

# TRAILBLAZER Early College and Career Academy

## Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Students

### Career Awareness

Learning **ABOUT** Work  
**Grades K-12**

**PURPOSE:** Build awareness of the variety of careers available; broaden student career options

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Business partner provides one-time interaction with student, often a group of students
- Designed by instructors and business partners to broaden student's awareness of wide variety of careers and occupations

**EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCES:**

- **Workplace tour**
- **Guest speaker**
- **Career fair**
- **Service learning**

### Career Exploration

Learning **ABOUT** Work  
**Grades 8-12**

**PURPOSE:** Explore career options to motivate students and to inform their decision-making in secondary school and beyond

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Business partner provides one-time interaction for a single student or a small group
- Personalized to connect to emerging student interests
- Student takes active role in selecting and shaping the experience
- Depth in particular career fields. Builds skills necessary for in-depth work-based learning

**EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCES:**

- **Job shadowing**
- **Informational interview**
- **Mentoring**
- **Virtual exchange with a business partner**
- **School-based entrepreneurship**
- **Entrepreneurship**

### Career Preparation

Learning **FOR** Work  
**Grades 9-12**

**PURPOSE:** Apply learning through practical experience that develops knowledge and skills necessary for success in careers

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Direct interaction with business partner over time
- Application of skills transferable to a variety of careers
- **Activities have consequences and value beyond success in the classroom.**
- **Learning for student and benefit to partner are equally valued**

**EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCES:**

- **Internship**
  - Short-term internship (day to month) student is non-paid
  - Long-term internship (over one month) student is paid
- **Cooperative education**
  - Student currently enrolled in CTE course
  - Co-op placement in student's career pathway
  - Student is paid

### Career Training

Learning **THROUGH** Work  
**Grades 11-12**

**PURPOSE:** Train for employment in a specific range of occupations

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Interaction with partners over extended period of time
- **Learning for student and benefit to partner are equally valued**
- Develop mastery of occupation-specific skills
- Complete certifications and other requirements

**EXAMPLE OF EXPERIENCES:**

- **Pre-apprenticeship and Youth apprenticeship**
  - Apprenticeship in student's career pathway
  - Student currently enrolled in CTE course
  - Student is paid
  - Full-time job provided after high school graduation to complete apprenticeship