

## Work-Based Learning Made Easy for College and Career Awareness

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.* -Thomas Edison

### **Work-Based Learning Goal**

Connect the community and the classroom by using community resource persons to emphasize both work and occupations. An effective Work-Based Learning experience will:

- ❑ Help students understand career application of subject matter
- ❑ Teach and reinforce productive work habits
- ❑ Emphasize career awareness and exploration

### **Work-Based Learning Experiences**

A **minimum** of six Work-Based Learning experiences is designated during the College and Career Awareness year to provide career awareness and exploration experiences that support and sustain classroom instruction and curriculum. These Work-Based Learning experiences are not intended to be an add-on. Work-Based Learning experiences should reflect a variety of career fields for students to explore their own interests and apply their self-discovery to the world of work. Work-Based Learning is a teaching strategy that enhances classroom learning. These experiences must occur in one or more the following four areas:

- ❑ Career Fairs
- ❑ Field Studies
- ❑ Guest Speakers
- ❑ Job Shadows

### **Work-Based Learning Coordination**

Each school district receives funding for work-based learning coordination. As per Utah State Board of Education rule R277-916-6, "work-based learning shall be integrated into all levels of the educational delivery system and shall be coordinated within the cones of the school district and among regions." Districts "must maintain evidence that WBL components have been integrated and coordinated with elementary career awareness, secondary career exploration, integrated core curriculum activities, College and Career Awareness, comprehensive guidance and skills certification."

What can you expect from your Work-Based Learning coordinator?

- ❑ Your WBL coordinator, where available, should be part of your team. Include him/her in your initial planning and touch base during the school year.
- ❑ Your WBL coordinator is there to be a resource person for ideas of contacts in the community and to help plan WBL experiences appropriate for College and Career Awareness as much as their schedule will allow. This individual is not responsible for making WBL happen on his/her own. Work-Based Learning is a team effort.

## **Steps to Developing a Successful Work-Based Learning Experience**

### **1. Identify the concept you are teaching**

- Child Development, Nutrition and Foods, Interior Design, Computer Programming, Networking, Accounting, Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, Plant Systems, Agricultural Systems Technology, Biotechnology, Medical Assisting, Marketing, Travel, Engineering, Transportation, Communication, etc.

### **2. Identify approach you use to teach the concept**

- I do this to teach child development...
- When I teach spreadsheet, I do this...
- I teach engineering design by...
- When teaching about healthcare careers, I do this...

### **3. Identify a community resource person that could support this idea**

### **4. Identify how you would use this community resource person in a WBL activity**

- Career Fair
- Guest Speaker
- Field Study
- Job Shadow

### **5. Put ideas through work-based learning filter test**

- Does this experience fall under one of the four appropriate WBL experiences for College and Career Awareness: career fair, guest speaker, job shadow or career fair?
- Does this WBL connection align with my core standards and objectives?
- Is this a meaningful way to connect my classroom with the community?

### **6. Determine team member responsibilities**

- Identify who does what to organize/implement the WBL experience.

### **Keep in Mind**

- ❑ Each student must have a minimum of six Work-Based Learning experiences as part of CTE Introduction
- ❑ Experiences occur throughout the year and involve all College and Career Awareness teachers.

### **Flexibility Exists**

- ❑ Utilize virtual/online job shadows, show a video in which the students see and hear from workers while touring a facility, etc. The worker connection needs to be there. **YOU CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN TWO VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES OF THE TOTAL SIX. VIRTUAL DOES NOT MEAN DOING RESEARCH ON THE COMPUTER.**
- ❑ You can assign one WBL experience as homework.
- ❑ If you have an extended WBL experience, you can count it for up to two experiences. Remember, you must provide justification. Explain why.

