

2025 – '26

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

BENTON COUNTY CENTER
111 W. 3rd St.
Vinton, Iowa 52349

JONES COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER
220 Welter Dr.
Monticello, Iowa 52310

WASHINGTON COUNTY
REGIONAL CENTER
2192 Lexington Blvd.
Washington, Iowa 52353

IOWA COUNTY CENTER
200 West St.
Williamsburg, Iowa 52361



Kirkwood
WORKPLACE LEARNING
CONNECTION

CONNECTING TODAY'S STUDENTS TO TOMORROW'S CAREERS

Workplace Learning Connection (WLC) connects middle and high school students and educators to regional businesses through career awareness, career 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, and Internships** provides business partners an opportunity to:

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

Students Get the Opportunity To:

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 their curiosity about a career
- Uncover their likes and dislikes

GET AHEAD

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

CONNECT

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

VENTURE OUT

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



► 2025 – '26 AT A GLANCE

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

FY26 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

2025 – '26 Revenue Sources

Kirkwood Community College (General Fund)	\$50,000	5%
State and Federal Grants (Kirkwood: Perkins, WTED)	\$465,872	45%
K-12 School District Fees for Services	\$223,733	22%
28E Agreement Revenues	\$184,331	18%
Contributions, County Supervisors, Local Grants	\$110,325	10%
Total	\$1,034,261	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

Individual Contributors:

Anonymous
Kristine Bullock
Laura Miner

Employer Contributions:

BAE Systems
Collins Aerospace
Van Meter
Iowa City Press-Citizen (in-kind)

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BENTON COUNTY

8 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

Business Hosts:

Athletico – Belle Plaine
Atkins Elementary School
Atkins Savings Bank
Barr & Sons Electric LLC
Belle Plaine Parks & Recreation Dept.
Belle Plaine Police Department
Benton Community School District
Benton County Conservation
Betterton Chiropractic
Blairstown Public Library
Bodensteiner Implement – Rowley
Center Point-Urbana Intermediate School
City of Atkins
City of Vinton – Vinton Municipal Electric Utility
Clickstop, Inc.
Clipper Corner
Creative Kids Child Care
Dr. Sara Stuefen, DDS Family Dentistry
Edwards Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning
Elwick Electric
Farmers Savings Bank & Trust – Vinton
Frontier Co-Op – Norway
Garling Construction – Belle Plaine
Grimm Construction
Ideal Industries
Iowa Mold & Engineering, Inc.
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Benton County
John Deere – Waterloo Works
K&W Electric

Benton County Home School Assistance Program

Central Lutheran School

Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District

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

Keystone Elementary School
Keystone Nursing Care Center, Inc
LaGrange Pharmacy – Virginia Gay Hospital
Longfellow Elementary – Belle Plaine
Main Street Bakery and Cafe
Manatt's Incorporated – Belle Plaine
McClure Financial Services
MidWestOne Bank – Belle Plaine
North Benton Ambulance
North Tama/Keystone Veterinary Clinic – Keystone
Norway Elementary School
P&K Midwest – Keystone
Rabe Hardware
Thomas Company
Thys Auto Group – Blairstown
Tilford Elementary School
Titan Machinery – Blairstown
USA Communications
Van Eschen-Strong/Eden Insurance Company
Vinton Newspapers/Vinton Livewire
Vinton Parks & Recreation Dept.
Vinton Police Department
Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District
Vinton-Shellsburg High School
Vinton-Urbana Veterinary Hospital
Virginia Gay Hospital
Virginia Gay Hospital – Physical Therapy Department
Wendling Quarries

Number of Benton County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
1,830

Benton County Student Career Exploration Experiences



1,501

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



41

Internships



288

Job Shadows



"My internship experience definitely confirmed the trades as a possible future career path for me. Thomas Company even said they would be willing to hire me back after graduation if I am interested. I enjoyed getting to learn so many new skills that can not only benefit me in a work setting, but also save me money if I need to do repairs on my own in the future. I would recommend an internship to other students because it can help you feel less worried about your future and give you a better understanding of what careers you enjoy."

– Kayden Marks, Benton Community High School – WLC Summer 2025 Intern at Thomas Company

"The professionalism and intelligence displayed by these WLC students was impressive, and the skills they already have will certainly serve them well in the future. Vinton Newspapers is excited to see the path they choose and is honored to have been part of their earliest career steps."

– Amy Stourac, News Editor – Vinton Newspapers

"The students really enjoyed attending the WLC career fair event and expanding their awareness of local businesses. The fair was a great opportunity for students to practice talking to professionals."

– Makenna Evans, Counselor – Belle Plaine Junior/Senior High School



▶ 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:

Albaugh P.H.C. Inc
Allsteel – HNI
Altorfer, Inc. – West Branch
Bennett Public Library
Bridge Community Bank – Mechanicsville
Brothers Market – Tipton
Brown's West Branch Ford
Captured + Curated
Cedar County Conservation
Cedar County Co-Op, Tipton
Cedar County Co-Op, West Branch
Cedar County Fairgrounds
Cedar County Public Health
Cedar Ridge Dental – Tipton
Circle P Veterinary Services
Circle P Veterinary Services – Tipton
City of Tipton
Cummins Manufacturing, Inc.
Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Cedar County
LattaHarris, LLP – Tipton
Liberty Pattern Company
Local 25 Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC
Main Street Sweets
Main Street West Branch
O'Rourke Motors, Inc.

Progressive Rehab. Assoc., LLC – Tipton
Raptor Turf Landscaping
River Valley Cooperative
Rock Valley Physical Therapy – West Branch
Rock Valley Physical Therapy – Wilton
RPM Revival
Simpson Memorial Home
State Farm Insurance – Tipton
Thompson Swine Genetics
Tipton Ambulance Service
Tipton Chamber of Commerce/
Economic Development Office
Tipton Elementary School
Tipton Pharmacy
Tipton Police Department
TSF Structures, Inc.
UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine – Tipton
West Branch Animal Clinic
West Branch Community School District
West Branch Elementary
West Branch Family Dentistry
West Branch High School
West Branch Police Department
West Branch Roofing
West Branch Times
Wilton Retirement Community



"I highly valued my WLC job shadow experience at West Branch Family Dentistry because it taught me a lot about the dental field and showed me exactly what they do in a day. I liked being able to see step by step what Kelly did before, during, and after her patients' appointments."

