What does it mean in this time to be essential? To have a steady income and health insurance? For so many Americans it means the security to not be worried about everything right now. As we worry about the virus and our loved ones, we also worry about the economy and the security of our jobs and benefits. When we had discussions about our pathways over the last six years, we thought of these things too.

The two largest industries in the state of Colorado, computer science and healthcare, fit into the category of skilled labor. At this time, we see the need for healthcare on the news every day; careers that vary from a small amount of college to a medical degree. Our students participating in the healthcare pathway are reminded of the demands of both employment and personal sacrifice during this time.

Speaking with a member of the human resources team at UC Health was a stirring moment. The need for every job in the system, from custodian and nutritionist to phlebotomist, is growing every day. It seems like computer science is not only the future, but a way of life. As many of us work from home and we watch our children be educated remotely, we may not even think of the jobs happening behind the scenes. The need for people to fill jobs in computer science is growing rapidly.

This is why we are working to grow our computer classes to include Project Lead the Way at the middle school next year. A grant being sought by the district to pay for the curriculum and professional development for a teacher. This is similar to the grant we pursued to purchase computers for the high school and middle school and AP training for the high school to add AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science Applications.

This summer, two internship opportunities are available in the computer science field for our students. One is through the Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance and the other is through Lockheed Martin. These opportunities will allow our students the ability to link what they have learned in the classroom to the demands of the workforce.

If you have internships in your industry or are interested in how to offer one, please contact Kolleen Johnson at kjohnson@mssd14.org.

Check out this video tribute to the Mustang community performed by Ian Ferguson, Danny Tramel, Taylor Weimer and Sandi Wilson: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcgWNStW8Xg

Sign up for Cyber Camp!
The National Cybersecurity Center Cyber Camp dates:
June 8-12: Standard Camp 8 a.m.-noon
June 22-26: Standard Camp 8 a.m.-noon, Advanced Camp 1-5 p.m.
July 13-17: Standard Camp 8 a.m.-noon
August 3-7: Standard Camp 8 a.m.-noon, Advanced Camp 1-5 p.m.

Cost: FREE — limited space, register now!
Registration: https://cyber-center.org/student-alliance-home
Contact Thomas Russell, Cyber Education Program Manager, at 719-255-5223 or at thomas.russell@cyber-center.org

The Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance announces
The 2020 Summer High School Cybersecurity Internship Program
is NOW open to all high school students and applications will be accepted through April 17.

Apply on the Marketplace at ppbea.org!
April 17 Student applications due
April 23 Students selected for interviews are notified
April 30 Interview Day (must be present)
May Selected interns complete Professionalism 101
June Internship begins