

2020 - '21

ANNUAL REPORT

SERVING SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, EMPLOYERS, AND COMMUNITIES IN BENTON, CEDAR, IOWA, JOHNSON, JONES, LINN, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



Connecting
today's students
to tomorrow's
careers

**LINN COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER**
1770 Boyson Rd.
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
319-398-1040

**KIRKWOOD REGIONAL CENTER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**
2301 Oakdale Blvd.
Coralville, Iowa 52241
319-887-3970

BENTON COUNTY CENTER
111 W. 3rd St.
Vinton, Iowa 52349
866-424-5669

**JONES COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER**
220 Welter Dr.
Monticello, Iowa 52310
855-467-3800

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER**
2192 Lexington Blvd.
Washington, Iowa 52353
855-467-3900

CEDAR COUNTY CENTER
100 Alexander Dr., Suite 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772
855-467-3900

IOWA COUNTY CENTER
200 West St.
Williamsburg, Iowa 52361
866-424-5669

Kirkwood
WORKPLACE LEARNING
CONNECTION

▶ 2020 – '21 AT A GLANCE

Thank you to all our contributors, supporters, and volunteers!

FY21 BY THE NUMBERS



Workplace Learning Connection uses a diverse funding model that allows all partners to sustain their participation in an equitable manner. Whether a partner's interest is student career development, future workforce development, or regional economic development, all funds provide age-appropriate career awareness and exploration services matching the mission of WLC and our partners.

Funding the Connections ...

2020 – '21 Revenue Sources

Kirkwood Community College (General Fund)	\$33,024	5%
State and Federal Grants (Kirkwood: Perkins, WTED, IIG)	\$396,069	58%
Grant Wood Area Education Agency	\$45,000	6%
K through 12 School Districts Fees for Services	\$192,972	28%
Contributions, County Supervisors, Local Grants	\$20,000	3%
Total	\$687,065	100%

WLC Financial Contributors

Boards of Supervisors:

- Benton County Board of Supervisors
- Cedar County Board of Supervisors
- Iowa County Board of Supervisors
- Johnson County Board of Supervisors
- Jones County Board of Supervisors
- Linn County Board of Supervisors
- Washington County Board of Supervisors

Community Foundations:

- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Employer Contributions:

- Collins Aerospace
- GreenState Credit Union
- Iowa City Press-Citizen – In-kind
- MSI Mold Builders

Individual Contributors:

- United Way of East Central Iowa
- Todd Prusha
- Carmen and John Wasta
- Laurel Worden

WLC Responds to Challenges with Innovations

FY21 was quite a year! WLC appreciates our great regional partnerships with area school districts and our tremendous business community. All of our stakeholders truly pulled together, made positive punts and pivots happen resulting in quality and equitable program delivery and student success. Major kudos and credit go to the Workplace Learning Connection team and our colleagues within Kirkwood Community College. Together, they used their intellect, creative collaboration skills, technology knowledge and fearless experimentation to create work-based learning options. These options successfully supported K-12 students and educators learning and teaching in varied situations in a very challenging year. The future is bright because we know that together, we are always tougher than the circumstances and challenges that we face. Together, we are truly connecting today's students to tomorrow's careers.

BENTON COUNTY

6 Schools

Belle Plaine Community School District

- Belle Plaine High School
- Belle Plaine Middle School

Benton Community School District

- Benton Community High School
- Benton Community Middle School

Vinton-Shellsburg Community School

- Vinton-Shellsburg High School
- Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School

Business Hosts:

Benton County Conservation
Clickstop, Inc.
Early Beginnings Inc. – Atkins
Frontier Co-op
Garling Construction – Belle Plaine
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach –
Benton County

Kirkwood Community College
– Benton County Center
MonkeyThis
Nature's Corner
Noah's Ark Preschool
Rabe Hardware
Shellsburg Elementary

Vinton-Shellsburg High School
Vinton-Urbana Veterinary Hospital
Virginia Gay Hospital

Number of Benton County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
194

Benton County student career
exploration experiences



85

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial
Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite
Tours, STEAM Institute, Career Fair



13

Internships



96

Job Shadows

“I learned a lot about not only nursing and what nurses do every day, but I learned things about myself that I didn't know before. I realized I love building relationships with new people and watching patients achieve their goals as they get better. The employees at Virginia Gay Hospital were big influences on me. Watching them take care of patients to make sure they are comfortable was truly amazing.”

– *Abbye Hendryx, Vinton-Shellsburg High School – Intern at Virginia Gay Hospital*

“This job shadow was so helpful. I learned a bit about what pre-med school is like. I feel more prepared for pre-med school now that I've learned a couple of things about it. They were super nice and answered all my questions. I learned how to conduct a patient interview. I had so much fun with the practice room. The host constructively criticized so I knew what to change and she made it fun while I was interviewing her.”

– *Emma Drahos, Student – Benton Community High School*

“Virginia Gay Hospital values our partnership with WLC and the ability to connect with the students in our community, providing meaningful and impactful learning experiences. We love hosting and meeting the students who participate in job shadows and internships in our facility and their exploration of healthcare opportunities that may lead to a lifelong career.”

