



WEE CAMP

Workplace Experience Exchange Camp

 THE
ORCHARD
FOUNDATION

Funded by:



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

WEE CAMP I
JUNE 5-9, 2023

www.theorchardfoundation.org

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WHY WEE CAMP

GOAL

The goal of the Workplace Experience Exchange Camp is to provide experiences for educators to learn through direct, hands-on experience about trends, skill requirements, and opportunities in Central Louisiana.

APPROACH

Each summer in Central Louisiana, a select group of public school educators attend a one-week sneak peek into the region's high-demand, high-wage jobs. Through talks and tours coordinated by The Orchard Foundation, educators are immersed in the worlds that their students will enter one day as credentialed and degreed workers. WEE Camp is often the first time that educators step into the workplace and learn about the careers and work environments that their students will encounter. The aim is to cultivate a broader, global mindset among educators that they can instill in their students.

WEE Camp also connects them to real-world workforce trends and requirements. At camp, cohorts of educators are hosted by local employers, touring different employer sites and learning about what it takes to be successful in each workplace. Company representatives share their industry's trends and their workforce needs, and then drill down into what sorts of skills and characteristics they are seeking in future employees. On the jobsite, the educators study the competencies that their students will need to thrive in those jobs.

OUTCOMES

Educators leave WEE Camp with first-hand knowledge of the workforce issues facing employers in Central Louisiana. They emerge with the confidence that they can tailor their classroom practice to incorporate the new knowledge they acquired. They are better equipped to teach their students to build new proficiencies, not only in content, but also in skills such as problem-solving, leadership, and collaboration with an emphasis on real-world applications.

WEE CAMP I



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

ALLEN PARISH

Allen Parish School Board Office
Oakdale Middle School

AVOUELLES PARISH

LA School for the Agricultural Sciences
Marksville High School

CATAHOULA PARISH

Block High School

NATCHITOCHE PARISH

Goldonna Elementary & Junior High School
Natchitoches Parish Tech & Career Ctr.



RAPIDES PARISH

Alexandria Middle Magnet
Glenmora High School
Peabody Magnet High School
Pineville High School
Rapides Academy



VERNON PARISH

Leesville High School
Pitkin High School
Simpson High School



WINN PARISH

Winnfield Middle School
Winnfield Senior High School

HISTORY



In its 8th year, WEE Camp - Central Louisiana's first industry externship program - has served 273 educators in Cenla.



WEE CAMP I Starts

In 2015, WEE Camp was established by The Orchard Foundation, serving nine parishes. It has since expanded into multiple events with increased engagement by partners.



WEE CAMP II Emerges

In 2016, WEE Camp II was born to offer educators a more in-depth experience with a smaller number of industry partners.



VEE Camp (Virtual)

In 2017, The Orchard Foundation developed and implemented VEE Camp in partnership with the LA Department of Education. VEE Camp provided a model for statewide implementation. When COVID precautions caused WEE Camp to go virtual, the virtual model was utilized again.



WEE Camp Elementary

In 2022, WEE Camp added a novel option for K-6 educators. WEE Camp Elementary, the newest iteration of WEE Camp, launched with 20 educators from 11 schools.

HOW WE DO IT

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

This year, WEE Camp I educators were connected to 13 regional employers and organizations. From manufacturing to healthcare, to transportation, STEM and the energy industry, many of Cenla's key industries were represented.



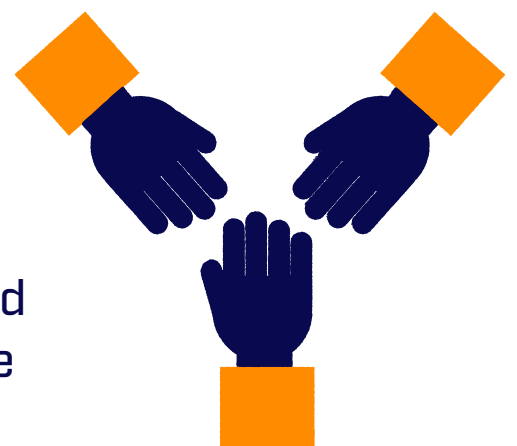
EDUCATORS

20 middle and high school educators were accepted to WEE Camp I, representing 17 public schools in 7 school districts.



