



Signarama Troy Reflects on Troy School District Career Accelerator Program Partnership

August 06, 2026

TROY, MI - August 06, 2026 -

Signarama Troy / Metro Detroit reflects on its partnership with the Troy School District's Career Accelerator Program. The collaboration, which began in 2025, has provided high school students with mentorship and pre-internship experiences designed to support their transition to professional careers. Through this involvement, the company has contributed to efforts that help prepare young people for the workforce while strengthening community connections in Metro Detroit.

The Career Accelerator Program connects selected juniors and seniors with area businesses for practical learning. Signarama Troy hosted students for on-site components that built upon earlier classroom sessions focused on professional skills such as communication, etiquette, and real-world scenario practice. The 20-hour pre-internship allowed participants to engage directly with business operations and apply concepts learned in preparation. These activities took place within the context of daily company functions, offering students a window into how various roles contribute to overall operations. The program structure emphasizes both skill acquisition and practical application, creating a balanced approach to career exploration.

Signarama Troy has served the Metro Detroit area as a sign company for more than 25 years. The partnership aligns with the company's emphasis on community involvement and talent development. Students observed various aspects of operations, including project work and production activities, gaining insight into how businesses function. The experience offered a bridge between educational settings and professional environments. Participants had opportunities to see the coordination required for client projects and the technical processes involved in creating signage solutions. This exposure helped illustrate the range of skills used across different departments on a regular basis.

Bob Chapa, CEO and President at Signarama Troy, commented on the value of the program. "The students bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm. We learn from them as much as they learn from us," Chapa said.

The initiative forms part of Signarama Troy's ongoing engagement with local education. The Troy School District selects around 60 students each year based on demonstrated motivation. Team members at the company have guided participants, sharing knowledge from departments involved in coordination, design, and technical processes. This interaction has highlighted the benefits of hands-on exposure in complementing academic preparation. Mentors provided context for the work performed, answering questions and demonstrating procedures in real time. The reciprocal learning dynamic has been a notable aspect of the partnership, with insights flowing in both directions.

The Troy facility provides ample space for these collaborative activities as part of the company's larger operations. Signarama Troy supports internal career progression, with examples of staff advancing through roles over time. Similar principles of growth and learning extend to the students in the program, reinforcing the importance of mentorship opportunities. The company's scale allows for meaningful participation without disrupting regular activities, enabling students to observe authentic workplace dynamics. This setting has proven suitable for introducing participants to the expectations and rewards of professional environments.

Community connections remain integral to Signarama Troy's presence in Metro Detroit. Reflection on the first year of the Career Accelerator Program partnership underscores the reciprocal nature of the experience. Students gained practical understanding of workplace dynamics, while the company appreciated the new viewpoints introduced by participants. The combination of preparatory classes and on-site time has contributed to positive development for those involved. Discussions during the program often touched on topics such as problem-solving approaches and the value of attention to detail in technical work. These conversations helped students connect classroom material to tangible outcomes.

Signarama Troy continues its support for efforts that link education with career readiness in the region. The

2025 partnership with the Troy School District has demonstrated the potential of such collaborations to benefit students and the local community. The company remains focused on fostering environments that encourage professional growth and community ties moving forward. As the program enters subsequent phases, the reflection highlights the foundational experiences established in the initial year and the continued commitment to educational partnerships that serve the broader Metro Detroit area.

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Signarama Troy

Signarama Detroit in Troy is part of a global sign franchise with 900 locations in 60 countries. For over 25 years, we've delivered quality signage and exceptional service to Michigan communities.

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