– *Robin Martin, Foundation Director – Virginia Gay Hospital*



▶ CEDAR COUNTY

6 Schools

North Cedar Community School District

- North Cedar High School
- North Cedar Middle School

Tipton Community School District

- Tipton High School
- Tipton Middle School

West Branch Community School District

- West Branch High School
- West Branch Middle School

Business Hosts:

Bowtie Automotive Collision
Bridge Community Bank – Mechanicsville
Cedar County Co-Op, Tipton
Cedar County Historical Society
Cedar Ridge Dental
Cummins Manufacturing, Inc.
Fidelity Bank and Trust – Clarence
Hermsen Automotive

Iowa State University Extension and
Outreach – Cedar County
P&K Midwest – Lowden
Prairie Hills Assisted Living
River Valley Cooperative
RPM Revival
Sundstop Convenience Store
Tipton Adaptive Daycare

Tipton High School
Tipton Pharmacy
Tipton Police Department
USDA Cedar County Soil and
Water Conservation District
Vermeer
West Branch Animal Clinic

Number of Cedar County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

650

Cedar County student career
exploration experiences



613

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial
Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite
Tours, STEAM Institute, Career Fair



7

Internships



30

Job Shadows



“I enjoyed learning about a career in physical therapy. The people at Wapsi Physical Therapy were very welcoming and took the time to show me what they do on an everyday basis. If someone were to say they were thinking about an internship I would tell them to do it, because no matter what, you learn something even if you decide not to go into that career.”

– Laura Ruley, North Cedar High School – Intern at Wapsi Physical Therapy

“RPM Revival has been involved with our local community schools and WLC activities, such as mock interviews. We have found that this is a great exercise for the young people but also gives us a chance to see what the young folks are like out there! We have been very impressed with the kids we have been involved with. These schools are doing an excellent job with opportunities like this. I am hoping these kids see that there are a lot of opportunities locally that they might not have known about. Also, we are making sure they know there are great technical opportunities out there as an alternative to a four-year degree. Currently, we have just hired two young individuals to work with us this summer that we learned of through these opportunities. Keep up the great work!”

– Randy Amosson, Owner/General Manager – RPM Revival

“I wanted to thank you all for coordinating the ninth-grade interviews. The students seemed to have very positive remarks about the experience. My personal favorite: One student came up to me in the hallway and said, ‘Ms. Hosch, I TOTALLY crushed it!’ I also heard several students in the hallway talking about it afterwards and how well it went for them. Thank you for giving my students a positive experience and boosting their confidence for interviews. They are great kids and it is awesome to hear how good of an experience the mock interviews were, considering most were very nervous prior to the interview.”

– Holly Hosch, Guidance Counselor (7 – 12) – North Cedar Community School District



IOWA COUNTY

6 Schools

English Valleys Community School District
• English Valleys Jr./Sr. High School

HLV Community School District
• HLV High School
• HLV Middle School

Iowa Valley Community School District
• Iowa Valley Jr./Sr. High School

Williamsburg Community School District
• Williamsburg High School
• Williamsburg Middle School

Business Hosts:

Amana Elementary
Amana Society
AXIS Vision Care
Bayer Crop Science
City of Williamsburg
Clear Creek Amana Middle School
Compass Memorial Healthcare – Marengo

Crush IT
Elite Sports
Farmer's Trust & Savings
Iowa County Conservation Board
Iowa County Sheriff's Office
Just Automotive
Kinze Manufacturing

Mary Welsh Elementary – Williamsburg
Optimae LifeServices
Total Rehabilitation
Veterinary Medical Center
Williamsburg Manufacturing Co.
Williamsburg Recreation Department

Number of Iowa County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
340

Iowa County student career exploration experiences



298

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Tours, STEAM Institute, Career Fair



7

Internships



35

Job Shadows

“Job shadow opportunities like this have a great impact on what I do in high school and help me decide what I want to do in the future. It was helpful to have new perspectives and be able to talk firsthand to students studying to be physician assistants.”

– Tayler Long, Student – Williamsburg Jr./Sr. High School

“My job shadow helped me learn the fields of engineering that I was not interested in. It helped limit my field of options when I pick a college. I also learned what an engineer can come to expect on an average day of work. I liked being able to ask questions directly to engineers in the field. They could give firsthand experiences to help us decide how to prepare for a career.”

– Melana Blomme, Student – HLV High School

“Our partnerships with Workplace Learning Connection allows us to offer a wide range of experiences for students, such as workplace tours, internships, and partnership projects. Our partnership projects allow students to take what we do in the classroom and apply it to real-world projects. It's with the help of our industry partners and their willingness to let our students come to their business and use their equipment to complete these real-world projects, or their assistance in helping our school obtain the equipment so students can have the ability to access and run the equipment at our school.”

