



# WEE CAMP

Workplace Experience Exchange Camp

 THE  
**ORCHARD**  
FOUNDATION

Funded by:



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

**WEE CAMP II**  
**JUNE 13-17, 2022**

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

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

# 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 II



## Participating Schools

**Grant Parish**  
Georgetown High School  
Grant High School

**Rapides Parish**  
Bolton High School  
Peabody High School  
Rapides Academy

# HISTORY



In its seventh year, WEE Camp - Central Louisiana's first industry externship program - has served 228 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 II educators were connected to seven regional employers. From manufacturing to healthcare, to military and the energy industry, many of Cenla's key industries were represented.



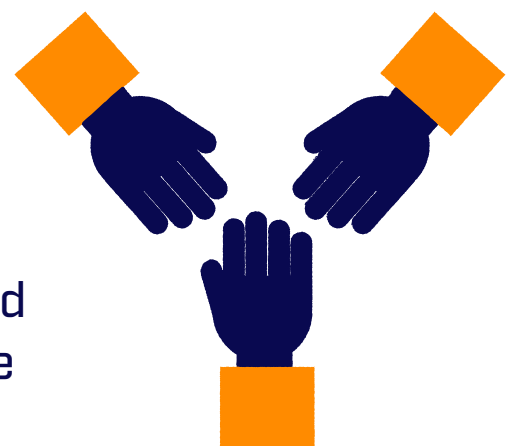
## EDUCATORS

Five high school educators were accepted to WEE Camp II 2022, representing five public schools in two school districts.



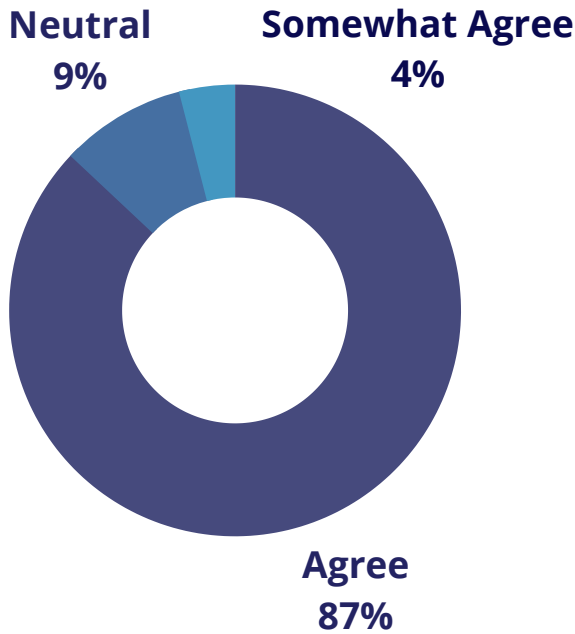
## COLLABORATION

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.

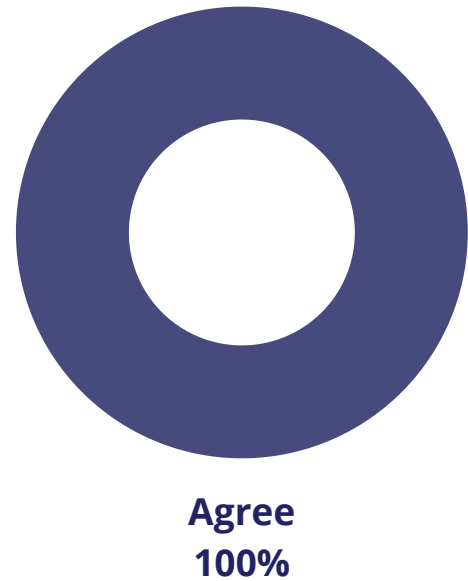


# WEE IMPACT ON EDUCATORS

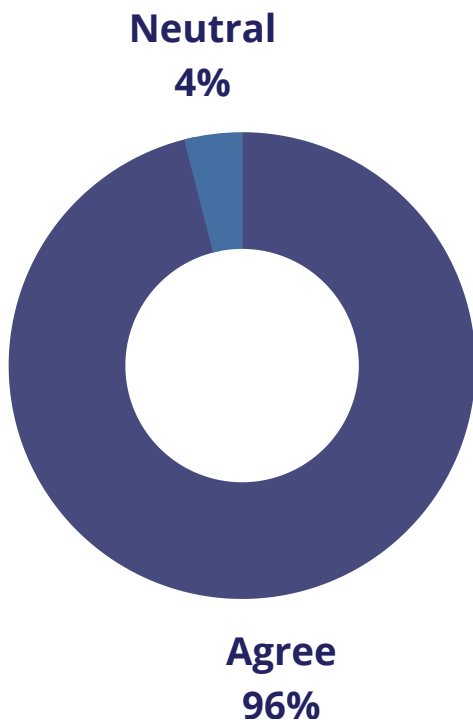
## Connections to classroom subject matter



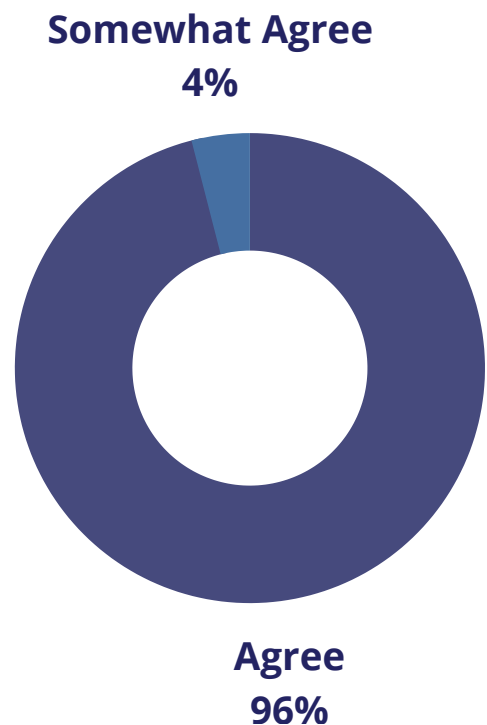
## Increased awareness of employer requirements



## 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've already thought about ways to incorporate what I've learned into my classroom, specifically exposing my students to careers.

This experience will change how I interact with students because I will be able to provide them with more information about opportunities in the Central Louisiana region that they may not be aware of.



WEE Camp has shown me why we need to teach skills that are transferable between school, work, and home.

I learned about companies and careers that I did not know about. The experience made me more aware of workplace readiness (problem solving, technology, communication) required by the employer.



It greatly expands my knowledge base and my connections when I do career lessons and counseling.

I will be implementing programs in my classroom to help with career readiness, such team-based projects and giving out certificates for punctuality and dependability.



# INDUSTRY PARTNERS

## THANK YOU!

