Student, Parent and Industry Partner Success

Discover your future.
The Workplace Learning Experience

District 214 Workplace Learning Experiences provide the student with an opportunity to connect personal interests, abilities and knowledge to a career path. District 214 Center for Career Discovery staff help the student to evaluate and reflect on their own experiences and develop a focused career plan.

Our Industry partners support a student’s career development through career-related activities and a workplace experience which support a student’s career path interests and post-secondary goals.

Supported Community-based Workplace Learning Experience

Students attend a semester long community-based workplace learning experience designed to support development of positive work habits and behavior, as well as, career readiness and soft skills. Students are required to demonstrate appropriate work-related skills for better self-awareness, increased maturity, enhanced work ethic, and pride in performance. Job Coaches will monitor students with training and ongoing support.

Employee Development 06681/06682
Fall or Spring 16-week semester, 10 hours per week experience, or 6-week Summer semester, 12 hours per week experience, based on a student’s strengths and career interests.

District Internship Program

The District Internship Program integrates academic curriculum with workplace learning experience. It is designed to support a student’s career development, interests and post-secondary goals. This program is overseen and evaluated by instructors.

District Internship Program 09870
Summer Internship 09851
Fall or Spring 16-week semester, 5 hours per week experience, or 6-week Summer semester, 15 hours per week learning experience, designed to support a student’s career interests.

District Micro-Internship Experience

The District Micro-Internship program features an authentic and meaningful workplace learning experience in the local community. This program is overseen and evaluated by instructors.

District Micro-Internship 09500
A 30-hour workplace learning experience designed to support a student’s career exploration and development.

In-District Workplace Learning Experience

Industry partners engage and support student career skill development and post-secondary goals through in-district embedded workplace learning experiences. Examples of engagement include:

- Extended industry member co-teaching, mentorship and coaching,
- Curricular and extracurricular industry supported Problem Based Learning (PBL) experiences through career course work such as in the Certified Nursing Assistant course, Education Academy, Entrepreneurship, Medical Academy and ProStart.

Career-Related Activities

These programs offer exploratory opportunities for students to learn more about careers of interests, as well as the opportunity to engage with industry professionals in regards to their professions.

- **Facility Tours:** Led by an industry professional at their organization, a group of students and teachers that are interested in a particular career field attend.
- **Classroom Presentations:** Students that are taking an industry related class are presented to by professionals in the career field of interest.

Benefits for Students

- Increase learning and drive individual success through engagement in meaningful, real-world experiences.
- Observe and engage with professionals in their typical work setting.
- Explore interests, abilities, and values that align with a particular career area of interest.
- Develop an understanding of tasks, responsibilities, terminology, climate, and protocols that enable the student to meaningfully analyze and revise their future career plans.
- Connect, evaluate, and reflect on the experience with personal interest, abilities, and values, as well as integrate and apply knowledge through structured decision making about a career of interest.
- Understand the skills and contributions made to the organization’s success.
- Develop and utilize networking skills to promote relationship building with industry partners.

Benefits for the Industry Partner

- An opportunity to recruit, develop and evaluate a future pipeline of potential employees.
- Gain insight, fresh perspective, and support from a source of highly motivated pre-professionals.
- Create positive press and enhance your organization’s societal footprint and image in the community.
- Provide leadership opportunities for your employees through the mentoring of an intern.
- Increase understanding and awareness about the skills needed within your industry.

I love my internship. It is the best experience I have had. It has opened so many doors and given me excitement for the future.

— Senior, Culinary Student

Our student is a bright young man with a bright future. He seems to enjoy the experience and has been asking for more hours...

— Engineering Partner

Independent Community-based Workplace Learning Experience

Students attend a community-based workplace learning experience designed to support a student’s career interests and post-secondary goals. Students must be able to work independently in the community with periodic support and feedback provided by Career Discovery staff.

The love of the future. It has opened so many doors and given me excitement for the future.

— Senior, Culinary Student

District Micro-Internship Experience

A 30-hour workplace learning experience designed to support a student’s career exploration and development.
What Our Students Say

“Being able to actually work in my future career path is an asset and experience I will never forget. My experiences at my internship have allowed me to say definitively what I want to do for the rest of my life, an advantage which so few students nowadays have.”

— Junior, Engineering Student

“My internship was an amazing experience that really solidified my career choice for the future. I think anyone who is seriously considering a certain career should join the internship program. Getting to work with and learn from people that are currently working in that specific line of work is a really unique experience.”

— Senior, IT Student

“You are surrounded by professionals and expected to do as good as them. It forces you to try the most you can and you can constantly learn new things and gain new skills.”

— Senior, Culinary Student

What Our Industry Partners Say

“We are extremely pleased with our student. He has shown a level of maturity, professionalism and aptitude beyond his years. We feel we learned just as much from him as he did from us.”

— Information Technology Partner

“Overall it’s a great experience for both the student and my pharmacy staff. As the student gets to learn more about the pharmacy, it helps my team grow as leaders in training her.”

— Pharmacy Partner

16 Career Clusters
Finding the best way for students to learn and achieve success is of utmost importance to the State of Illinois and the nation as a whole. College and career success is critical to our national and state economy and has become a national priority. The Career Clusters and related Career Pathways serve as an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies and magnet schools to develop more effective programs of study and curriculum. The National Career Clusters® Framework is comprised of 16 Career Clusters and related Career Pathways to help students explore different career options and better prepare for college and career.

◼ Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
◼ Architecture and Construction
◼ Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications
◼ Business Management and Administration
◼ Education and Training
◼ Finance
◼ Government and Public Administration
◼ Health Science
◼ Hospitality and Tourism
◼ Human Services
◼ Information Technology
◼ Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
◼ Manufacturing
◼ Marketing, Sales and Service
◼ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
◼ Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

For more information visit:
www.d214.org/academics/career-discovery