– Kevin Wilkinson, Teacher – Williamsburg Jr./Sr. High School



▶ JOHNSON COUNTY

18 Schools

Clear Creek – Amana Community School District

- Clear Creek – Amana High School
- Clear Creek – Amana Middle School

Iowa City Community School District

- City High School
- Elizabeth Tate High School
- Iowa City Home School Assistance Program
- Liberty High School

- Theodore Roosevelt Education Center (TREC)
- West High School
- North Central Junior High
- Northwest Junior High
- Southeast Junior High

Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa

Lone Tree Community School District

- Lone Tree High School
- Lone Tree Middle School

Regina Catholic Education Center

- Regina High School
- Regina Junior High

Solon Community School District

- Solon High School
- Solon Middle School

Business Hosts:

ACT

- Amy Becker Photography
- Bakeris Family Chiropractic
- C&R Pork Farms
- Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa
- City of Iowa City
- City of Solon
- CIVCO Medical Solutions – Coralville
- Coralville Fire Department
- Coralville Police Department
- Digital Diagnostics
- DNR – Iowa Geological Survey
- DWELL Home Furnishings & Interior Design
- Englert Theatre
- Fareway Grocery Store – Iowa City
- Geico
- Gourmet Dog Biscuit Bakery
- Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders
- GreenState AmeriCorps
- GreenState Credit Union – Coralville
- Grow Johnson County
- Hills Bank
- Hills Bank and Trust – Coralville
- Hy-Vee – 1st Avenue
- Imagine Therapy Solutions, PLC
- Iowa City Area Business Partnership
- Iowa City Area Development Group

- Iowa Flood Center
- Iowa Geological Survey
- Iowa House of Representatives
- Iowa Public Radio
- Iowa Raptor Project
- ISU Extension & Outreach: Johnson County
- Jet Air
- JMI Laboratories
- Johnson County Ambulance Service
- Johnson County Attorney's Office
- Johnson County Conservation Board
- Johnson County Medical Examiner's Dept.
- Junge Ford North Liberty
- Keller Williams Legacy Group – Coralville
- Kirkwood Academy Johnson County
- Kirkwood Community College – Career Services
- Kirkwood Community College – Iowa City Campus
- National Advanced Driving Simulator
- Neumann Monson Architects
- North Liberty Police Department
- Oaknoil Retirement Residence
- PCI Academy
- Pearson – Iowa City
- Schaeffer Chiropractic
- Shoemaker & Haaland Professional Engineers – Coralville
- Solon Public Library
- Solon State Bank – Tiffin
- South Slope Cooperative
- Southeast Iowa STEM Hub
- Stairway 5
- Stutsman's Inc.
- Sudden Impact Business Solutions
- Systems Unlimited, Inc. – Iowa City
- Target – Coralville
- Team Iowa Physical Therapy
- The ARC of Southeast Iowa
- The Celebration Farm, LLC
- The Englert Theatre
- The University of Iowa
- Tip Top Cakes

- Towncrest Pharmacy
- UIHC – Carver College of Medicine
- UIHC – Carver College of Medicine – Department of Neurology
- United Action for Youth
- United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties
- University of Iowa – Archaeology Paleontology & Museum Studies
- University of Iowa – Biology Department
- University of Iowa – College of Dentistry
- University of Iowa – College of Education
- University of Iowa – College of Engineering
- University of Iowa – Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
- University of Iowa – Department of Biology (Evolution Group)
- University of Iowa – Department of Biology (The Neurobiology Group)
- University of Iowa – Department of Chemistry
- University of Iowa – Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
- University of Iowa – Department of Occupational and Environmental Health
- University of Iowa – Department of Performing Arts
- University of Iowa – School of Art & Art History
- University of Iowa – School of Music
- University of Iowa – Stanley Museum of Art
- University of Iowa – Stead Family Children's Hospital
- University of Iowa – The Iowa Initiative for Artificial Intelligence
- University of Iowa – Tippie College of Business
- University of Iowa – University Relations
- University of Iowa Health Care
- University of Iowa Radiation Sciences
- University of Iowa Science Education Program
- University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art Velvet Coat
- Veteran's Administration Medical Center
- Watts Group
- Winds Reach Farm
- Woodruff Construction
- Woofables Gourmet Dog Bakery
- Workplace Learning Connection



Number of Johnson County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
3,642

Johnson County student career exploration experiences



3,368

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Tours, STEAM Institute, Career Fair



17

Internships



257

Job Shadows

“During my internship I got to shadow different mechanics to see what everyone does. I was able to do oil changes and tire rotations, while watching the more experienced work. They did a good job explaining what they were doing, so I understood. Toward the end of my internship, they offered me a job and I accepted!”

– Nathan Miller, Student – Solon High School

“Even with a worldwide pandemic, we need to help students prepare for the future. We will not be in this situation forever, and putting career exploration on hold would not be very responsible. High school students today have a lot of pressure to figure out what they want to do ‘when they grow up,’ and hopefully we can help ease some of that stress by presenting viable options for them. And ... we love interacting with students and showing off our profession!”

– Jennifer Maiers, Student Affairs Director – Radiation Sciences Program, The University of Iowa

“I would encourage every business professional to get involved with WLC’s work. It not only offers a great avenue for connecting with students and inspiring them to pursue career paths that are in demand in our workplaces, but it also can reinforce the specific skills that are critical for success.”