– Lander Malloy, Student – West Branch High School

"I truly value our relationship with WLC. They work within the community and alongside the Tipton schools to show the youth what our town and the surrounding areas have to offer. I feel it's important for young people to see what opportunities there are after high school, not only with continued education, but also by directly entering the workforce. It's also a great opportunity for local employers to show students all the career opportunities that their own rural communities have to offer. I am pleased to say we have even gained a few quality employees along the way."

– Abby Cummins-VanScoy, Vice President/Material Manager – Cummins Manufacturing, Inc.

"Our partnership with WLC has encouraged more students to put themselves out there and make connections. The mock interview process has been very helpful for our students as it makes them do something that is uncomfortable, but something they will all have to do at some point in their life. They get feedback on what they did well and what they can improve on in a no-pressure environment. We have also seen more students completing job shadows and internships this year, which is giving the students valuable learning experiences. Some students have even made changes to their future plans after completing a job shadow or internship."

– Miranda Sharp, Counselor – West Branch High School

Number of Cedar County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

1,781

Cedar County Student Career Exploration Experiences



1,656

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



49

Internships



76

Job Shadows



IOWA COUNTY

4 Schools

English Valleys Community School District

- English Valleys Jr/Sr High School

H-L-V Community School District

- H-L-V Junior-Senior High School

Iowa Valley Community School District

- Iowa Valley Jr/Sr High School

Williamsburg Community School District

- Williamsburg Jr-Sr High School

Business Hosts:

Ackerman Plumbing – Williamsburg

Amana Elementary

Amana Society, Inc.

Axis Vision Care – Williamsburg

Bayer Crop Science – Williamsburg

Bear Creek Design Studio

Belland Plumbing & Heating

Burg Insurance

Capper Auto Group – Williamsburg

Carnforth Veterinary Clinic

Colonial Manor of Amana

Compass Memorial Healthcare – Marengo

Don Hummer Trucking – Homestead

Edward Jones Investment

Elevance Health/Wellpoint

Farmers Trust & Savings Bank – Williamsburg

First Presbyterian Church – Williamsburg

Grinnell Municipal Airport

Grinnell State Bank – Marengo

Highland Ridge Senior Living Community

Hills Bank – Williamsburg

HLV High School

Impressionz Salon & Spa

Iowa County Ambulance Service – Marengo

Iowa County Conservation Board

Iowa County Emergency Management

Iowa County Sheriff's Office

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach –
Iowa County

Iowa Valley Elementary

Iowa Valley Jr./Sr. High

Iowa Valley Resource Conservation
& Development

J&S Farm Supply

Keystone Savings Bank – Marengo

Kinze Manufacturing, Inc.

Kinzenbaw Earthmoving

Magna International – Williamsburg
Manufacturing

Marengo Police Department

Mary Welsh Elementary – Williamsburg

Murphy Electrical Services, LLC

Navigation Play

Ox Yoke Inn

Progressive Rehabilitation Associates, LLC –
Williamsburg

Relion

River Valley Family Chiropractic – Marengo

Rosa's Flowers & Gifts

Safe Haven of Iowa County

Sage + Saffron Beauty Co.

Sinclair Tractor (STI) – Sigourney

The Belland Team

The Gathering Barn

The Shoppe Hair Designers

Total Rehab

Towncrest Pharmacy – Marengo

University of Iowa Health Care – Williamsburg

USDA Iowa County

Uthoff Chiropractic

Veterinary Medical Center

WCSD Staff Child Care

Whirlpool Corporation

Williamsburg Community Child Care Center

Williamsburg Dental Health Clinic

Williamsburg Jr.-Sr. High School

Williamsburg Recreation Department

Williamsburg Smiles Dental Clinic

Number of Iowa County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

1,509

Iowa County Student Career
Exploration Experiences



1,215

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy
Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory
Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



33

Internships



261

Job Shadows



"My Rehabilitation Service Day job shadow at Mercy Hospital helped me learn a lot more about three different types of rehabilitation therapies — physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. We did several hands-on activities that gave insight into the job and patients' experiences. I loved getting to see the hospital, and my favorite part was learning how swallowing works."

– Laylah Wehner, Student – Williamsburg High School

"Hosting job shadows allows students to see the beauty industry beyond the textbook. They get to watch real clients, real techniques, and real business operations in action. It's one of the most valuable ways to understand what school prepares you for — and what a future career in a salon can truly look like."

– Brooke Yelland, Owner – Sage + Saffron Beauty Co.

"STEAM Institute is one of my favorite Workplace Learning Connection trips of the year. The hands-on activities are fun and engaging, which has my students learning without even realizing [it]. My seventh graders, from a small rural school, leave with more knowledge about STEAM careers."

– Heather Davidson, K-12 School Counselor – English Valleys Community School District



▶ JOHNSON COUNTY

16 Schools

Clear Creek Amana Community School District

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

Iowa City Community School District

- Elizabeth Tate High School
- Iowa City High School
- Iowa City Home School Assistance Program
- Liberty High School
- Theodore Roosevelt Education Center (TREC)
- West Senior High School

- North Central Middle School
- Northwest Middle School
- Southeast Middle School

Lone Tree Community School District

- Lone Tree High School
- Lone Tree Middle School

Regina Catholic Education Center

- Regina Jr./Sr. High School

Solon Community School District

- Solon High School
- Solon Middle School

Business Hosts:

Above & Beyond Heating
and Air Conditioning, LLC

ACT

Adriana's Salon & Boutique

American Family Insurance

AstraZeneca

Axis Vision Care – Tiffin

Bakeris Family Chiropractic

Best Friends Veterinary Care

Big Grove Brewery

Billion Chevrolet Buick GMC

Bio::Neos, Inc.

Bowman Chiropractic Associates, PC of Iowa City

Bridge Community Bank – Solon

Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails Veterinary Hospital

Calyx Creek Lavender & Lodging

ChildServe

Christine Grant Elementary

City of Coralville – Engineering

City of Iowa City, Parks and Recreation

CIVCO Medical Solutions

Clear Creek Amana High School

Clear Creek Amana Middle School

Clear Creek Dog Resort and Spaw

Clear Creek Elementary School

Clipper Early Childhood Academy

Cobra Electric, LLC

Colony Acres Family Farm

Conlon Construction

Coralville Fire Department

Coralville Parks and Recreation

Coralville Police Department

Corcentric

Craft Salon and Spa

Croco Orthodontics

DC 81 Locals 581 and 1178

DNR – Iowa Geological Survey

DNR – Lake MacBride

Dr. Andrews Plastic Surgery

DWELL Home Furnishings & Interior Design

East Ridge Elementary School

Eastern Iowa Rehabilitation Hospital

ENT Medical Services

Fareway Stores, Inc. – Tiffin

Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank

First Interstate Bank

Fitzpatrick Family Chiropractic

Friends of the Animal Center Foundation

Garner Elementary

Gay and Cihra Funeral and Cremation Service

Gentle Family Dentists

Grant Wood Elementary School

Greater Iowa City

Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders

Association

GreenState Credit Union – Coralville

GreenState Credit Union – Financial Center

GreenState Credit Union – North Liberty

Greg Reimann, CPA

Groovy Katz Salon & Spa

Hanger Clinic: Prosthetics & Orthotics Solutions

Hart Family Dentistry

Hart-Frederick Consultants PC.

