened college readiness, while giving program leadership real-time insight for targeted support.

Within their first three semesters, Future Ready strengthened engagement and college-ready confidence while giving UBWP practical, real-time insight into participation patterns. Engagement signals became a trigger for targeted coaching and timely support, improving the program's ability to intervene earlier and reinforce the behaviors that align with UBWP's mission.

“Future Ready gave us a simple way to keep students engaged and see who might need support. When engagement dropped, it prompted timely check ins that helped us address barriers before they grew.”

Leadership Perspective
UBWP

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Increasing Engagement and College Readiness through Game Based Reinforcement

CHALLENGE

TRIO-Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) needed a lightweight way to reinforce college and career readiness behaviors that fit real student schedules and produced usable visibility for staff without adding major workload.

SOLUTION

Future Ready is a mobile, game-based reinforcement program delivering short, competitive prompts that build soft skills and college and career readiness (including interview preparation, resume building, communication methods and FAFSA basics).

Future Ready was implemented with 33 students over three semesters and used both during UB programming and outside of UB hours. Over approximately 11 months, the Program Director used real-time engagement signals to guide outreach and provide targeted support.

RESULTS

Behavioral Outcomes: stronger in-class participation, more confidence asking questions, and earlier college readiness behaviors (including younger students asking what steps to take now).

Support Impact: engagement drops triggered timely check-ins that uncovered barriers (such as food insecurity, family instability, conflict at home) and enabled faster intervention and stabilization.