

# Regional Approach to Work-Based Learning

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# Workplace Learning Connection

Regional Intermediary serving K-12 Work-based Learning for educators and students in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties (~37,000 students 6th - 12th grade; 108 buildings)

## Provide a one-stop contact point

- Develop work-based capacity with employers
- Provide core service programming
- Equal access for all schools and all students

## Team of 16 staff across 4 campuses

- 11 FTE/5 PT
  - Director
  - Internship Coordinators
  - Business Liaisons
  - School Liaisons
  - Large Events Coordinator - 1
  - Marketing Coordinator

## Career Z Challenge Top 10 WBL Ecosystem





NON-PUBLIC

# How Our Model Works



**We live by the concept of 'one point of contact'**

- Our schools have one contact on our team and we have one contact at school
  - Our businesses have one contact on our team

# How Our Model Works

## Middle school

- 6th grade speakers
  - School based w/ specific career clusters identified by school
- 7th grade STEAM Institute
  - All students bussed to four regional centers w/ about 4,500 students participating across 9 days; 3 sessions per student
- 8th grade Financial Literacy Fair
  - All students bussed to four regional centers w/ about 4,500 students participating across 17 days

# How Our Model Works

## High School

- 2 school specific programs (industry tours, mock interviews, classroom speakers, professional skills workshops)
- 3 job shadows per year per student (10th - 12th grade)
- 3 internships per year per student (11th - 12th grade)
- Large scale events
  - Construction Apprenticeship Fair (440 students), Build My Future (750 students), STEM It Up (1,400 students), Career Discovery Tours (1,000 students)

# Volunteer Opportunities


- Host a Tour
- Classroom Speaker
- STEAM Institute Presenter
- Financial Literacy Fair
- Mock Interviewer
- Participate in career fair
- Host a job shadow
- Host an Intern



# Workplace Learning Connection

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 YTD
Job Shadows	3,785	4,215	4,399
Internships	420	410	472
Event Participants	27,767	27,190	24,882
TOTAL	31,997	31,985	29,753

1,358  
Volunteers



# Outcomes

- **85%-Positively influenced their selection of a career field**
- **93% Increased awareness of local career opportunities**
- **73% Positively influenced their decision to live/work in Iowa**
- **56% Were offered additional employment opportunities by business (vs 29% pre-COVID)**
- **62% of job shadow and internship students enroll in concurrent or directly to post-secondary vs 25% across the region**



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