

VEE: VIRTUAL EXTERNSHIP

for Educators



A program of:

 THE
ORCHARD
FOUNDATION

Funded by:

NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

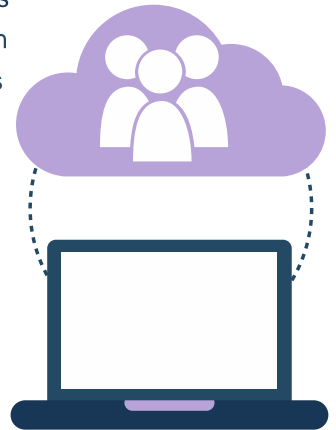
June 19 - 23, 2017

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www.theorchardfoundation.org

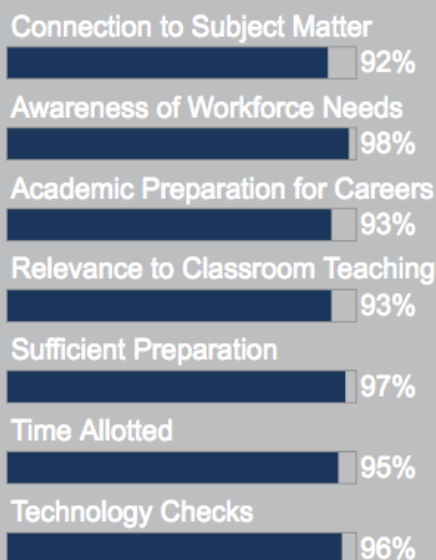
WHY VEE?

- The increasing body of literature indicates that educators become better at their jobs when they can relate real world examples to the content delivered to their students. Thus, Virtual Externship for Educators (VEE) was born as Louisiana's first virtual industry externship for educators.
- VEE is a unique professional development experience for educators, as it is held completely virtually through the Nepris proprietary web-based solution that connects teachers with industry experts. Importantly, Nepris eliminates geographical barriers so that educators can connect with industry experts from anywhere in the U.S. and even the world.
- From any distance, industry experts help educators expose their students to different career and education paths, find real world applications to what students are learning, and inspire students to pursue and achieve their goals.
- Because Nepris is accessed through a home or work computer, VEE is accessible to educators and students from many different schools and districts, particularly in rural areas.
- The educational goal of VEE is to increase educators' abilities to connect theory and practice. Through their interactions with industry experts, they cultivate a new appreciation for the skills and proficiencies their students will need in future careers. Participants also depart with a deeper understanding of workforce issues and the confidence to create linkages with industry and community members.
- VEE culminates with participants sharing their experiences with their school faculty in efforts to increase awareness of these powerful tools among peers.

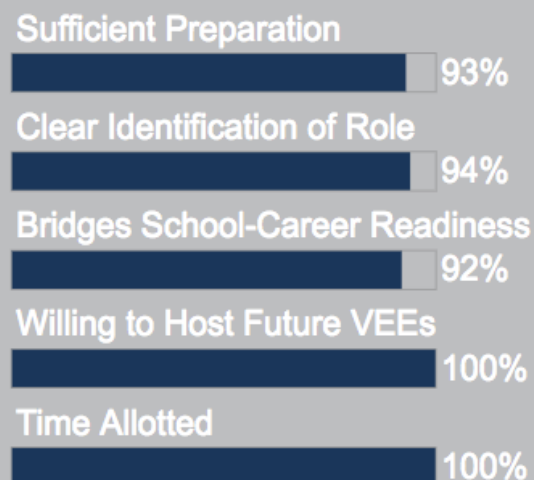


What Are They Saying?

Educators



Host Sites



*Results from post-VEE satisfaction surveys

How We Do It

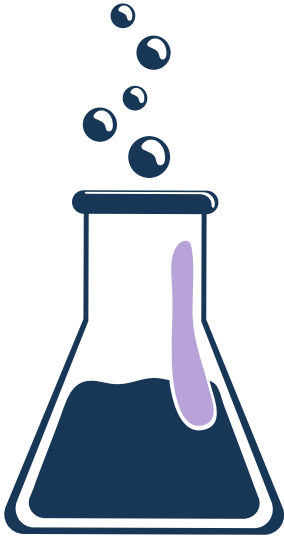
EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, 13 Louisiana businesses and organizations partnered with VEE. From manufacturing, to transportation, logistics, and hospitality, educators connected with a broad cross-section of career clusters.



TECHNOLOGY

Unlike the traditional, on-site externships at business locations, VEE is conducted virtually through the power of Nepris, a technology platform connecting industry professionals from across the country with students and teachers in the most rural parts of Louisiana.

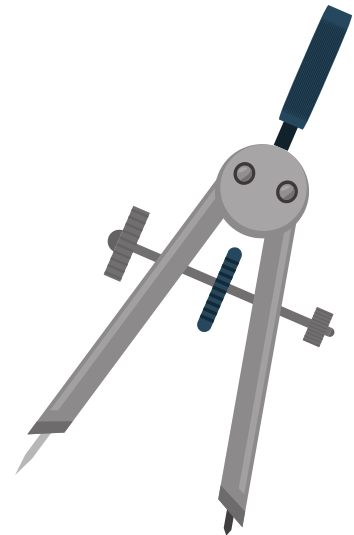


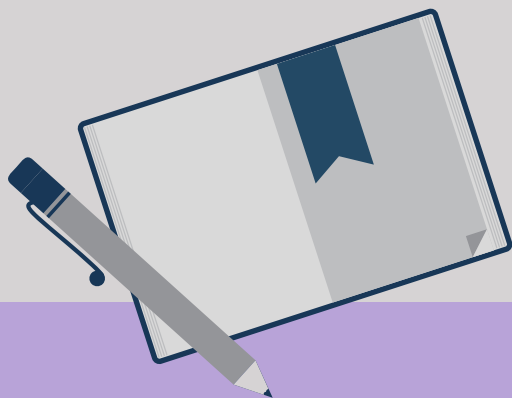
EDUCATORS

34 educators participated in VEE, representing 22 schools in 6 school districts. They came from diverse disciplines: STEM fields, Journey to Careers, business, and more.

COLLABORATION

Educators forge connections with industry and gain other practical knowledge of the workplace. They bring their real-world experiences back into classrooms for the benefit of the students.





VEE CAMP FEEDBACK

I intend to implement Nepris in my curriculum this school year. I plan to use Nepris to introduce my students to career options they don't even know are available. I want to connect students to professionals in their future careers so that they can make sure that's really what they want to do and understand what qualifies them to do that.

JESSICA STAGGS, EDUCATOR

This experience was meaningful. The course was well organized and easy to follow. This was my first experience doing an on-line course and I feel much more comfortable with this technology now.

MARY LITTLEPAGE, EDUCATOR

I enjoyed listening to the different business people and the different career pathways they represented. This will help me as an educator to better prepare my students. I think that if students are uncertain about which pathway to choose, this could help them.

SHANDA ODOM, EDUCATOR

I think this is a great way to bridge the gap between secondary education and college/career readiness. VEE is a great platform and sounding board to help fill those gaps and provide supplementary insight and knowledge into business/industry. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and give back!

IT INSPIRED, HOST SITE

Project Background

The **Council of Chief State School Officers** and **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** named Louisiana one of 10 states to receive a three-year, \$2 million grant through phase two of the **New Skills for Youth** (NSFY) grant opportunity. The goal of NSFY is to strengthen career and technical education starting in high school and culminating with post-secondary degrees or credentials aligned with high-skill jobs. VEE is one of multiple initiatives within the Louisiana project.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

