WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE CAMP II







Funded by:
The Rapides Foundation

The Workplace Experience Exchange Camp II is an immersive summer experience for educators, connecting classroom teaching to real-world business and industry experiences and opportunities, with an intense focus on skills needed in today's workforce.

WHY WEE CAMP II

The increasing body of literature indicates that educators become better at their jobs when they can relate real-world examples to the content delivered to their students. Thus, WEE Camp was born as Central Louisiana's first industry externship program for educators.

At WEE Camp, educators cultivate a new appreciation for the skills and proficiencies their students will need in future careers. The educational goal is to increase educators' abilities to connect theory and practice, increasing the relevance of student learning.

Manufacturing continues to be one of Central Louisiana's fastest growing sectors, with employers consistently demanding a more work-ready workforce. The Orchard Foundation created WEE Camp II to provide a more intense experience in the manufacturing workplace.

For two days, WEE Camp II immerses educators in the day-to-day operations of some of the region's key manufacturers. They observe the skills and knowledge prospective employees need to be successful. They learn from first-line workers, supervisors, and managers. The program uses inquiry-based learning, which challenges educators to think more like employers. WEE Camp II then joins the larger WEE Camp I group to continue their engagement with other regional employers.

WEE Camp launched a new project this year wherein WEE Camp educators and their students participate in two Nepris sessions and two field trips or visits with subject matter experts. Educators have the opportunity to strengthen industry partnerships that were initiated through the camp, and students further develop their skills by engaging directly with industry partners.

What Are They Saying?

Educators

Connection to Subject Area
96%
Awareness of Workforce Needs
100%
Discussion of Academic Prep
100%
Relevance to Classroom Teaching
100%
Awareness of Regional Programs
100%
Meaningful Prep Materials
100%
Adequate Time at Host Sites

Host Sites

Host Sites
Timely Invitation
100%
Sufficient Preparation Information
100%
Clear Identification of Role
100%
Length of Visit
100%
Bridges K-12 & College/Career
100%
Willingness to Host Again
100%

How We Do It

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2018, 7 Central Louisiana businesses partnered with WEE Camp II. From manufacturing to healthcare, educators are connected to a broad cross-section of businesses.





EDUCATORS

6 educators were accepted to WEE Camp II, representing 6 schools in 5 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 believe it is imperative that the teachers realize what these future employers are looking for in potential future employees. It was so informative to see what goes on in the working world, outside the daily classroom teaching, so that a connection can be made between the two for a productive future workforce.

JAMIE HOLMES, EDUCATOR

I plan on using Nepris to inspire my students to do more, to be more, to dream and to plan for their future. I'd finally like to answer a question I often hear from students – "when will I ever use this?" I will inspire my students to be successful after high school and encourage them to build a career around their strengths.

ANGELA CAZIERE, EDUCATOR

I will use Nepris to build awareness of industries available to students, encourage more teachers to ask for access to this platform, and facilitate Nepris to several different classroom environments. This exposure for rural students will be such an asset. The entire week flew by. This was the most relevant training I have ever been to (and I have been to several!).

KATHY CANERDAY, EDUCATOR

We are thankful for touring these companies and receiving all this information – I've visited several major companies that want to train our kids. The WEE Camp sites appreciated that we came and wanted to learn. My eyes have been opened and I've learned so much. This is truly an awesome experience and is so much better than staff development. This is so rewarding!

TAMMY WILBER, EDUCATOR

I think this is a great way to bridge the gap between secondary education and college and career readiness. It certainly helps to communicate and exchange ideas about educating the future workforce.

WAYNE DENLEY, CLEDA, HOST SITE FOR WEE CAMP II



WEE Gamp Memories

















INDUSTRY PARTNERS













