



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING...

Students

"I like the idea of giving young people an opportunity to get their hands dirty. You can only learn so much in a classroom."

"I did an internship because it seemed like it would help me get into school and maybe get more scholarship money. Internships really matter because the colleges want to know that you're really committed. And it was really good work experience that I never would have gotten any other way."

"Once you realize the things it can give you, I think honestly all the work I put in was 100% worth it. It changed the way I viewed what I wanted to do."

"I would recommend that people have the experience and it teaches you a lot. How to be professional. If your only experience is fast food, I don't think you'd be as prepared for moving into a different kind of job and work environment. But this really gives you the step up, and I thought that was super helpful. No job I could get right now would get me the experience that I need. What's the point of paying for college if you don't know what you want to do with it?"

Parents

"It helps kids be able to make a plan and get to know their abilities for direction. They can go in and say, 'Whoa, this is not me at all,' or 'Maybe this is the thing.'"

"Their on-site 'learning' environment seemed to be a great bridge into the working world which can seem very different from high school."

"My kids will hear about my job, but they are not going to hear about jobs that have come into existence like since I started working. So I love that it gave exposure to things they didn't know was even a job."

CareerConnectWA.org

**REAL WORLD
SKILLS**

**REAL WORLD
EXPERIENCE**

**REAL WORLD
SUCCESS**



CONNECTING WASHINGTON STUDENTS WITH HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS

THE PROBLEM:

TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE NOT CONNECTING WITH HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE JOBS

Washington state's economy is strong. With job growth faster than the national rate, employers are eager to fill 740,000 job openings statewide in the next five years.

But too many of our students lack the awareness, preparation and opportunity to connect with the high-demand, high-wage jobs that lead to successful, fulfilling careers.

THE SOLUTION:

REAL-WORLD, CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING

Career connected learning programs offer a rich variety of educational opportunities for students to explore and discover jobs and careers that inspire them to grow and succeed:

- *Career Awareness and Exploration* programs provide exposure to jobs and industries as early as elementary school.
- *Career Preparation* programs provide academic skills and hands-on experience to prepare for future jobs.
- *Career Launch* programs are the most intense and combine paid, meaningful employment with classroom learning to earn credentials. This includes learning at the K-12, community college and 4-year levels.

The goal is to ensure that every student can combine classroom learning and **real-world skills** to build the confidence they need to secure their future— regardless of their background.

CAREER CONNECTED WASHINGTON:

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED HERE AT HOME

Career connected learning is a well-tested approach. However, while Washington already has some programs and opportunities, the time has come to scale up so all of our state's students can harness the power of career connected learning.

Career Connect Washington is a statewide, multi-sector approach to career connected learning designed to guide every young adult in Washington to the opportunities that will serve her or him best.

It will connect students to opportunities with our state's employers so they can build successful careers here in Washington.

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

We are dedicated to creating equitable access to high-quality career connected learning opportunities for every Washington young adult, so they can:

- Be academically prepared and work-ready.
- Get support and guidance in making choices about their education and careers.
- Enjoy meaningful learning experiences.
- Earn valuable credentials for high-opportunity careers.
- Build momentum toward their career path and/or further education.

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR EMPLOYERS

Employers will be able to hire from a talented pool of local applicants who are work-ready. Employers will have:

- Easy, accessible engagement in career connected learning efforts.
- Access to qualified candidates who are prepared and trained to fill workforce gaps.
- Improved retention of that talent over time.
- A workforce of life-long learners, passionate about their care.
- A stronger position from which to meet changing industry needs.

JOIN US

Washington state has so many important and valuable resources: Growing employers, great schools, and students and families eager to find new pathways from school to careers.

Strong leadership and statewide support will help make a broad variety of these programs available to every student in the state, giving them a better start toward the success that awaits them.

To get involved or learn more about Career Connect Washington, including our strategic planning process, key stakeholders, and milestones, please visit:

CareerConnectWA.org

