

Career Awareness Guest Speaker Supplemental Activity Boxes

Project Description:

A group of 20 students would research and then create supplemental activity boxes to use when guest speakers come into the classroom to discuss and explore careers. The boxes would contain a simple hand-on activity for students to do related to the career field the guest speaker would be discussing during the visit. Currently, when guest speakers come, they talk for about 45 minutes, but students struggle to pay attention after about 20-25 minutes. These boxes would have the materials necessary for a more hands-on learning opportunity. For example, an electrician could speak to students about the profession and the students could be more engaged in the experience through some type of activity that could have supplemented this career path. The activity could've involved connecting wires to batteries to power on a fan as a lead into the career-focused presentation part of the Guest Speaker experience. Once the boxes are assembled and field-tested with students, the content list and approximate cost could be shared with other schools to assemble their own OR shared between several schools.

Grade Level(s):

9-12

***Subject/Program Area:**

Number of Students Impacted:

Variable (about 20 students to help create the boxes, but several hundred to use them)

Amount Requested:

\$850

How will you assess the effectiveness of this project?

Pre and post-tests before and after the guest speaker comes to visit.

Possible pre-test questions:

- What do you know about this career field?
- Are you interested in this career field?
- What are the recommended and required educational requirements?

- What kinds of jobs/activities do you think this career field might include?

Possible post-test questions:

- What do you know about this career field now that you have heard the speaker?
- Are you interested in pursuing this career field? Explain why or why not.
- What are the education requirements and suggested work-related experiences that were shared about this career field?
- What kinds of jobs/activities do you think this career field might include?
- What follow-up activities can you participate in if you are interested in learning more about this career field?

How is the project innovative and creative?

When researching this topic of interest, I quickly noticed there wasn't really a product out there that meets the needs of this type of career awareness opportunity.

How does this project enhance or link to one or more Portrait of a Graduate attributes?

Collaborator - students will collaborate with each other, business representatives, guest speakers, teachers and staff in order to create these kits.

Communicator - students will need to brainstorm strategic ways to share their ideas with the guest speakers verbally and in writing. Digital communication skills will be developed

Budget:

The total cost of each kit would vary depending on the supplies needed (goal around \$200 for each kit), total not to exceed \$800. Each kit would contain enough supplies for 10-15 student pairs. Donations from outside organizations could also be requested for additional supplies if necessary.

4 clear storage boxes - to hold the supplies for each kit (sizes will vary according to the contents). The approximate cost of these kits should be \$50.

Timeline:

1 kit would be created for each quarter which is approximately 45 days. When building the kits, students would use this time to obtain necessary supplies and then test out with a guest speaker and group of students to attend the event.

Deadlines -

- End of October

- End of December
- Mid-February
- Mid-May

Additional Comments:

I work primarily with special education students and have already identified some students who would be good matches for helping create these career kits. I would reach out to the Career Center Specialist and Career and Transition Services WBL Coordinator to make necessary arrangements for the guest speakers. Even though special education students would be the ones assembling the kits, the guest speakers and activity sessions would be open to all students in the school. Additionally, this project could be scaled up so that kits could be shared among other schools in the county.