– Jennifer Daly, Director of Marketing – Leepfrog Technologies, Inc.

“You know, as a mom, it has been so gratifying to sit back and watch her path unfold. One thing just perfectly led to the next thing. Through shadows and Academy classes, students are able to get a first look at a career before they have any investment. They don’t have to take a year’s worth of courses at college to decide they don’t want to go into a specific field. Career exploration is an inexpensive way to try and discover your passion before college, which all parents can appreciate.”

– Rochelle Triggs, Parent of Former WLC Liberty High School Student

“Job shadows help all students, especially those from small towns or those who have limited access to a variety of career opportunities. These experiences open a window that could help lead to a really bright future. Even as some of these experiences move virtually, regardless of delivery, the message remains — experience equals knowledge, knowledge that would not otherwise be gained.”

– Shelby Bryce, K-12 School Counselor – Lone Tree Community Schools



JONES COUNTY

6 Schools

Anamosa Community School District

- Anamosa High School
- Anamosa Middle School

Jones Regional Education Center – Kirkwood

Midland Community School District

- Midland High School
- Midland Middle School

Monticello Community School District

- Monticello High School

Business Hosts:

Anamosa High School
Anamosa Veterinary Clinic
Back Home Chiropractic
F&M Bank - Anamosa
Innovative Ag Services
ITS – Infrastructure Technology Solutions
Jones County Conservation Dept.
Jones County Economic Development

Jones County Engineers
Jones County Sheriff's Office
Kromminga Motors – Monticello
Kyle Pegorick Trucking
Midland Elementary
Monticello Middle School
Monticello Rotary Club
Monticello Veterinary Clinic

Pharmacy Care Centre
Schneider Weers Insurance & Financial Solutions
Soper Plumbing, Heating and Electric
USDA – Jones County
Wapsi Physical Therapy
Wapsi River Wildlife Rehabilitation Project
Wayne Hall Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Number of Jones County Student Participants:



“This internship has opened very positive doors for me. It has led me to a job and probably a lifelong career. I could not be more thankful for this. I'm kind of one of those people who believes everything happens for a reason! I feel like part of the team at Rexco. It's like a second family. I love waking up every morning and going into work. Thank you again for providing me with this amazing opportunity!”

– Colton Borst, Student – Anamosa High School

“My job shadow gave me a lot of insight and helped me understand more of what the career is like. I learned about some of the tools they use, some techniques, which classes to take, and much more.”

– Caden Ungs, Student – Monticello High School

“We enjoy having students participate in our high school intern program, job shadows, career connection field days, and classroom visits. We believe on-site internships and job shadows give students the best opportunity to experience and explore different career paths. High school students completing internship opportunities are able to gain new skills and experiences while creating connections and acquiring job accomplishments that can lead to future job opportunities.”

– Michele K. Olson, Interpretive Naturalist – Jones County Conservation

“Workplace Learning Connection has been such a valuable asset to the Midland students. Our students have gained unforgettable experiences that will help them with their postsecondary careers. As a first-year counselor, I am beyond grateful for all the help and resources that Workplace Learning Connection has provided for me and the Midland students.”

– Mackenzie Lasack, School Counselor – Midland Middle/High School

44 Schools

Alburnett Community School District

- Alburnett Middle/High School

Cedar Rapids Community School District

- Cedar Rapids Home School Assistance
- Iowa BIG
- Jefferson High School
- Kennedy High School
- Metro High School
- Washington High School
- Franklin Middle School
- Harding Middle School
- McKinley Middle School
- Roosevelt Middle School
- Taft Middle School
- Wilson Middle School

Cedar Rapids Metro Catholic Education System

- Xavier High School
- Regis Middle School
- LaSalle Middle School

Cedar Valley Christian

Center Point-Urbana Community School District

- Center Point-Urbana High School
- Center Point-Urbana Middle School

Central City Community School District

- Central City Senior High School
- Central City Junior High School

College Community School District

- Prairie Delta Alternative High School
- Prairie High School
- Prairie Point Middle School and 9th Grade Academy
- Prairie Creek Intermediate School

Isaac Newton Christian Academy

Linn-Mar Community School District

- COMPASS Alternative Center
- Linn-Mar High School
- Linn-Mar Home School Assistance Program
- Excelsior Middle School
- Oak Ridge Middle School

Linn County Regional Center

- Kirkwood Community College

Lisbon Community School District

- Lisbon High School
- Lisbon Middle School

Marion Independent School District

- Marion Home School Assistance Program
- Marion High School
- Vernon Middle School

Mount Vernon Community School District

- Mount Vernon High School
- Mount Vernon Middle School

North Linn Community School District

- North Linn High School
- North Linn Middle School

Springville Community School District

- Springville Secondary School

St. Joseph's Catholic School

Business Hosts:

Ability Physical Therapy – Marion

Abode Companies

African American Museum of Iowa

Alliant Energy – Cedar Rapids Operating

AmeriCorps

Animal Care Hospital

Antioch Christian Church

Bank of the West

Barnes Manufacturing

Bass Farms

Boys and Girls Club of Cedar Rapids

Bricklayer and Allied Craftworkers

Campaign – U.S. Representative Ashley Hinson

Capri Cosmetology College – Cedar Rapids

CBS2 FOX 28

Cedar Memorial Funeral Home

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission

Cedar Rapids Community Schools

Cedar Rapids Educational Leadership

and Support Center

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Cedar Rapids Police Department

Cedar Rapids Public Library

Cedar Valley Humane Society

City of Cedar Rapids

City of Fairfax – Public Works

City of Hiawatha

City of Marion

Clark's Pharmacy

Coe College

Collins Aerospace

CRST International, Inc.