Hills Bank – Hills

Hills Bank – North Liberty Forevergreen

Hills Bank and Trust – Coralville

Hoover Elementary School

Hyatt Regency Coralville

Hy-Vee Crosspark

Iowa Central ICCSD Bus Barn

Integrated DNA Technologies

Iowa – Legislature – House

Iowa Army National Guard – Iowa City

Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center

Iowa City Community School District

Iowa City Fire Department

Iowa City Free Medical & Dental Clinic

Iowa City Press-Citizen

Iowa Donor Network

Iowa Flood Center

Iowa Heartlanders ECHL Hockey

Iowa State University Extension

and Outreach – Story County

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

Jet Air, Inc.

Johnson County

Affordable Housing Coalition

Ambulance Service

Attorney's Office

Board of Supervisors

Conservation

Public Defender's Office

Sheriff's Department

Jon's Ice Cream

Junge Ford North Liberty

KCE Champions at Christine Grant Elementary

KCE Champions at Hoover Elementary

King's Auto Repair

Kirkwood Community College

Career Services

Dean of Students

Kirkwood Elementary

Lakeview Elementary

LattaHarris LLP – Iowa City

Leapfrog Technologies

Liberty High School

Little Village Magazine

Lone Tree Elementary

Megan Recker Design

Melrose Meadows

Menards

MidAmerican Energy Company

MidWest Medical Transport Co. (MMT)

MidWestOne Bank – Clinton Street, Iowa City

Miracles in Motion

Modus Engineering

Montessori Children's Garden

Multicultural Development Center of Iowa

Muscatine Power and Water

Neumann Monson Architects

Nolan Landscaping

North Bend Elementary

Number of Johnson County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

10,338

Johnson County Student Career
Exploration Experiences



9,151

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy
Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory
Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



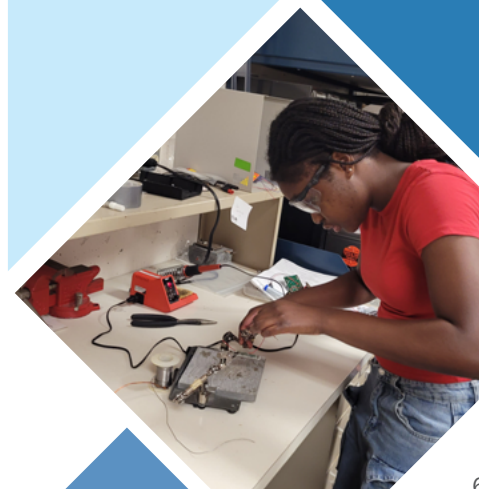
223

Internships



1,009

Job Shadows



▶ JOHNSON COUNTY (CONTINUED)

North Liberty Community Pantry
 North Liberty Library
 North Liberty Police Department
 NuCara Pharmacy
 Oaknoll Retirement Residence
 Old Capitol Kiwanis
 Paws at Play with Selena
 PCI Academy
 Pearson – Iowa City
 Pediatric Associates of UI Stead
 Family Children's Hospital – Coralville
 Performance Health & Fitness
 Performance Therapies – Coralville
 Pet Health Center of Tiffin
 Premier Automotive, Inc.
 Progressive Rehabilitation Associates –
 Scott Boulevard
 Progressive Rehabilitation – CoralWest
 Progressive Rehabilitation – Tiffin
 Proteus Inc.
 Savant Wealth Management
 Shimek Elementary School – ICCSD
 Shive-Hattery, Inc. Architecture & Engineering –
 Iowa City
 Shoemaker & Haaland – Coralville
 Solon State Bank
 Solutions Management Group (SMG)
 Southeast Iowa Orthodontics
 Southeast Middle School
 St. Mary's Catholic Church – Solon
 Steindler Orthopedic Clinic
 Stew and Lenore Hansen Football
 Performance Center
 Storyline Multimedia
 Studio Combine
 Stutsmans Inc.
 Sudden Impact Business Solutions
 Sueppel's Siding & Remodeling
 Systems Unlimited, Inc. – Iowa City
 Target – Coralville
 Team Iowa Physical Therapy

Terra Products Co.
 The Englert Theatre
 The Housing Fellowship
 The Jill Armstrong Team
 The Summit of Coralville
 (formerly Grand Living at Bridgewater)
 Think Iowa City
 Towler Photography
 Towncrest Pharmacy
 University of Iowa Health Care
 Carver College of Medicine –
 Department of Neurology
 Carver College of Medicine –
 Department of Psychiatry
 Carver College of Medicine –
 Department of Radiology
 Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
 Marketing and Communications
 Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus
 Radiation Services
 Sports Medicine – Prairie Meadow Drive
 University of Iowa Children's Hospital
 University of Iowa Health Care North
 Liberty Campus
 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
 University of Iowa
 Admissions
 Army ROTC
 Athletic Department Sports Marketing
 Campus Recreation and Wellness Center
 College of Dentistry
 College of Education
 College of Engineering
 College of Nursing
 College of Pharmacy
 Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology
 Department of Biology (Evolution Group)
 Department of Biomedical Engineering
 Department of Chemistry
 Department of Mechanical Engineering
 Department of Physics and Astronomy

Outreach Program
 Department of Physics and Astronomy
 Department of Public Safety
 Driving Safety Research Institute
 Hancher
 Human Resources
 Hydrosience and Engineering
 Information Technology Services
 Office of Student Financial Aid
 Office of the State Archaeologist
 Pomerantz Career Center
 Radiology
 School of Earth, Environment, and
 Sustainability
 School of Music
 Tippie College of Business
 Transportation
 University Housing and Dining
 Urban Acres Real Estate
 U.S. Bank – Iowa City
 U.S. Marine Corps – Coralville
 Veterans Administration Medical Center
 Watts Group Realty
 Wealth Enhancement Group
 West Music Company – Coralville
 Woodruff Construction
 Woofables Gourmet Dog Bakery



"My job shadow at the Carver College of Medicine strengthened my desire to pursue medicine. I had already been interested before, but I wanted to confirm that becoming a doctor was something I wanted to do. Learning about Iowa's physician shortage inspired me as I sat in the very place where amazing doctors are being made. I learned simple exam techniques, like testing reflexes and listening to the pulmonary and aortic valves through a stethoscope. I also learned how to properly communicate with patients. I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of learning. It was an immersive experience, and I felt as though I could see what my future held. This job shadow experience was one I will never forget!"

