

# It's All About Opportunity

## What is Work-Based Learning?

WBL is a partnership between education and business to create a skilled workforce for now and for the future. The skills needed in today's business world are very diverse; it can be difficult to meet the demand with the traditional school-based model.

In a WBL model, schools provide classroom theory and supportive technical training in a student's chosen career plan and businesses provide students the opportunity to experience and master their skills in a live setting. There are many different types of WBL experiences from mentoring a student at school, to job shadowing, internships, or apprenticeships at the business.

WBL experiences provided by business interaction creates a relevance to the technical training that is difficult to achieve in the classroom. WBL provides students critical insights to help them be successful whether they choose college or career.

## Opportunity for Students

- ▶ Touch, feel, and experience a career to see if it is really what they want to do
- ▶ Develop the soft skills that businesses demand
- ▶ Gain work experience to prepare them for their chosen career
- ▶ Get their foot in the door that might lead to being offered a job
- ▶ Build a network with professionals in their career
- ▶ Observe professionals in their chosen career
- ▶ Get exposure to careers in their community

## Opportunity for Business

- ▶ Provide employers the opportunity to influence their future workforce
- ▶ Build a pool of skilled workers
- ▶ Serve as a recruitment strategy for the best and brightest emerging workers
- ▶ Allow business to experience potential employees in an educational setting
- ▶ Create a positive reputation in the community for providing growth opportunities for students

## Opportunity for Schools

- ▶ Provide students with valuable experiences to prepare them for their careers
- ▶ Create closer ties with businesses and community
- ▶ Increase student motivation
- ▶ Increase student enrollment
- ▶ Reduce dropout rates

## How do I get involved in WBL?

You can contact your local CareerTech technology center or high school and start the discussion about how a WBL partnership can create opportunities for you.

Another way to get connected is go to the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education website.

[www.okcareer.tech/wbl](http://www.okcareer.tech/wbl)

On our website you will find a more detailed overview of WBL. You will also find supportive resources on how to participate in different types of WBL from middle school, high school, technology center, and even in a business's current workforce.

The CareerTech system is dedicated to growing WBL across the state because we know how powerful opportunity can be.

# WBL Opportunities

## Start in Elementary School and Continue Through Graduation

Learn About Work

Learn Through Work

Learn At Work

### Career Awareness

- ▶ Guest Speakers
- ▶ Field Trips
- ▶ Workplace Tours

### Career Exploration

- ▶ Job Shadowing
- ▶ Career Research
- ▶ Informational Interviews
- ▶ Career Interest Assessment
- ▶ Mentoring

### Career and Technology Education

- ▶ Career and Technology Education Programs
- ▶ Internships
- ▶ Credit-For-Work Experiences
- ▶ Project-Based Learning
- ▶ High-Quality Simulation

### Pre-Employment Experience

- ▶ Clinical Experiences
- ▶ Service Learning
- ▶ Pre-Apprenticeship

### Training as an Employee

- ▶ Apprenticeship
- ▶ On-The-Job Training
- ▶ Employee
- ▶ Internal Talent Development



"I've been teaching for 20 years and it has always been a puzzle. Connecting with the industry showed me the front of the box."

-Oklahoma Middle School Teacher



"My main goal for high school was to get myself as prepared as possible. With the combination of Tulsa Tech's interior design program at KKT architects, I can move on knowing that I have a head start in college and my future career as an architect."

-Sand Springs Student



"The internship program gives us an extended interview with students to find if they are the right fit for our organization as much as they discover if we are the right employer and career field for them."

-Nathan Smith, Sensia Global, Duncan, OK