Don Hummer Trucking

Eastern Iowa Airport

FBI

Fehr Graham

Five Rivers Carpenter's Apprenticeship

Form Function Studio

Frey Pet Hospital

General Mills

Giving Tree Theater

Goodwill Industries of SE Iowa

Graham Animal Hospital

Hand in Hand – Barrington Parkway Marion

Hands Up Communications

Hiawatha Public Library

Hills Bank and Trust – Marion 7th Ave.

Hogan – Hansen Accounting

Home Town Restyling

HR Green, Inc.

Hy-Vee – Johnson Avenue

IBEW Local 405

Informatics, Inc.

Iowa Farm Bureau

Iowa Physical Therapy (Mt. Vernon)

Iowa Realty – Cedar Rapids

Iowa Realty – Marion

Iowa State University Extension

and Outreach – Linn County

Iowa Storm Resource Center

Ironworkers Local 89

ITC Midwest

KCRG TV-9

Keller Williams Legacy Group – Cedar Rapids

KGAN CBS 2/KFXA FOX 28

Kids Inc. Marion

Kirkwood Community College

– Agricultural Science

Kirkwood Community College – Allied Health

Kirkwood Community College – Athletics

Kirkwood Community College

– Automotive Academy

Kirkwood Community College

– Center for Healthcare Simulation

Kirkwood Community College

– Continuing Education

and Training Services

Kirkwood Community College

– Hospitality Arts Center for Excellence

Kirkwood Community College

– Human Resources

Kirkwood Community College

– Industrial Technologies

Kirkwood Community College – Nursing

Kirkwood Center for Hospitality Arts

Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center

Linn County Board of Supervisors

Linn County Co-Op

Linn County Manager

Linn County REC

Linn-Mar Community School District

M. Victoria Cole Law Firm

Marion Chamber of Commerce

Marion Dental

Marion Fire Department

Marion Independent School District

Marion Police Department

Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C.

McGrath Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram

McGrath Ford

Meier Veterinary Clinic

Mercy Health Plaza

Mercy Medical Center



▶ LINN COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiologic Technology
 Miller Family Eyecare
 MSI Mold Builders
 Neighbor Insurance – Alburnett
 New Leader Manufacturing
 NewBoCo
 OPN Architects, Inc. – Cedar Rapids
 P&N Flight and Charter
 Parker Hannifin Corporation
 Pat McGrath Chevyland
 Performance Therapies – Hiawatha
 Pet Health Center of Mount Vernon
 Petersen Pet Hospital, P.C.
 Physician's Clinic of Iowa
 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #125
 Price Industrial Electric, Inc.
 Radiology Consultants of Iowa
 RAYGUN
 Rayser Holdings (CarePro Health Services)
 Red Star Yeast
 Rexco Equipment, Inc.
 Rock 108

Ross Veterinary Clinic
 RSM
 Ruffalo Noel Levitz
 Schneider Electric
 SCOUT of Marion
 Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc.
 Skogman Realty
 Skyworks Solutions Inc.
 Star Food Service Equipment and Repair
 Step By Step Daycare
 Strellner Agency
 Syncbak
 Tanager Place
 The Gazette Company
 The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
 The Waldinger Corporation
 Theatre Cedar Rapids
 Thompson Truck & Trailer
 Timberline Manufacturing
 TINT – A Visual Company
 TitanTV, Inc.
 To The Rescue

Top Shape Gym
 Townsquare Media – KHAK/KDAT/KRNA
 Toyota Financial Services
 Transamerica
 Trinity Lutheran School
 TrueNorth Companies
 UFG Insurance
 United States Courthouse
 Unity Point Health – St. Luke's Hospital
 US Bank – Cedar Rapids Downtown
 Veridian Credit Union
 Veterans Memorial Commission
 Wellness Within You
 Wells Fargo Bank – 1st Ave. Cedar Rapids
 West Plains Engineering, Inc.
 Willett, Hofmann & Associates
 Workplace Learning Connection – Hiawatha
 Workplace Learning Connection Volunteer Group
 WorldTrend Financial

Number of Linn County Student Participants:



"I liked that even though it was virtual, I got the full experience and was able to feel like I was truly present at the university. I have been pretty uneasy about pursuing pharmacy in college, but after this job shadow, I learned that it sounds like a perfect fit for me. Specifically, the interaction with people, the challenge, and the opportunities presented."