– Evalynn Karam, Student – Liberty High School

"We here at Woodruff Construction appreciate the partnership with Kirkwood WLC and have seen the direct benefits of getting high school students exposed to various careers. Having an entity help fill this need in our industry helps with our company's goals of connecting with area youth."

– Tony Herring, Project Manager – Woodruff Construction

"Career exploration and workforce preparation is so valuable for a student's educational journey because it allows them to connect their classroom learning to life after high school. Students who participate in WLC exploration, such as job shadows, internships, and mock interviews, have an upper hand in life after graduation, as they have a stronger understanding of their career interests and they have experience to put on a resume."

– Laurel Keenan, Business Education – Clear Creek Amana High School

"Career exploration gives students a chance to see what different paths actually look like beyond the classroom. As both a parent of a former WLC student and a WLC mentor, I've seen how these early experiences can spark curiosity, build confidence, and help students begin to find their own direction."

– Dr. Fang Lin, Parent of Former WLC Student, and WLC Internship Host with the University of Iowa Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology



JONES COUNTY

5 Schools

Anamosa Community School District

- Anamosa High School
- Anamosa Middle School

Kirkwood Jones County Regional Center

Midland Community School District

- Midland Middle/High School

Monticello Community School District

- Monticello High School

Business Hosts:

All Seasons Auto Body
Anamosa Care Center
Anamosa Chamber of Commerce
Anamosa Dental Associates
Anamosa Middle School
Anamosa State Penitentiary
Anamosa Veterinary Clinic
Andy's Electric
Animal Welfare Friends
Blu Track
Bodensteiner Implement – Monticello
Boomerang Corp.
Citizens Savings Bank – Anamosa
Citizens State Bank – Monticello
Citizens State Bank – Wyoming
DigiFarm VBN
EXCEL Center for Entrepreneurship
Express Printing & Design LLC
F&M Bank – Monticello
Family Chiropractic
Family Veterinary Services
Farm4Profit
Fidelity Bank & Trust – Monticello
Fidelity Bank & Trust – Anamosa
Freese Motors Inc.
Hein Family Farm
Hubbard Feeds
Innovative Ag Services
Iowa State University Extension
and Outreach – Jones County
Iowa State University Extension
and Outreach – Story County
ITS – Infrastructure Technology Solutions
Jones County Attorney

Jones County Beef Producers
Jones County Conservation Dept.
Jones County Economic Development
Jones County Safe & Healthy Youth Coalition
Jones County Sheriff's Office
Jones County Tourism Association
Kramer-Morris Funeral Home
Kyte Health Insurance
Lambert Reporting
Lawrence Community Center
Lubben Vineyards & Wines
Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative
MC Studio Hair Salon
Metal Design Systems Inc.
Midland Elementary
Monticello Custom Interiors
Monticello Heritage and Cultural Center
Monticello High School
Monticello Police Department
Monticello Veterinary Clinic
NE Iowa Freight Services, Inc.
Ohnward Bank & Trust – Monticello
Parks and Recreation – Monticello
Polo Custom Products
Soper Plumbing, Heating and Electric, Inc.
Stadtmueller Farm
Strawberry Hill Elementary
Tenley Farms
United Way of East Central Iowa –
Jones County Volunteer Center
UnityPoint Health – Jones Regional
Medical Center
Wyoming Auto Parts
Zion American Lutheran Church

Number of Jones County Student Participants:

TOTAL =
2,010

Jones County Student Career
Exploration Experiences



1,761

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy
Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory
Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



19

Internships



230

Job Shadows



"For our WLC mock interviews, I had to make a resume for the first time, and it was fun to go through the experience. It was helpful to see what I could improve. I learned how to make eye contact, speak clearly, and explain my responsibilities. It's good practice for real life."

– Emily Gorman, Student – Anamosa High School

"Blu Track staff have been invited to join in a variety of Workplace Learning Connection's career exploration programs. It has been incredibly rewarding to see students' faces light up when they connect their schoolwork, experiences, and strengths to a potential career path. We truly enjoy sharing our expertise and providing hands-on experiences to help local youth learn more about the diverse opportunities available to them right here in Jones County."

– Amy Fuller-Belding, Communication Specialist: Education – Blu Track

"Mock interviews are one of my favorite events that we host every year! I love seeing the students dress up professionally and the confidence they gain from interacting with local business professionals. Workplace Learning Connection does a great job organizing this event, and I enjoy working with them to help provide this amazing opportunity for students."

– Mackenzie Lasack, School Counselor – Midland High School



▶ LINN COUNTY

46 Schools

Alburnett Community School District

- Alburnett Middle/Senior High School

Cedar Rapids Community School District

- Cedar Rapids Home School Assistance
- CRCSD Transition Center
- John F. Kennedy High School
- Metro High School
- Thomas Jefferson High School
- George Washington High School
- City View
- Franklin Middle School
- Harding Middle School
- McKinley STEAM Academy
- Polk Alternative Education Center
- Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy
- Taft Middle School
- Wilson 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 Middle 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

Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center

Linn-Mar Community School District

- Linn-Mar High School
- Linn-Mar Home School Assistance Program
- COMPASS Alternative Center
- Boulder Creek Intermediate
- Hazel Point Intermediate
- Excelsior Middle School
- Oak Ridge Middle School

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

Xavier Catholic Schools

- Xavier High School
- Xavier Middle School – Regis

Business Hosts:

Ability Physical Therapy – Marion

Ability Physical Therapy – Mount Vernon

Abraham's Equine Clinic

ACRO Manufacturing Corporation

Advocate Health Advisors LLC

AEGON Asset Management

African American Museum of Iowa

Alburnett Veterinary Service

All State Steel

Alliant Energy – Cedar Rapids Operating

Altorfer, Inc. – Cedar Rapids

Antioch Christian Church

Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)

