

MIKE HASSLER is recognized as one of the best Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators in the state of Utah.

JANUARY 2024 CTE EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH

DISTRICT: Washington School District

EDUCATOR: Work-Based Learning (WBL) Coordinator, WashK12 Career Development Program

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

Mike Hassler is someone who has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and passion in his role as a Work-Based Learning Coordinator.



Mike's Career Development Program process has increased employer engagement by over 5,000 percent across more than 75 career pathways.

GET TO KNOW MIKE HASSLER

BACKGROUND: In the workforce development arena, Mike is known as "Gator Mike" for his fierce determination and dedication to creating high-quality career opportunities for students. Mike has built the workforce development framework in Utah's secondary educational system for employers across state lines to increase their recruitment and talent acquisition opportunities.

EDUCATION: Mike graduated from Dixie State University (now known as Utah Tech University) specializing in classroom-to-workforce strategies, industry buy-in, marketing, recruiting, data management, job placements, LinkedIn for the classroom, and process improvement.

WORK-BASED LEARNING COORDINATOR: Mike focuses on identifying students' goals/dreams and then packages this into a solution-based opportunity for employers. Developing grit is the single greatest attribute a student can develop while in high school in order to cross the bridge from a random job to a career opportunity. Students in Washington School District know that the WashK12 Career Development Program will literally change their lives as they go all in to discover their passion, set career goals, and turn their dream into a career.

STUDENT SUCCESS: "Mike truly values the needs of others and has helped me tremendously. I wouldn't be going the direction I am if it wasn't for him. He has helped me find the drive and confidence in myself and has given me so many opportunities. Not only has he helped me find confidence in myself but in my career goals and helped me pursue a career in education. He truly is a life changer in all the best ways!" said Maicey, former WashK12 student.

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“Gator Mike’s remarkable enthusiasm and visionary approach exceed that of most individuals. He consistently pursues progress, maintaining a steadfast commitment to ongoing enhancements. Beyond his unwavering dedication, his heartfelt concern for the success of his students is evident on a daily basis. Regardless of a student’s background or their status as a current or former student, Mike is dedicated to securing their success by equipping them with essential employability tools, advocating on their behalf, and offering unlimited support towards their success,” said Helene Morse, Washington School District.

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Mike Hassler, better known as ‘Gator Mike,’ is truly one of a kind! His passion and dedication to the Work-Based Learning Program have paved the way for thousands of students to attain their career aspirations. His meticulously crafted program is a model of inclusivity, tailored to help every student succeed. Moreover, Mike’s impact extends far beyond his own students; he has not only empowered his students but also countless Work-Based Learning Professionals across the state and nation. He readily shares his extensive knowledge and expertise, making fast friends and allies, all in the pursuit of advancing education and career development for the future of our youth.

Breckon Heywood
CTE Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education.

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Students in the WashK12 Career Development Program have a 96% success rate. Scan the QR code to view students sharing their internship experience.



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Mike Hassler's relentless dedication to the CTE Work-Based Learning Program is nothing short of remarkable. He is a true rock star in the Washington School District, leading the way with his innovative approach and unwavering commitment. Through his mentorship and guidance, he has transformed the lives of hundreds of students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Mike's passion and leadership inspire not only his students but also countless WBL professionals across the state and nation. He has not only opened doors for our students but also forged invaluable partnerships with industry leaders, elevating our district to new heights. Mike Hassler is a shining example of what can be achieved through passion, dedication, and a vision for success.

Dave Gardner
CTE Director, Washington School District

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MIKE HASSLER
WBL Coordinator
WashK12
Career Development Program

Scan the QR code to view examples of students who have been placed in an internship.

Mike has inspired so many professionals to better their craft and increase their passion.

