



HIGHLIGHTS FROM

# WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE CAMP

FOR TEACHERS IN CENTRAL LOUISIANA

JUNE 6 – 9, 2016



WEE Camp, an immersive summer experience for educators, connects classroom teaching to real-world industry experiences. WEE Camp I provides an introductory glimpse into a variety of Central Louisiana workplaces. WEE Camp II provides a more intense experience in the manufacturing workplace. 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)

# 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.



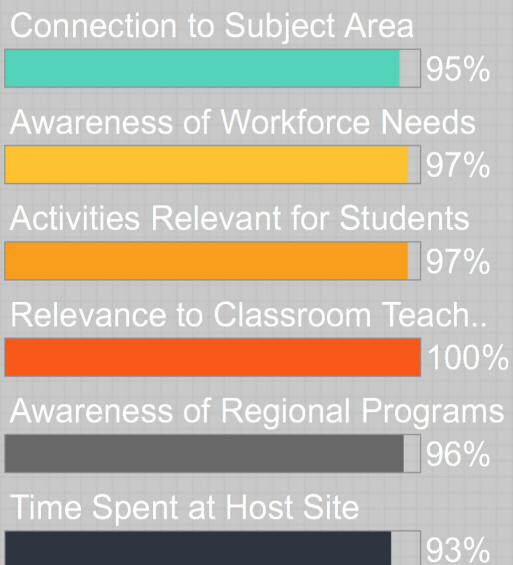
WEE Camp is often the first time that educators step into the workplace, and view regional jobs through their students' eyes. Until 2015, this opportunity wasn't available to Central Louisiana educators.



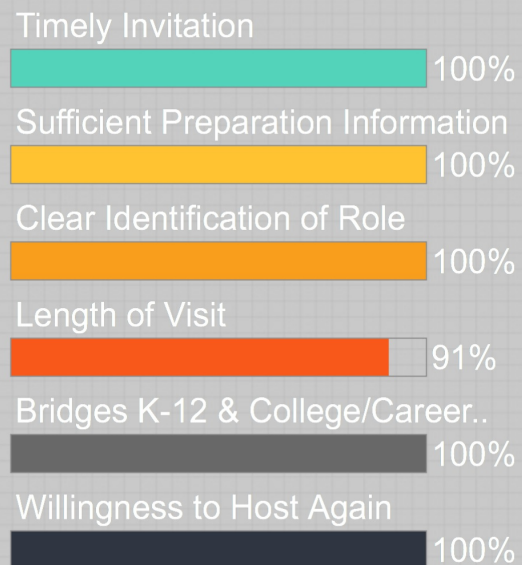
As educators begin to reflect on adjusting their classroom practice to incorporate these new concepts, their students will begin to build new proficiencies not only in content, but in skills such as problem solving and collaboration with an emphasis on real world applications.

## WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

### EDUCATORS



### HOST SITES



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

## WEE CAMP ELEMENTS

### 1 INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS



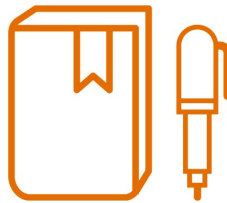
In 2016, 8 Cenla businesses partnered in WEE Camp. From manufacturing, to health care and higher ed, educators connected with a broad cross-section of businesses.

### 2 HIGHER ED LINKS



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

### 3 EDUCATORS



14 educators were accepted to WEE Camp I, and 6 educators were accepted to WEE Camp II, representing 17 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 for the benefit of the students.

### 5 WEE CAMP II - A PILOT



WEE Camp II provided a more intense experience in the manufacturing workplace for 6 CTE instructors. The teachers shadowed RoyOMartin employees for two days, then joined WEE Camp I.



# WEE CAMP FEEDBACK



"Very hands-on and exciting! This will allow me to bring my students closer to professionals to make industry seem more personally attainable to them."

**JONATHAN LANDRY, EDUCATOR, WEE CAMP I PARTICIPANT**



"Great job making these connections for us! Each business touched on the skills we need to communicate to our students. The information is very relevant to our students, and will help me to motivate them. What an awesome experience! We appreciate the opportunity to attend."

**PAMELA NEWTON, EDUCATOR, WEE CAMP I PARTICIPANT**



"I received a lot of great information and feedback from the companies. This was a great experience and I wish our students could participate in something similar to this! I really enjoyed this camp and I learned a lot!"

**JOSHUA REEVES, EDUCATOR, WEE CAMP II PARTICIPANT**

"I think there needs to be a greater focus on vocational and/or technical training in lieu of a four-year college degree. Not every student is college-bound, but most everyone needs job skills. AFCO would be honored to participate in future WEE camps. On behalf of all the employee-owners at AFCO, thank you for taking the time to include us in your program."

**DON FOWLER, AFCO INDUSTRIES, HOST SITE**



"This event has been a tremendous success for the second year in a row. NSU faculty and staff see this as a great opportunity to showcase high-demand degree programs and partnerships with area business and industry. WEE Camp provides teachers additional information that can be used in the classroom for activities and work-based learning projects."

**JASON PARKS, NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY, HOST SITE**







WECC CAMP  
MEMORIES

2016

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