Arnold & Mote Wealth Management

Arthur Elementary School

Ascendence Truck Centers

At Your Service Corridor Community

BAE Systems

Baker Group

Bankers Trust

Banklwa

Barnyard Screenprinting

BMO Transportation Finance

Bolton & Menk

Bosch Financial (Equitable)

Bowman Woods Elementary

Capri Cosmetology College – Cedar Rapids

Carrier Access IT

Cassill Collision Center

Cedar Memorial Funeral Home

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Cedar Rapids Educational Leadership and Support Center

Cedar Rapids Electrical (JATC)

Cedar Rapids Fire Department –

Central (Station 1)

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

Cedar Rapids Pediatric Dentistry

Cedar Rapids Police Department

Cedar Rapids Public Library

Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity

Cedar's Edge Evergreen Market

Center Point-Urbana Community School District

Central City High School

Chick-fil-A (Blairs Ferry)

ChildServe – Cedar Rapids

City of Cedar Rapids

City Hall

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Utilities (Bertram Road)

Utilities (Shaver Road)

Water Pollution Control Facility

City of Coggan

Number of Linn County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

15,624

Linn County Student Career Exploration Experiences



12,625

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



262

Internships



2,737

Job Shadows



City of Fairfax – Public Works
 City of Marion
 City of Marion – Public Works Department
 City of Mount Vernon
 Clark's Pharmacy
 Cleveland Elementary
 Climate Engineers
 Coe College
 College Community School District
 Collins Aerospace
 Collins Aerospace Day Academy
 Collins Aerospace Rec Center
 Collins Community Credit Union –
 Blairs Ferry Road
 Community 1st Credit Union
 Community Health Free Clinic
 Community Savings Bank
 Corda Credit Union
 Cornell College
 Corridor Energy Cooperative
 Covington Creative
 Croell Redi Mix – Cedar Rapids
 Crop Tech Services, Inc.
 Crystal Group
 Culinary Gardens
 Custom Fit Financial
 Dave Wright Nissan
 Design Engineers
 Diamond V Manufacturing Facility
 Don Hummer Trucking – Cedar Rapids
 Dr. David C. Gehring
 Dufoe Law Firm
 Dupaco Community Credit Union
 Eastern Iowa Airport
 Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
 Echo Hill Elementary School
 Eddie's Rod & Custom
 Edge Investment Solutions
 Edgewood Animal Hospital
 Edward Jones – Marion
 Elevate Salon and Spa – Edgewood Station
 Encoura
 Epique Realty
 ESCO Group
 Families Helping Families of Iowa, Inc.
 Farm Bureau Financial Services – Hiawatha
 Farmers State Bank – Marion
 Feed Iowa First
 Feedwell Kitchen and Bakery
 Femme Fatale Aesthetics By MZ
 Five Rivers Carpenters Apprenticeship –
 Carpenters Training Institute
 Foundation 2 – Crisis Services
 Foundation 2 – Fostering Futures Program
 Francis Marion Intermediate School
 FREUND Inc. (formerly Freund-Vector)
 Frey Pet Hospital
 Fuel
 General Mills
 Global Ties Iowa
 Glyn Mawr Winery
 Goldstone Financial Group (Ameriprise Financial
 Services, LLC)
 Graham Animal Hospital
 Grant Wood AEA – Cedar Rapids
 Great America Financial Services
 Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
 Greenbriar Riding Academy
 GreenState Credit Union – Hiawatha
 GreenState Credit Union – Westdale Mall
 Hall & Hall Engineers, Inc.
 Hands Up Communications
 Harding Middle School
 Hawkeye Downs
 Hawkeye Electric
 Hazel Point Intermediate
 Hertz Real Estate Services
 Hiawatha Care Center
 Hills Bank and Trust
 3rd Avenue SE
 Blairs Ferry Road NE
 Marion 7th Avenue
 Mount Vernon
 Williams Boulevard SW
 His Hands Free Clinic
 Hogan - Hansen Accounting
 Holmes Murphy
 Honkamp Krueger & Co., PC.
 Horizons – A Family Service Alliance –
 Cedar Rapids
 HR Green, Inc.
 Hy-Vee – Marion
 Hy-Vee – Wilson Avenue
 IFP Motion Solutions Inc.
 (formerly Iowa Fluid Power)
 In Tolerance Contract Manufacturing
 Indian Creek Dental
 Informatics, Inc.
 Integrity Custom Homes
 International Association of Heat
 and Frost Insulators
 International Paper – Cedar River Mill
 Iowa Army National Guard – Cedar Rapids
 Iowa Interstate Railroad – Cedar Rapids
 Headquarters
 Iowa Laborers' Education & Training Trust Fund
 Iowa National Guard – Cedar Rapids
 Iowa State University Extension and Outreach –
 Linn County
 Iowa State University Extension and
 Outreach – Story County
 IowaWORKS
 Ironworkers Local 89
 ISG, Inc.
 J.S. Held
 Job Corps
 KCKK Radio
 KCRG TV-9
 Kepros Physical Therapy & Performance, PC –
 Cedar Rapids
 KGAN CBS 2/KFXA FOX 28
 Kirkwood Community College
 Center[RA2.1] for Hospitality Arts
 Communications and Marketing
 Corporate Training
 Academic Advising
 Administration
 Agricultural Science
 Allied Health
 Arts and Humanities
 Athletics
 Business and Information Technology
 Center for Healthcare Simulation
 Continuing Education and Training Services
 EMT
 English Department
 Hospitality Arts Center for Excellence
 Human Resources
 Industrial Technologies
 Institutional Effectiveness
 K-12 Partnerships
 Linn County Regional Center
 Nursing
 Pet Grooming
 Physical Therapy Assistant
 Student Services
 Technology Services
 KT Pacer
 KZIA 102.9 FM KGYM 1600
 La James International College – Cedar Rapids
 Laborers' Local #43
 LaSalle Catholic Elementary School
 LaSalle Catholic Middle School
 LattaHarris LLP – Cedar Rapids
 Ledford Engineering Co., Inc.
 Lil' Drug Store Products, Inc.
 Linn Co-Op – Marion
 Linn Co-Op – Springville
 Linn County Advocate
 Linn County Attorney
 Linn County Conservation – Morgan Creek Park
 Linn County Conservation – Wickiup Hill Outdoor
 Learning Center
 Linn County Planning and Development
 Linn-Mar High School
 Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service
 Lisbon Elementary School
 Longfellow Elementary – Marion
 Lorenz Sales, Inc.
 Lynch Ford
 Marion Fire Department
 Marion High School
 Marion Police Department
 Maudience
 McGrath Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram
 McGrath Ford
 Mercy Care – 10th Street SE
 Mercy Health Plaza
 Mercy Medical Center
 Mercy Physical Therapy at MercyCare Marion
 Mercy/St. Luke's School of Radiology
 Metco Credit Union
 METRO Robotics
 Midwest Marketing
 MidWestOne Bank – Cedar Rapids
 Milestones Adult Day Health Center – Marion
 Milex Complete Auto Care
 Miracle League of Linn County
 Miron Construction
 Modern
 Monroe & Co
 Mortenson – Linn County
 Mount Mercy University
 Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company
 Mount Vernon Fire Department
 Mount Vernon High School
 Mount Vernon Police Department
 MSI Mold Builders
 Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service
 National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
 Neighbor Insurance – Alburnett
 Nelson Electric
 New Leader Manufacturing
 NewBoCo
 Newell Machinery Company
 Nixon Elementary School
 North Linn Middle/High School
 Northwestern Mutual – Cedar Rapids
 Novak Elementary School
 Oak Ridge Middle School
 OPN Architects, Inc. – Cedar Rapids
 P&K Midwest – Hiawatha
 P&K Midwest – Mount Vernon
 Parkview Elementary
 Pat McGrath Chevyland
 Pet Health Center of Mount Vernon
 Petersen Pet Hospital, PC.
 Pickle Palace (Crown Hall Events)
 Pierce Elementary School
 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #125
 Prairie Creek Intermediate School
 Prairie Crest Elementary School
 Prairie Heights Elementary School
 Prairie High School
 Prairie Hill Elementary

