

What issues need to be considered?

As a business person who has chosen to add your contact information to our directory, you have made a wise decision to help the next generation of workers make educated choices about their futures. As you become a partner in this program, there are several important factors of which you need to be aware:

- Students who participate in Job Shadowing are not paid. The intention of Job Shadowing is to provide hands-on experience and first hand knowledge of career areas. Your assistance in providing this experience is payment enough! If you choose to host a student for an internship, it will be your decision whether the intern will be paid.
- As a business partner whose contact information appears in our directory, your information will be made available to any secondary and post-secondary institution in Sangamon County to use for Job Shadowing and Internship experiences for their students. A qualified school representative will be contacting you to make student placements
- Liability is a concern of all involved. To address this, the student and parent are asked to sign a liability waiver releasing all parties involved of liability in case an accident should happen.
- In instances where confidentiality and privacy issues arise, it is important to discuss this issue with the students and have them sign all applicable releases, including, but not limited to the FERPA and HIPPA privacy acts.
- All students will be responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the work-site. Transportation waivers will be signed by all parties involved and kept on file by the coordinating agency.

How Can You Help?

Is your business willing to host students for 1-2 days of job shadowing or a student internship? We are looking for interested businesses and individuals to add to our directory. It is our goal that this directory will be made available to all Sangamon County school districts or organizations that are pursuing a work based learning program for the students of this area.

If you are interested in becoming a potential host site for either student job shadowing or internships, please contact:

Dr. Allan Woodson, BEP Executive Director at 525-1173 ext 211

Maureen Talbert, Superintendent of the Pleasant Plains School District at 626-1041 or

Mary Jo Wood, Director of the Regional Office of Career & Technical Education at 529-3716.

Sangamon County Educational Organizations

Auburn School District	Riverton School District
Ball Chatham School District	Rochester School District
Calvary Academy	Sacred Heart Griffin High School
Capital Area Career Center	Sangamon County Learning Academy
Lutheran High School	Sangamon County Regional Office of Education
New Berlin School District	Springfield School District
Pawnee School District	Tri-City School District
Pleasant Plains School District	Williamsville School District
Regional Office of Career and Technical Education	



The Chamber

Work Based Learning



BUSINESS/EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
OF SANGAMON COUNTY

The Business/Education Partnership of Sangamon County was developed by a committee of community leaders convened by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Through its deliberations, mission and vision statements were drafted, and an advisory board was appointed.

OUR VISION

To be an effective advocate for educational programs and initiatives that contribute to a competent workforce.

To be recognized as a leading force in enhancing the quality of education in Sangamon County.

To have created a linkage among educational institutions, businesses, and other resources in the region.

To have the resources required to effectively carry out the Partnership's programs.



Helping Students Climb the Ladder of Career Success

What is Work Based Learning?

Work Based Learning is the broad category name given to Job Shadowing and/or Internships. These experiences provide an opportunity for high school junior and senior students to explore career opportunities and gain experience before making career and educational choices.

Through a series of 1-2 day job shadowing experiences or internships of a longer duration with local businesses, students gain more information about career areas of interest and are able to make better decisions when planning for college and/or their future careers. These opportunities will also help students to establish contacts that will be beneficial.

It is our goal that students will use the information gained from their experiences to help ensure a smooth transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workplace and have successful careers.

As a business participating in this program, you will be working first hand with the future workforce. By choosing to support these projects, you will be helping to train students in a way that continues the integrity of the American workforce.

We are looking for interested business partners to host students for this important career exploration experience and to add to our business directory. Please consider participating in this program by providing valuable learning opportunities to the students of Sangamon County.

How Do Students Benefit from Work Based Learning?

Students in the WBL program benefit in numerous ways. Here are just a few:

- Exposure to a variety of careers
- Hands-on training and experience
- Relates school work to “real-life”
- Opportunity to add experiences to resumes
- Potential contacts for employment and post-secondary education
- Connection between school and work
- Self-confidence gained from school and work
- Awareness of local careers
- Better preparation for college and future life choices

What is expected of a Business Partner?

- Provide adequate supervision
- Foster a learning environment to assist the student in making career decisions
- Communicate goals and objectives of this program to all colleagues and encourage them to share their knowledge and expertise.
- Willingness to host student(s) for 1-2 days of job shadowing experiences.

How Do Businesses Benefit from Work Based Learning?

Businesses that partner with this program will benefit in the following ways:

- Better pool of applicants for future employees
- Exposure of businesses and industries to goal minded students
- Introduce students/future employees to work place ethics
- Earlier introduction to possible long-term employees
- Students/future employees gain better communications skills
- Motivation of students to become productive members of society.
- Forge relationships between businesses and educational institutions.

