#### WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE CAMP I

## JUNE 4 - 7, 2019

A program of: T H E F O U N D A T I O N **Funded by:** The Rapides Foundation

The Workplace Experience Exchange Camp I is an immersive summer experience for educators, connecting classroom teaching to real-world business and industry trends, skill requirements, experiences, and opportunities.



www.theorchardfoundation.org www.rapidesfoundation.org

# WHY WEE CAMP I

**Educators become better at their jobs when they can relate real-world examples to the content delivered to their students.** Thus, the Workplace Exchange (WEE) Camp was born in 2015 as Central Louisiana's first industry externship program for educators.

**The goal** of WEE Camp is to provide experiences for educators to learn through direct, hands-on experience about trends, skill requirements, and opportunities in industries within the region.

WEE Camp is often the first time that Cenla educators are granted access to step into the workplace and view regional jobs through their students' eyes. As they walk through and experience the operations at partnering job sites, educators cultivate a new appreciation for the skills and proficiencies their students will need in their future careers. They receive insight into workplace practices, policies, and needed skills for today's jobs.

As educators reflect on adjusting their classroom practice to incorporate these new concepts, their students will begin 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.



What Are They Saying?

## 100%

**Educators** said they were more aware of employers' workplace readiness requirements & learned about new occupations.

## 100%

Host sites agreed that WEE Camp is a great way to bridge the gap between classroom & college/career readiness. They would host a group again in the future.

### 97%

The majority of **educators** learned about academic aspects of employers' skill requirements & identified ways to transfer it to the classroom.

### 96%

Most of the educators thought the time spent at each site was just about right.

## 93%

Many educators reported that the WEE Camp experience was related to their own subject matter.

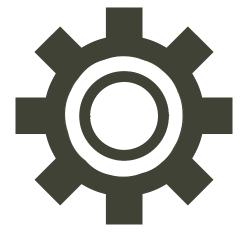
\*Results from post-WEE Camp I satisfaction surveys

# HOW WE DO IT

### INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, WEE educators were connected to a broad cross-sector of **12 organizations**. From manufacturing to healthcare, to military and the energy industry, many of Cenla's key industries were represented.



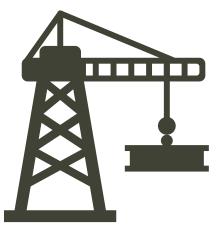


#### **EDUCATORS**

19 educators were accepted to WEE
Camp I, representing 19 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.



# WEE CAMP FEEDBACK



I thoroughly enjoyed my time. This was by far the best professional development l've ever done. I'm re-energized to bring back the Career Education Fair I have done in the past. I would love to bring some of these speakers into the school for our students to interact with. [WEE Camp] was superbly organized down to minute details. I noticed and can appreciate that!!

#### **NATALIE BURGESS, SCHOOL COUNSELOR BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL**

I think the industry connections are crucial in helping students have a better understanding of what industry is in our local area. It also lets students know what is available when considering job opportunities locally. Thank you for working so hard to host such a wonderful learning opportunity.



#### **TODD THORNTON, AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTOR** HORNBECK HIGH SCHOOL



I think [WEE Camp] is a great way to bridge the gap between secondary education and college/career readiness. These partnerships are critical to increasing Cenla development in the economy. We must provide a work ready workforce to keep our community strong.

#### **KEVIN HOOD, HOST SITE** P & G

WEE Camp is a great way to get resources to teachers that need them and to introduce teachers to opportunities for mentoring high school students. I could see myself or my company visiting classrooms as a guest speaker, coordinating about job shadowing, and hosting field trips. I look forward to continuing to have contact with area high schools.



LAINE POE, HOST SITE RAPIDES REGIONAL MED. CTR.



















## **INDUSTRY PARTNERS**







#### **Boise Cascade**



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