

CTE MONTH

WEEK 3- Work-Based Learning:
Taking a Hands-On Approach



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

Work-based learning (WBL) is an educational strategy that provides students with real-life work experiences that apply academic and technical skills and develop employability. Taking a hands-on approach enhances career exploration and can be obtained through apprenticeships, internships, cooperative work experiences, job shadowing, and service learning. The work-based learning initiative has grown nationally and has been a clear focus in Illinois. The State and its educational and workforce agencies and partners are committed to strengthening and expanding work-based learning opportunities for students.

“Work-based learning... is central to CTE and through which students have the ability to gain high-wage, high-skilled occupational experience while pursuing postsecondary credentials... Moreover, work-based learning has been found to increase students’ persistence, graduation, and employment rates, with notable gains for students from underserved racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds” (Rodriguez, Fox, and McCambly, 2016). To access the full brief, visit: <https://occrll.illinois.edu/docs/librariesProvider4/ptr/wbl-brief.pdf>.

Around the State



Kishwaukee College is partnering with the Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (ICATT) to offer a manufacturing maintenance technician apprenticeship program for local industry. Bernie Pupino, Coordinator of Career Technologies at Kishwaukee College, stated, “We’re reaching out to local industries to create the second apprenticeship cohort. This is a great opportunity for local industry to get the highly-trained employees they have been searching for.”

ICATT works with and subscribes to the German-American Chambers of Commerce dual education apprenticeship program model. Students who become apprentices commit to a five-year program that combines employment with manufacturing education. Students work full time for their employer three days of the work week and spend the other two days at Kishwaukee College in the Automated Engineering Tech (AET) program, taking classes in manufacturing processes, safety, fabrication practices, print reading, metrology, Computer Numerical Control Machining (CNC), and Computer-Aided Design (CAD).



Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) hosted its fifth annual National Manufacturing Day event with approximately 1,200 students from 31 area high schools. Students toured the SWIC's technical education division to learn about the various opportunities offered by the college's career and technical education departments. Over 40 manufacturers exhibited their products at the event and fifteen manufacturers allowed students to tour their facilities in order to show what careers in modern manufacturing look like today. The annual event is planned by a partnership of industry, community, and SWIC representatives for the purpose of encouraging young men and women to consider career paths that can lead to high wage, high skilled professions.



Waubonsee Mechanic Program Featured in the Chicago Tribune

It used to be that people could learn to work on cars by tinkering with their own. Now, even an entry-level job in automotive repair requires specialized certification. Automotive technology professor Kenneth Kunz said, "We offer an associate's degree, but about 30 percent of our students wind up going to Southern Illinois University to earn their bachelor's, and many are working right along with their training". The Waubonsee program includes both classroom and automotive shop instruction.

Resources and Upcoming Professional Development

- ✓ [ICCB Apprenticeship Resources](#)
- ✓ [CTE Apprenticeship Resources](#) – OCCRL – *check out the Podcast!*
- ✓ [Work-Based Learning as a Pathway to Postsecondary and Career Success](#)- OCCRL Brief (2016)
- ✓ [WorkforceGPS: Introduction to Apprenticeship](#)
- ✓ [Illinois' Apprenticeship Plus Website](#)
- ✓ [U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Website](#)
- ✓ [Work-Based Learning: Promoting a Well-Rounded Education for All Students](#)- CCRSC Webinar
- ✓ [Upcoming Professional Development](#)

Career and Technical Education Month® is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. [Learn more at ACTE Online.](#)

We celebrate CTE every month! Don't forget to send us news, initiatives, or achievements so that we can highlight CTE at your college. Submit an article and photo to Melissa.Andrews@Illinois.gov