COLLABORATION

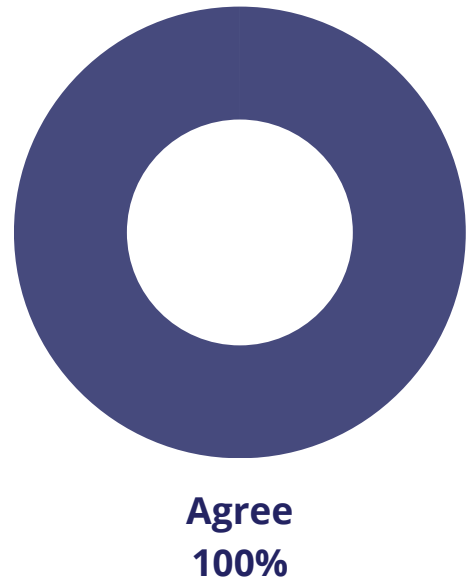
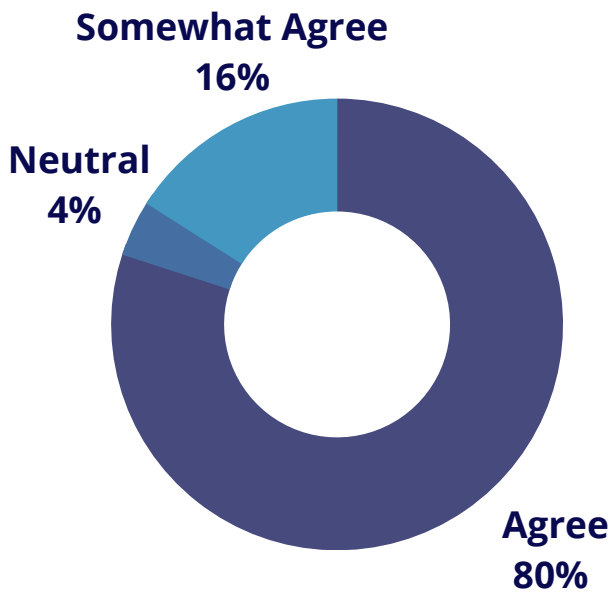
Educators forge connections with industry and gain practical knowledge of the workplace. They bring their real-world experiences back into classrooms for the benefit of the students.



WEE IMPACT ON EDUCATORS

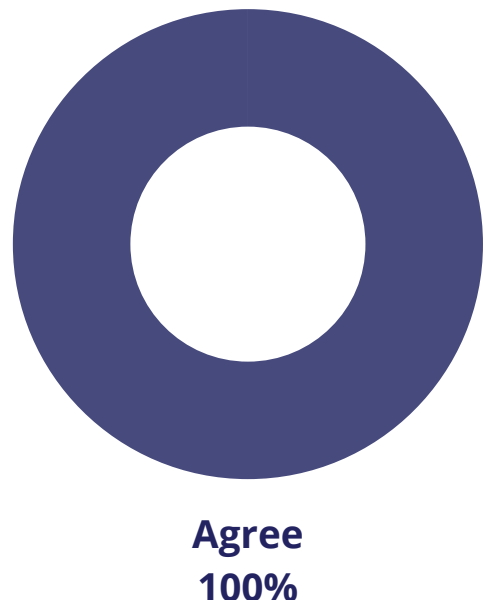
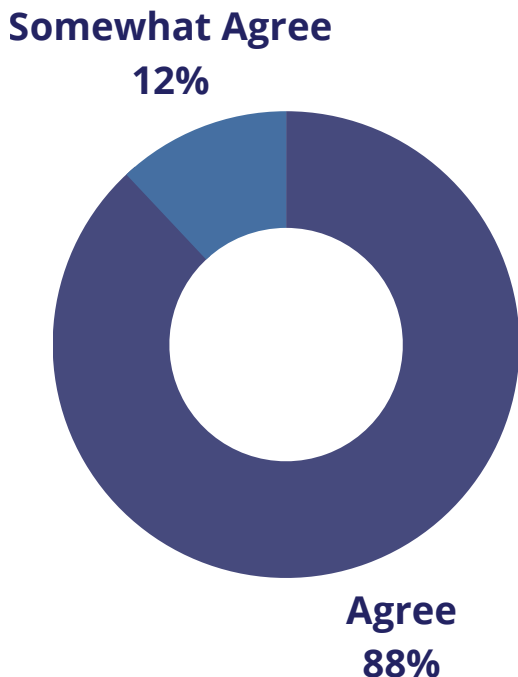
Connections to classroom subject matter

Increased awareness of employer requirements



Identified ways to incorporate skill requirements into classroom

Increased awareness of programs and jobs in region



*Results from post-WEE Camp satisfaction surveys of educators

WEE CAMP FEEDBACK



{Because of WEE Camp}, I have begun to modify my math curriculum to emphasize the math skills [fractions and measurements] to better prepare my students for the workforce.

This experience provided new resources and renewed my passion to ensure that all students are career ready.



WEE Camp has shown me where I can provide more career/industry information in the classroom and transferable skills between school and the workplace.

The businesses shared invaluable information to emphasize with students around workforce readiness, skills and preparedness.



WEE Camp provided invaluable insight about skills that students need to master to be competitive in the participating industries.

I plan to collaborate with my school's graduation coach, JAG and Career Education teachers, and Jump Start teachers to incorporate career-focused skills into the classroom.



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Thank You!

