



AT-A-GLANCE PROFILES

Work-based Learning

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Workplace Tours

Once a year, the Sheet Metal Workers' Training Center hosts approximately 40 high school students from the Sacramento area for a full day of worksite tours and apprenticeship center visits in the fields of plumbing, electrical, and sheet metal work. After lunch at the plumbers' hall, students don standard protective gear for a worksite visit to a union metal shop. They observe firsthand what work in the trades looks like and learn what preparation is required to pursue these careers.

The Kings County SchoolWork Connection program offers students from Corcoran High School workplace tours at Corcoran State Prison to learn about the range of job opportunities available, including corrections officers, electricians, doctors, cooks and clerical positions.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Job Shadows

At the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, more than 400 elementary and high school students participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Members of the local Service Employees International Union (SEIU 660) and the Union of Physicians and Dentists familiarized the young people with their work as nurses, technicians, doctors, and other positions in science and medicine.

The San Diego Unified School District passed a board policy that sets clear standards for student job shadowing experiences. Job shadowing activities that meet these standards are covered under the district's workers' compensation policy. In addition, the board policy ensures that the activity is school sanctioned, thus offering greater protection for students, teachers and workplace partners.

At the Burbank Hilton in southern California, 30 high school students spend a day each year job shadowing various hotel departments. Last year, one group helped cook lunch for fellow students, another worked with hotel security to investigate a mock crime scene and a third assisted VIP services with its efforts to transport and serve important guests.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Internships

Workforce Silicon Valley hosts an annual BayScholars Student Leadership Institute to prepare students for the summer BayScholars program. Employers and interns from the past year orient students to the expectations, opportunities and skills learned in the summer internship program. Students participate in interactive workshops about goal-setting, communication and interview preparation. Interns are assigned a work-based learning advisor to assist in the development of a work-based learning contract and the implementation of a work-based learning plan.

In order to meet a critical need for future information technology workers, Agilent hired 21 high school interns during the summer. The company engaged a program coordinator to coordinate the interns and run weekly workshops on work readiness skills and connections to classroom curriculum.

Calty Design, Toyota's automotive research and design firm, offers mentoring and internships for students in Orange County. One example of the program's success is Preston Moore, who lacked direction and doubted his academic ability until he entered Calty Design's Project Create. After his internship, Preston significantly improved his grades and motivation in school. Upon graduation, he was hired by Calty to be a modeler trainee and is on his way to a satisfying and productive career.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Career Mentoring

The East Side Electronics Academies in San Jose's East Side Union High School District established a Career Mentoring Program with local technology companies, including Agilent, Lockheed-Martin and IBM. Employees from the companies serve as mentor coordinators, offering a range of support to career mentors. These volunteers coordinate monthly activities, provide logistical support and act as sounding boards.

San Francisco YouthWorks provides students with career mentoring experiences in city government. Students are provided with a career mentor and attend monthly skill development and support workshops.

The Orange County Register in Santa Ana has adopted a local high school journalism program. The paper provides computers and technical support and sends newsroom staffers to the school for lectures, training and mentoring. The paper also sponsors an annual summer mentor program and assists California Scholastic Press Association's two-week intensive high school journalism workshop.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Service Learning

In Petaluma, high school students undertake senior projects as a part of their senior English course. After researching a community need and developing a strategy with area middle school students to address the problem, students complete a 15-hour field experience in such areas as community health, substance abuse education or recreation and fitness and receive concurrent enrollment credit through the local junior college for community involvement.

Olympic High School in Concord offers students an opportunity to participate as service learning volunteers in its Learning to Serve–Serving to Learn program. Students are placed in elementary school classrooms, non-profit agencies and centers for children with special needs for 100 hours of service. By linking their studies directly to their placement, volunteers receive credit in a variety of subjects and, at the same time, feel productive within their community. Students complete a journal in order to reflect on their experiences and to explore important local issues.

The Humboldt County Office of Education developed a joint powers agreement for insurance, which covers all service learning and work-based learning activities in the county.

Ventura County's Building and Trades Council works with School-to-Career and local high schools to have students build houses for Habitat for Humanity. The initiative leverages industry experts and community and government funds to offer students a learning-rich experience in construction careers and provide needy families with a home of their own.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Paid Work Experience

The Mayor's Youth Employment & Education Program (MYEEP) in San Francisco operates a subsidized work experience program for approximately 600 students each school year. Students are placed in non-profit or private sector worksites with wages subsidized by the city and county of San Francisco. Students in MYEEP receive 15 hours of pre-employment training and ongoing workshop training in the areas of career development, educational enhancement and youth development.

The Petaluma School District, in collaboration with the City Youth Employment Services Program and Petaluma People Services Center, holds one-hour orientations for students seeking a work permit. The orientation introduces students to key legal, health and safety issues; coaches them about how to make connections between their work experience and the classroom; and emphasizes the importance of such workplace competencies as good communication, punctuality and attitude.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Apprenticeships/Pre-apprenticeships

In San Diego and San Mateo counties, union representatives make classroom presentations on the various educational and skill requirements of the local building trades as well as the qualifications for application to union apprenticeship programs. The San Mateo Central Labor Council and the San Mateo Building and Construction Trades Council, along with their School-to-Career partners, created a 75-page guide to their apprenticeship programs for students, parents, teachers, counselors and others in the community.