



HIGHLIGHTS FROM

# WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE CAMP

WEE CAMP 2015

JUNE 9 - 11, 2015



WEE Camp, an immersive summer experience for educators, connects classroom teaching to real-world industry experiences. Ideal for Central Louisiana STEM and Journey to Careers teachers, educators depart WEE Camp with a sense of renewed purpose and a deeper appreciation of the knowledge and skills their students need to be successful in the workplace.



**GET MORE INFO**

[www.theorchardfoundation.org](http://www.theorchardfoundation.org)  
[www.therapidesfoundation.org](http://www.therapidesfoundation.org)

## WHY WEE CAMP?



The value of stronger connections between education and industry is continuing to grow. The increasing body of literature indicates that educators become better at their jobs through industry externships.



At WEE Camp, educators cultivate a new appreciation for the skills and proficiencies their students will need for jobs in Central Louisiana. The educational goal is to increase their abilities to connect theory and practice and bring an understanding of workplace practices and policies (problem solving methods, practical applications of theory, leadership concepts) into the classroom, which increases the relevance of student learning.



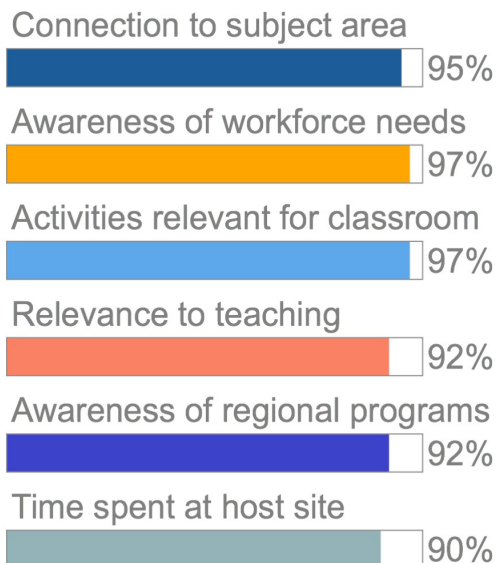
WEE Camp is often the first time that educators step into the workplace, and view regional jobs through their students' eyes. Until 2015, this opportunity wasn't available to Central Louisiana educators.



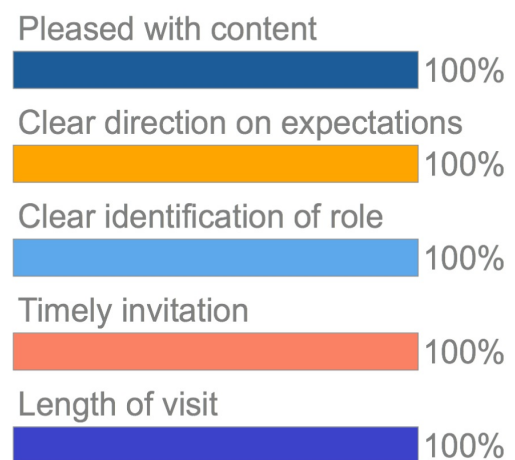
As educators begin to reflect on adjusting their classroom practice to incorporate these new concepts, their students will begin to build new proficiencies not only in content, but in skills such as problem solving and collaboration with an emphasis on real world applications.

## WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

### EDUCATORS



### HOST SITES



*\*Results from post-WEE camp satisfaction surveys*

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

# WEE CAMP ELEMENTS

1

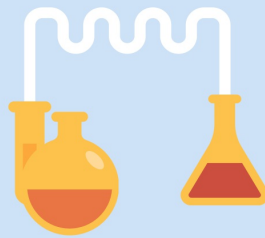
### INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS



In 2015, 7 Cenla businesses partnered in the inaugural WEE Camp. From manufacturing, to health care and higher ed, educators connected with a broad cross-section of businesses.

2

### HIGHER ED LINKS



Last year, 3 key regional institutions of higher education participated to provide insight into how employer needs can be met by postsecondary offerings.

3

### EDUCATORS



31 educators were accepted to WEE Camp from 27 schools in 7 school districts. They came from diverse disciplines: STEM fields, Journey to Careers, business, and more.

4

### COLLABORATION



Educators forge connections with industry and other educators as they build practical knowledge of the workplace and learn to bring their real-world experiences back into classrooms.

5

### REFLECTION AND NEW IDEAS



Educators process and synthesize their observations together, considering ways to step beyond the obvious and transfer their learnings to the classroom for the benefit of students.

# WEE CAMP HOST SITES & FEEDBACK



"Thank you for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic group of folks! We enjoyed having everyone and the dialogue was just fabulous...Great opportunity to share information and ensure that course offerings are relevant. Connecting with counselors and regional educators is key!"

JASON PARKS, NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



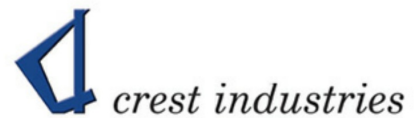
"We look forward to the next one! This was a great experience and will help the teachers in facilitating and helping students choose a career path."

CHRISTINA GOODRICH, GILCHRIST CONSTRUCTION



"Thank you for allowing us to be a part of the event. Great job bringing industry and education together."

LINDA JAMES, PLASTIPAK





# EDUCATOR FEEDBACK



"WEE Camp has equipped me with new and valuable information that I plan to redeliver to my students. I feel more prepared than ever to empower students to take responsibility of their future and success, whether they plan to attend college or enter directly into the workforce after graduation."

**ALISHA KING, EDUCATOR**



"AWESOME, relevant experience that will directly impact my students in a positive way. This is one of the BEST professional development opportunities I've had in 12 years!"

**SARAH BUTLER, EDUCATOR**