

Working Debt

Student debt meets crowdsourcing meets social media



source: <https://www.wilmingtonde.gov/residents/keeping-wilmington-clean/adopt-a-block>

what is Working Debt?

- Cities and communities create a list of projects to be undertaken by students with school debt (ex. mow unkept areas, tutor k-6 students, data input, creative marketing / online storytelling)
- Projects are rated by level of difficulty, need for supervision, and pay scale.
- Students earn off debt by working on projects. Pay (debt reduction amount) within a set scale is determined by online reviews of co-workers, citizens and supervisors. Better aggregate reviews yield top pay scale and access to higher paying projects.
- High performing students have opportunity to manage / propose additional projects

How is tech involved?

- One cell phone app to accomplish the following:
 - submitting work documentation (ex. photo of freshly cut lawn)
 - collecting and aggregating reviews of project work by citizens, supervisors and co-workers
 - allowing students to monitor debt reduction
 - crowdsourcing to keep project going / increase scope
 - maintaining active list of projects
 - highlighting star projects and performers

How is it funded?

- National Government supplies %50 of budget. Cities and their surrounding regions work with philanthropy and private sector business to come up with the other 50%. Getting all sectors involved ensures full buy in and better results

example

- student A signs up to be on Hill Top Park improvement team with a pay scale between 10 - 20 currency units per day
- Hill Top Park project gets good marks from community (8.5 out of 10), and student A gets excellent aggregated individual reviews (5 of 5), receiving 18 currency units per day of debt reduction
- student A is now allowed access to enter projects with higher pay scale - 15 - 30 currency units per day

what is accomplished?

- students build skills, confidence, social networks and resumes - and reduce their school debt!
- communities help next generation get off to a good start and benefit with a healthier, cleaner, more vibrant neighborhoods
- team work is rewarded - with achieved pay rate being a balance of both individual and team performance reviews
- better organized, supportive communities will draw top students
- citizens become more active in deciding how to improve their community
- state and national government activate students and build a platform for a supported public works program