– Hannah Lester, Student – Prairie High School

"One thing that they told us is how important it was to pick a career that we not only enjoyed but could see ourselves working on down the road. We also talked about three things necessary to succeed in any job: attitude, attendance, and work ethic. I was able to interact with the other job shadow participants and the hosts a lot more than at some of my previous job shadows. We were able to test our skill at welding on a virtual welding simulator that they had. It was a fun challenge for me, even though I had no welding experience whatsoever."

– Carl Steinlage, Student – Marion Home School Assistance Program

"Working with high school students through Workplace Learning Connection has invigorated my career. I take great pride in helping students understand the importance of journalism, writing well in whatever they choose to do and, most importantly, telling good stories."

– J.R. Ogden, Sports Editor – The Gazette

"I would strongly recommend that other parents encourage their companies to participate. There are some extremely bright and talented students in our area, and we should give them a glimpse of the work we do in this community as a way to encourage them to stay, or to return to this community when they enter the workforce. Plus, it just feels really good to know that you've helped a young person potentially shape their future."

– Audrey Wheeler, Operations Director – Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

"The virtual version of STEAM Institute allowed for a week of exploration, not just an afternoon. We were able to join the live presentations on Monday to kick off our week, and then used the videos the rest of the week. Viewing the videos gave students more careers to explore and they were able to follow their own interests. The virtual version isn't going to become my preferred version of STEAM Institute, but it was definitely better than I imagined."

– Melissa Murphy, Counselor – Springville Middle School

"I was thinking about the unique opportunities that we, as homeschoolers, have here in Iowa. Having lived in both California and Oregon, I'm well aware that homeschoolers don't always have access to community college courses, let alone the amazing opportunities of internships, job shadows, and the programs offered through the Kirkwood Academy courses and dual enrollment. Iowans, and especially those living in the Cedar Rapids area, have it SO good! So far, we've had four kids participate in Kirkwood and WLC-sponsored classes and activities. These opportunities truly have been instrumental in helping to guide their future choices and help me to be academically rigorous in our homeschool. After 20 years of homeschooling I feel fairly adept, but obviously not on par with your amazing Dr. Angelella for Composition, and I can't teach beyond Algebra 2 to save my life! I can't provide internships nor can I teach welding and provide a tiny house for them to build — just a beginning of our limitations! The value of having these wider experiences *before* they head off to college is incredible. Thank you to you and to the team that makes all of this possible. And keep up the good work."

– Kelly Pint, Marion Home School Assistance Program Parent



WASHINGTON COUNTY

9 Schools

Highland Community School District

- Highland High School
- Highland Middle School

Hillcrest Academy

Mid-Prairie Community School District

- Mid-Prairie High School
- Mid-Prairie Middle School

Washington Community School District

- Washington High School
- Washington Middle School

Washington Kirkwood Regional Center

Washington Regional Alternative Program

Business Hosts:

Bazooka Farmstar, Inc.
 Bright Futures Chiropractic
 Cabinet Works
 Christopher Grier, Chiropractor
 CIVCO Medical Solutions Kalona
 Dantiques
 Eden Salon & Spa
 Evans Welding
 Freeman Foods
 Gingerich Well & Pump Service, LLC
 Hairtage Salon & Tanning

JK Applications
 Jones & Eden Funeral Home
 Kalona Cooperative Technology Company (KCTC)
 Kalona Realty
 KC Hall
 Kirkwood Kirkwood Community College
 – Washington County Regional Center
 K-L Gent, Inc.
 Kuenster Plumbing, Heating & Air, LLC
 M&M Truck & Auto Body
 Mid-Prairie East Elementary School
 Mid-Prairie Middle School

Parkview Manor
 Performance Therapies – Kalona
 Pleasantview Home
 Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
 Riverside Family Dental Practice
 United Animal Health, Inc.
 Washington County Ambulance
 Washington County Conservation
 Washington County Hospital and Clinics
 Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Wellman Automotive
 Westside Auto Repair

Number of Washington County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
766

Jones County student career exploration experiences



708

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Tours, STEAM Institute, Career Fair



22

Internships



36

Job Shadows



“During my internship, I learned that I want to be an elementary teacher for sure. I really enjoyed getting to know the students and helping them learn new skills. I got to listen to students read and help them with spelling and math worksheets. This was a great experience and I am very grateful I was able to do it, even with the pandemic going on. I would recommend it to anyone thinking about doing an internship.”

– Madelyn Bender, Mid-Prairie High School – Intern at Mid-Prairie East Elementary School

“Washington County Ambulance Service has had a great experience hosting Workplace Learning Connection internships and shadows. With the ever-changing medical field, pandemics and, low number of individuals entering the field, we are always happy to promote EMS in a positive light. EMTs and paramedics are now being utilized within the hospitals alongside nurses, making it very difficult for ambulance services to be fully staffed. Washington County Ambulance Service would like to thank WLC and everyone who supports students interested in employment in EMS.”

