

WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE CAMP I

**Virtual**

# WEEE camp

**JUNE 7-11, 2021**

**A program of:**



**Funded by:**



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](http://www.theorchardfoundation.org)  
[www.rapidesfoundation.org](http://www.rapidesfoundation.org)

# Why WEE Camp?

The Workplace Experience Exchange Camp, or WEE Camp for short, is often the first time that Central Louisiana's middle and high school educators step into the workplace and are introduced to the careers and work environments that their students will encounter after high school graduation.

In 2015, WEE Camp was established by The Orchard Foundation to foster the connection between secondary education and regional industries and employers. At WEE Camp, educators become immersed in the worlds that their students will enter one day as credentialed and degreed workers. The goal is to cultivate a broader, global mindset among the educators that they can convey to their students.

Teachers leave WEE Camp with first-hand knowledge of the workforce issues facing employers in Central Louisiana. They emerge more confident and prepared to adjust 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.

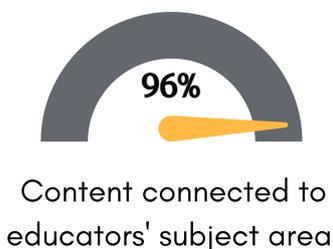
This summer, WEE Camp I was offered virtually to first-time participants. The five-day workshop featured 17 industry partners. WEE Camp II, a more advanced experience, will be offered again in 2022.



## What Are They Saying?

### Educators

### Industry Partners



Results from 2021 educator and industry partner surveys

# How We Do It

## INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, 17 Central Louisiana businesses partnered with WEE Camp I. From the manufacturing industry to healthcare, educators were connected to a broad cross-section of businesses.



## ENGAGED EDUCATORS

26 educators were accepted to WEE Camp I, representing 19 middle and high schools in 8 Central Louisiana school districts. Educators are 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.



# Testimonials

**Several presenters commented on how "willingness to learn," "team spirit," and "willingness to work" are essential for their companies. I will stress these three aspects in the classroom as equally important as "education" for job readiness.**

**—EDUCATOR**

Being able to present my students with information about local businesses makes it real to them. Oftentimes, students don't see how certain careers relate to them. There are many types of jobs available that don't require a degree. We've talked about some careers, but now I know about so many new ones I never realized.

**—EDUCATOR**

**The PowerPoints that the presenters gave us will be excellent tools to use in class. That is what we need the most when teaching about careers. We need videos and presentations from the actual companies.**

**—EDUCATOR**

This event surpassed our expectations. The teachers were engaged and asked great questions. Although it was not like being in person, this was a very smooth event.

**—INDUSTRY PARTNER**

**I think this is a great way to bridge the gap between secondary education and college and career readiness. Even if the teachers decide to not teach programming, they now know of a place they can recommend for their students.**

**—INDUSTRY PARTNER**

# Industry Partners