▶ LINN COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Prairie Patch Farm
 Prairie Point Middle School
 Prairie Ridge Elementary School
 Price Electric – Cedar Rapids
 Promise and Blossom
 Q4 Real Estate – Ahmann Companies
 Quaker Oats (PepsiCo)
 Quality Auto Rebuilders and Glass
 Raining Rose, Inc.
 Randy Kuehl Honda Cars
 Ray + Swenson Orthodontics
 Rayser Holdings (CarePro Health Services)
 Raytheon Technologies – RTX
 RE/MAX Concepts – Cedar Rapids
 Realty 87
 Red Star Yeast/Lesaffre
 Rexco Equipment, Inc.
 Rinderknecht
 Robison Construction
 Rock Valley Physical Therapy –
 PCI Medical Pavilion
 Rose of Steel, LLC
 Ross Veterinary Clinic
 RSM
 Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors – Cedar Rapids
 Ryan Companies
 Schultz Strings, Inc.
 Schumacher Elevator – Cedar Rapids
 SCORE – Eastern Iowa & Quad Cities
 Select Physical Therapy
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 263 J.A.T.C.
 Shive-Hattery Inc. – Cedar Rapids
 Signature Aviation
 Sixth Judicial District Department of Correctional

Services – Cedar Rapids
 Skogman Realty – Cedar Rapids
 Skyworks Solutions Inc.
 Snyder & Associates, Inc.
 Solutions Management Group (SMG)
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 St. Luke's Transitional Care Center
 St. Matthew Catholic School
 Stamats Communications
 Star Food Service Equipment Repair
 Stewart Baxter Funeral & Memorial Services –
 Cedar Rapids
 Strategic Financial Solutions, LLC
 Strellner Financial Group
 Studio 346
 Sunline Inc./Cassill Motors
 Tech Electronics
 Terracon
 The ARC of East Central Iowa
 The Curiosity Path
 The Design House
 The Foth Companies
 The Gazette Company
 The Hangry Lady
 The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
 Theatre Cedar Rapids
 Trailside Elementary School
 Transamerica
 Transamerica, C Street Location
 TrueNorth Companies
 TSF Structures Inc.
 Twenty40 Companies
 United Fire Group
 United States Courthouse

United States Postal Service – 6th Avenue
 United Way of East Central Iowa
 UnityPoint Clinic – Endocrinology, Diabetes Care,
 Healthy Living Clinic
 UnityPoint Clinic – Marion Family Medicine and
 Urgent Care
 UnityPoint Health – Information Technology
 UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital
 Upload Media Group, LLC
 U.S. Bank – Cedar Rapids Downtown
 U.S. Navy – Cedar Rapids
 V1 Flight LLC
 Van Meter Industrial, Inc.
 Veridian Credit Union – Edgewood
 Veritas Church
 Vernon Middle School
 Viking Maintenance
 Viner Law Firm PC
 Visionaire Barbershop & Tattoo Parlor
 Washington Elementary – Mount Vernon
 Wells Fargo Bank – 1st Avenue Cedar Rapids
 Wendling Quarries – Four County Quarry
 West Music – Cedar Rapids
 West Side Transport
 Wholistic Wellness
 Willett, Hofmann & Associates
 Wired Production Group
 Woodcrafters, Inc.
 Worden Consulting Services, LLC
 World Class Industries Inc.
 YMCA Camp Wapsie
 Zach Johnson Foundation



“During my STEAM experience, I heard from the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and nurses from the VA Hospital and learned about epidemiology. Everyone who shared their careers with us made their job seem like fun, and I could see myself doing their job when I grow up. The experience also helped show me that I don't have to make a choice right now. I still have a lot of time, and there are a lot of jobs that sound interesting.”

– Rayan Deffand, Student – Oak Ridge Middle School

“WLC set up a Marketing and Sales internship for me with Rexco Equipment. I had the opportunity to see all aspects of their marketing. I was able to make connections and practice talking in a professional setting. I felt very welcome. The experience exceeded my expectations and solidified my desire to pursue marketing.”

– Callum Orr, Student – Washington High School, Cedar Rapids

“Our collaboration with WLC enables us to connect with students from local schools in a small-group setting, fostering meaningful conversations and answering their questions about the profession. These sessions provide an invaluable opportunity to explain the many roles within the department and the impact officers have on public safety.”

– Sgt. Jennifer Roberts – Cedar Rapids Police Department

“We were excited this year to introduce WLC mock interviews into our curriculum. We are continually working to provide enriching experiences for our students. Through the process of considering their strengths, creating a resume, learning about job interview etiquette, and participating in a mock interview, we believe our sophomores will gain valuable skills that will benefit them far beyond the walls of Center Point-Urbana High School.”