– Jeremy A. Peck, Director – Washington County Ambulance Service

“I have had the privilege of working with Workplace Learning Connection for the last seven years, and my favorite component is their staff. The staff are relationship experts! They maintain relationships, collect data important to economic growth, and build new relationships based on student interest. Too often they do not see the impact of their endeavors. As a teacher I often hear from current and former students how fortunate Mid-Prairie is to have the services of Workplace Learning Connection.”

– Kurtis Broeg, Career Exploration Coordinator/High School ELP Coordinator – Mid-Prairie High School

VALUE OF VIRTUAL

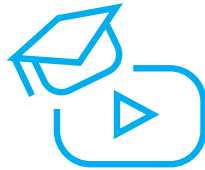
Career Speaker Library

In the last year we launched the WLC Virtual Career Speaker Library to introduce students and educators to local careers. These virtual presentations allowed career exploration to continue safely, equitably, and at a time convenient for educators and students. We saw so much value in this resource that it will continue to be an offering in the future. Thank you to the hundreds of valued partners who offered their time to help share their career!



70+

Career Speaker Videos



17,100

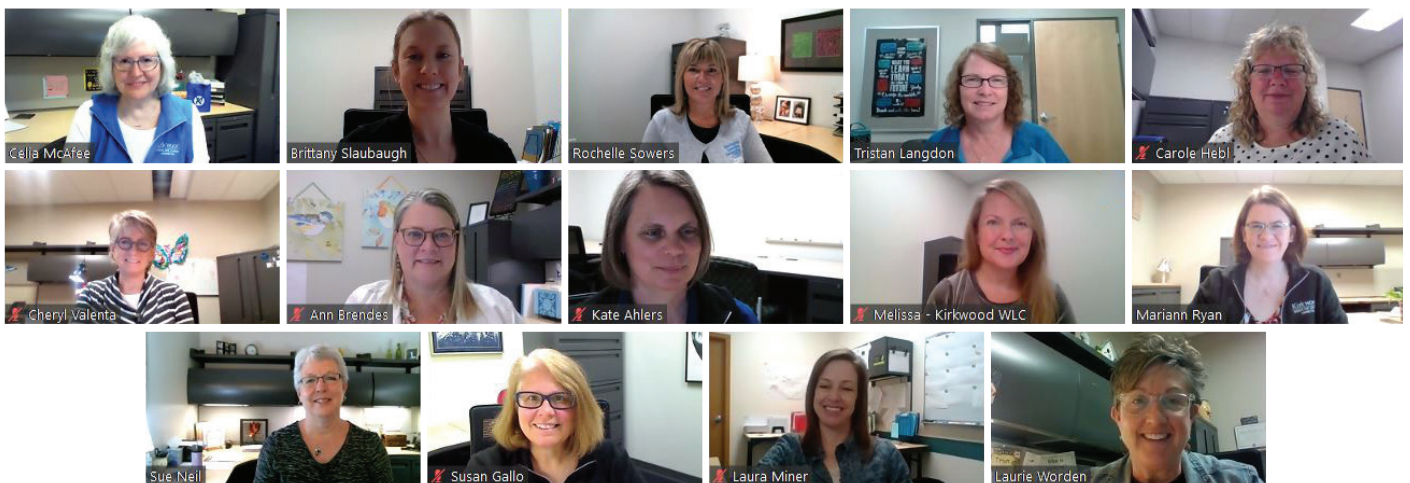
Views



1,200+

Hours of Watch Time

► WLC TEAM FY21



Top row (left to right): Celia McAfee, Brittany Slaubaugh, Rochelle Sowers, Tristan Langdon, Carole Hebl

Middle row (left to right): Cheryl Valenta, Ann Brendes, Kate Ahlers, Melissa Kumle-Hammes, Mariann Ryan

Bottom row (left to right): Sue Neil, Susan Gallo, Laura Miner, Laurie Worden

PROGRAM IMPACTS

“This Kirkwood internship introduced me to a career field that I had no idea I wanted to pursue and changed the direction of my life. I HIGHLY recommend trying new experiences through the WLC internship program because you never know where they will take you.”

– Braden Nelson, Former Student – Iowa City West High School



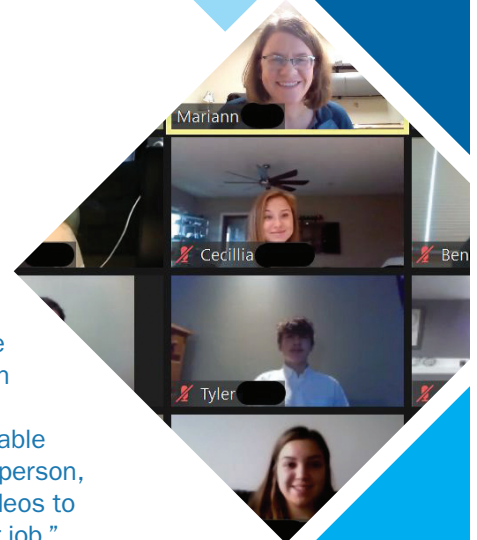
“My internship has really brought to life a dream I have had for a long time of becoming a special education teacher. Thank you, WLC!”