– Carmen Stenger, Counselor – Center Point-Urbana High School



WASHINGTON COUNTY

10 Schools

Highland Community School District

- Highland High School
- Highland Middle School

Hillcrest Academy

Kirkwood Washington County Regional Center

Mid-Prairie Community School District

- Mid-Prairie High School
- Mid-Prairie Home School Assistance Program
- Mid-Prairie Middle School

Washington Community School District

- Washington High School
- Washington Middle School

Washington Regional Alternative Program

Business Hosts:

Above & Beyond Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC

Army National Guard – Washington, Iowa

Bazooka Farmstar, Inc.

BJFS, LLC

Bulltown Repair

CBI Bank & Trust – Washington

City of Kalona

City of Wellman

DeLong Construction

DNR – Lake Darling

Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative

Egli Landscapes Inc.

Engineered Building Design

Federation Bank – Washington

Gingerich Well & Pump Service, LLC – Kalona

GunnySac Designs

Halcyon House

Hills Bank – Kalona

Hills Bank – Washington

Hills Bank – Wellman

HOMEgirl Realty

Hospice of Washington County

Iowa State University Extension

and Outreach – Story County

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Washington County

Jet Physical Therapy – Washington

Jet Physical Therapy – Wellman

Kalona Cooperative Technology Company (KCTC)

Kalona Family Dental

Kalona Historical Village

KC Hall

KCII Radio

LattaHarris LLP – Washington

McCreedy Ruth Construction, LLC

Mid-Prairie East Elementary School

Mid-Prairie West Elementary School

Open Gates Group

Pa Beers Handyman Services

Paws & More Animal Shelter

Performance Therapies – Kalona

Pleasantview Home

The News

Timeless Charm Gifts

Town & Country Veterinary Clinic

Veterinary Medical Center of Kalona

Washington Chamber of Commerce

Washington County Conservation

Washington County Hospital and Clinics

Washington County Magistrate

Washington County Riverboat Foundation

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Washington Free Public Library

Washington Law Office, L.L.P.

Washington Police Department

Washington State Bank

Wellman-Scofield Library

YMCA of Washington County

Number of Washington County Student Participants:

TOTAL =

2,220

Washington County Student Career Exploration Experiences



2,074

Events: Mock Interviews, Financial Literacy Fairs, Speaker Days, Worksite Exploratory Events, STEAM Institute, Career Fairs, etc.



12

Internships



134

Job Shadows



"My attorney job shadow was very helpful to see if being an attorney and going to law school is something I would be interested in doing. I learned about the life of a lawyer, how the courthouse works, and what it is like to work with clients. It was a great experience."

– Ruby Brown, Student – Washington Community High School

"Thank you for allowing us to have this amazing opportunity to connect with the students of our community. Open Gates does not take the next generation for granted; they are the future of our company, and so we love having the opportunity to come and shed more light on what we do and how they can make an impact. The career fair was a great opportunity for companies to meet students and have conversations with them about their future and the different opportunities we have at Open Gates. It also gave us the opportunity to promote job openings for summer jobs, full-time jobs, and part-time jobs."

– Sarah Yoder, Human Resources – Open Gates Group

"I believe our Career Discovery Tour of Engineered Building Design helped keep a senior student on track to graduate. He was wanting to drop out, but during the tour, he was 100% engaged and saw that a diploma is necessary to work for EBD. The smell of sawdust was his favorite part. Just another example of how career exploration experiences are vital to student success in school."

– Kathy Stender, Counselor – Washington Community High School



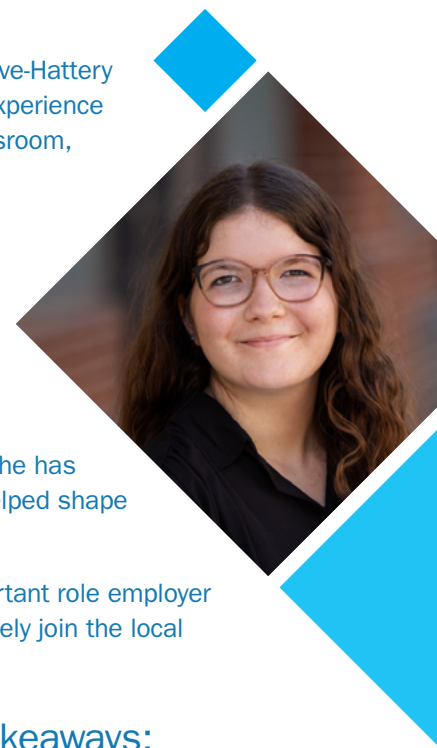
CASE STUDY: CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAREERS – AND EMPLOYERS TO FUTURE TALENT

Tessa Smith, a 2020 graduate of Benton Community High School, first connected with Shive-Hattery through a Workplace Learning Connection Architecture and Engineering job shadow. The experience helped her see a clear connection among her interests, what she was learning in the classroom, and real-world career opportunities in architecture and engineering.

Inspired by that experience, Tessa enrolled in the Architectural Technology program at Kirkwood Community College, where she continued developing her technical skills and industry knowledge. After graduating, she remembered the positive impression Shive-Hattery had made during her job shadow years earlier and decided to apply for a position with the company. Her prior exposure to the organization helped her stand out during the hiring process and reinforced her interest in becoming part of the team.

Today, Tessa has spent the past four years working in structural design at Shive-Hattery. She has come full circle by helping host job shadow students — the same experience that once helped shape her own future.

Tessa's journey demonstrates the long-term impact of early career exposure and the important role employer partners play in helping students discover career pathways, build connections, and ultimately join the local workforce.



In Tessa's words:

"I didn't know much about the industry before my WLC job shadow. I was excited when it was such a great experience. It gave me exposure to a company like Shive-Hattery and helped me start thinking more seriously about what I wanted to do after high school. My path has truly felt like it has come full circle. I remember how intimidating it felt to walk in as a student, not knowing anyone. Now I get to be on the other side and help make that experience better for someone else, and help show them how something as seemingly small as a job shadow can give you connections for down the road."



Key Takeaways:

- Employers are not only helping students explore careers — they are building future workforce connections.
- Something as small as a two- to four-hour job shadow can lead to a future employee.
- Early career exposure helped a student connect classroom learning to real-world careers.
- Workplace Learning Connection helped create a long-term talent pipeline between student and employer.
- Tessa's experience demonstrates how career exploration opportunities can lead to sustained local workforce retention.