– Katravia Burns – Anamosa High School
– Intern at Anamosa High School



“I liked that even though the job shadow was virtual, I still found it very helpful in educating me on a career in physical therapy. The job shadow host included videos of what we would've seen at an in-person job shadow, which I both found helpful and enjoyed. The host did a very good job of making a clear and understandable presentation. So even though we couldn't be in-person, she included pictures, past experiences, and videos to help enhance our learning/understanding of her job.”

– Jaymeson Westphal, Student – Prairie High School



“My internship through Workplace Learning Connection has really helped develop skills I wouldn't have otherwise learned on my own. Taking charge of my own projects and having the responsibility that comes with the work has taught me important lessons in planning and execution, as well as where I can improve regarding other skills employers look for. I would honestly recommend to anyone, whether they know what they want to do or not, it's worth it to try something new.”

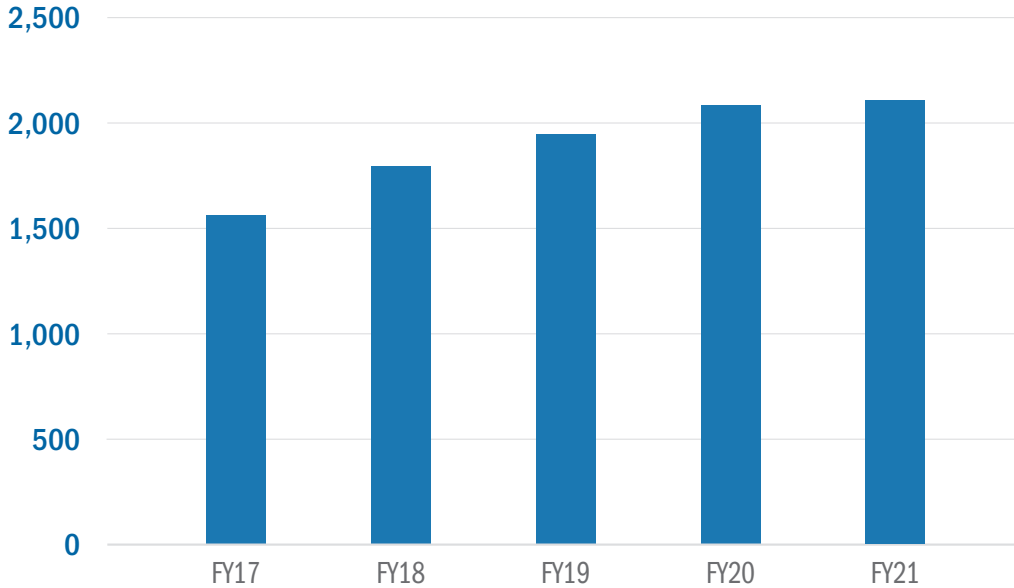
– Adama Katile – Iowa City West High School
– Intern at University of Iowa Health Care



40%
of interns offered
additional opportunities.

▶ IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS PARTNERS

Business and Industry Volunteer Engagement



Active Organizations FY17-FY21

73%

of job shadow students surveyed said their experience positively influenced their decision to live and work in Iowa.

93%

of job shadow students surveyed indicated increased awareness of local career opportunities.



“Workplace Learning Connection is one of the tools in our toolbox that connects businesses to our future workforce! The experience of participating in Workplace Learning Connection programming provides so many opportunities. Opportunities for our employers by growing our workforce, and streamlines career choices for our young adults. This valuable program allows employers a sneak peek at exemplary students, and for the students offers an opportunity to gain work experience. As a city manager, I am always amazed by students’ ability to reach beyond what is taught in school and navigate a given project while offering a broader perspective of the task at hand. Workplace Learning Connection is a tool you do not want to be without, it is necessary as we build our future workforce one student at a time.”

– Kim Downs, City Manager

– Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation

CONNECTING TODAY'S STUDENTS TO TOMORROW'S CAREERS

Kirkwood
WORKPLACE LEARNING
CONNECTION

Workplace Learning Connection (WLC) connects middle and high school students and educators in the region to regional businesses through career awareness, exploration, and work-based learning opportunities!

Connect to Your Future Workforce

WLC work-based learning services inform, prepare, and better align local students to local careers! Participating in WLC Career Events, Job Shadows, Internships, and Educator Professional Development provides business partners an opportunity to:

- Develop relationships with potential future employees
- Increase student awareness of career opportunities within your business and industry
- Enhance your business's reputation within the community
- Make a difference in the lives of our students

DISCOVER

- See firsthand what a job is really like
- Get questions answered by career professionals
- Learn what essential skills, training, and education is needed

EXPLORE

- Satisfy your curiosity about a career
- Uncover your likes and dislikes

GET AHEAD

- Add experience that helps you stand out
- Learn what you can do now to jump-start your career
- Save time and money

CONNECT

- Meet local professionals and build your network
- Explore regional industries and career opportunities

VENTURE OUT

- Take your learning beyond the classroom
- Have fun while enjoying new experiences



Workplace Learning
Connection is a member of



www.iowain.org

www.kirkwood.edu/wlc

 @WorkplaceLearningConnection

 Workplace Learning Connection