WORKPLACE LEARNING CONNECTION TEAM FY26

Back row (left to right): Brittany Slaubaugh, Amanda Schwarting, Tonya Caron, Kristine Bullock, Casey Estling, Rochelle Sowers, Ann Brendes, Clay Norris

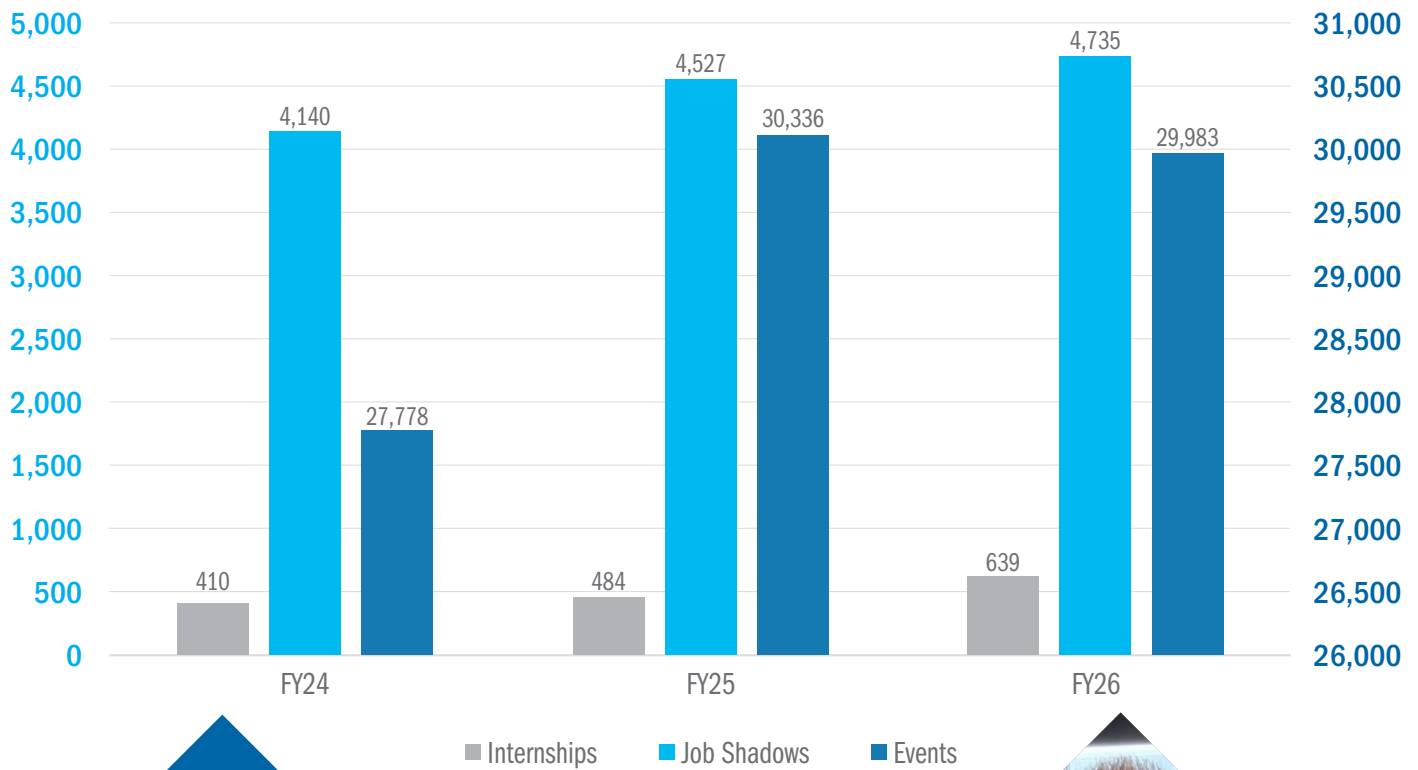
Front row (left to right): Victoria Wanda, Susan Gallo, Laura Miner, Janie Evans

Not Pictured: Kate Ahlers, Shalane Brinkman, Julie Welter



CAREER EXPLORATION GROWTH

Program Growth – Last 3 Years



94%

of job shadow and internship students surveyed indicated increased awareness of local career opportunities

43%

of interns offered additional opportunities by their host

76%

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



“

“Z102.9 is proud to support Workplace Learning Connection because we believe in investing in the next generation of local talent right here in the Corridor. By hosting and engaging with WLC, we’re able to open our doors, share behind-the-scenes insight into broadcasting, marketing, and digital media, and help students see how classroom skills translate into exciting careers. In return, we gain fresh perspectives, new energy, and the opportunity to mentor future leaders who may one day shape our industry. Work-based learning strengthens our workforce pipeline, supports local schools, and reinforces our commitment to being more than just a radio station — we’re a community partner invested in the future.”

– Chad Taylor-Zimmerman, Operations Manager – KZIA, Inc.

▶ PROGRAM IMPACTS



"I enjoyed WLC's Financial Literacy experience. After meeting with my financial advisor, I learned about ways to cut back on expenses in certain areas to free up money for other more important things. I also learned how important saving your money is so you can have a safety net.

I was also very surprised how much it costs to buy and own a car!"

– Addilyn Nesbitt, Student – Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School



"My internship experience was amazing. I got to network and build great relationships. I've also gained communication and collaboration skills.

I had to talk to a lot of people at events and work with different people on the team to get things done. These are crucial skills that I'll use in the future. Doing an internship helps you decide whether the job is for you. Not doing one could make you miss out on a pathway that's meant for you — but you'll never know unless you put yourself out there and experience it."

– Omnia Ali, Student – Iowa City West High School



"While high school classes helped me find my favorite engineering branch, no class is as valuable as walking into a business and witnessing actual engineers doing their job. Classes teach a sort of theoretical engineering, while the job shadows and internships show you the actual engineering in process. The WLC opportunities have helped me narrow down my choice of industry and solidified my decision to pursue electrical engineering. WLC gives a competitive advantage. Not many areas have access to programs like WLC, and being able to get real-world experience at such a young age is invaluable. Not only does it set me apart from my peers, but [it] allows me to work half a step ahead of them as well. I already have seen various job industries, so when I begin to look for job opportunities, I will already know a good deal about what I am looking for in my profession."

– Alex Chavez, Student – Linn-Mar High School



"My Mini Police Academy Day job shadow with the Cedar Rapids Police Department was really helpful. I knew going into the experience that I wanted to be a police officer, but I had no idea which area of law enforcement I was most interested in. This experience helped me narrow down my interests."

– Drake Zahner, Student – Iowa Valley Jr/Sr High School



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www.kirkwood.edu/wlc



Sign up for our
e-newsletter!

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 @workplacelearningconnection

 Workplace Learning Connection – Kirkwood

