

# INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER EXPLORATION AT WHS





# HELLO!

## Donna M. Welch

- + 28 year veteran teacher @ WHS
- + Part-time Career Education Teacher & Part-time Special Education Teacher

You can find me at [dwelch@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:dwelch@westerly.k12.ri.us)



**“CAREER EXPLORATION IS NOT A  
SIMPLE APTITUDE TEST THAT YOU  
TAKE, NOR IS IT A SINGLE ACTIVITY  
TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING ONE  
YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.”**

American Student Assistance – 2020 Strategic Insights Series

# We Define WBL as opportunities for students to learn through work

Work-based learning is often described as a continuum of work-related activities spanning elementary and secondary grades

## Career Awareness “learning about work”

Includes activities such as:

- Career Fairs
- Guest Speakers
- Field Trips
- Job Shadows
- Informational Interviews
- Networking Events
- In-class Exploration Activities

## Career Preparation “learning through work”

Includes activities such as:

- Internships
- Cooperative Education
- Pre and Youth Apprenticeships

## Career Training “learning for work”

Includes activities such as:

- Apprenticeships
- Practicums

Source adapted from WashintonSTEM's [K-12 Career Connected Framework](#)

## INTERNSHIPS ARE ON THE RISE...

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), defines an internship as “a professional learning experience that offers meaningful, practical work related to a student’s field of study or career interest.

In Skills for Rhode Island’s Future PrepareRI program, 89% of the nearly 500 students who completed an internship said they believe the skills they learned during the experience will help them in the future. Around 76% said they learned something new about themselves during the experience, and a similar number (79%) said it provided an opportunity to learn about their unique and specific skills and interests.

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# PREPARE! WORK-BASED LEARNING CONTINUUM

## Exploration

Career exploration helps students discover their passions and create an Individual Learning Plan.

## Expertise

Career and technical education (CTE) programs and college-level coursework help students build industry-specific expertise.

## Experience

Work-based learning, such as internships or industry projects, allow students to learn in an authentic work setting.

## Career

Students enter the workforce in a high-wage, high-demand industry aligned to their passions.

- Work-based learning means a planned, structured learning experience that provides students with real-life or simulated work experiences where they can develop and apply academic, technical, and applied learning skills.
- WBL activities provide students with real-life or simulated work experiences these experiences are often credit bearing opportunities that provide students career and industry connected learning both during and outside of the traditional school day.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...



## CAREER SEMINAR & CAREER EXPLORATION

- + Developed the Career Seminar course while working at the WHS Excel Program from 1997–2006
- + Taught Career Seminar as an elective course 2006–2010 @ WHS
- + 2011–Began the two-block Career Seminar & Career Exploration Program with the Internship Component – Transportation provided



WHERE WE ARE NOW...



# CAREER SEMINAR & CAREER EXPLORATION/INTERNSHIPS

## CAREER SEMINAR (060)

1 credit-Grade 12

This course engages students in the various aspects of career exploration and the employment process. The students will gain an understanding of a variety of careers by exploring the 16 Career Clusters and their related educational options with an emphasis on self-awareness, goal setting, and decision-making. Students will develop a resume and reference list, cover letters, complete employment applications, and learn about and participate in the professional interview process. Students will also explore the soft skills needed to obtain and maintain employment.

The students will work with several online databases and develop an individual online career portfolio.

## CAREER EXPLORATION (061)

1 credit - Grade 12

This course provides students the opportunity to enter the professional workforce in an internship capacity. Each student will participate in a work placement related to their own career goal(s). During their internship students will gather an appreciation and understanding of the responsibilities needed to maintain employment.

Participants will be expected to complete daily Log Sheets to track experiences and accomplishments. In addition, each student will complete a written reflection at the end of each internship opportunity.

\*The course is taken in tandem with Career Seminar.

# Current Enrollment

@ .4 FTE Internship Coordinator



Career Seminar & Career Exploration  
Double-Block Class – 25 Students



Individual Internships – 7 Students

# BUSINESS PARTNERS...NOW AND OVER THE YEARS

## Education

- + WHS & WMS
- + State Street School
- + Dunn's Corners School
- + Springbrook School
- + Clark Street Daycare
- + Cadence Academy
- + Westerly Pre-School

## Supply Chain & Transportation

- + New England Airlines
- + Valenti Toyota
- + Valenti Subaru
- + Red Stone Tire
- + Austin Auto Repair
- + Ashaway Service Center

## Hospitality & Events

- + Ocean House
- + Guytanno's Restaurant
- + Grey Sail Brewing
- + Brazen Hen Restaurant
- + Haversham Restaurant

## Health Science

- + Westerly Hospital
- + Apple Rehab-Clipper
- + Royal Nursing Home
- + Premier Physical Therapy
- + Choice Physical Therapy
- + Westerly Massage Ther.
- + Beachcrest Dental
- + South County Dermatology
- + Jeremy Ponte - FMSC
- + Dr. Robert Fox

## Arts, Entertainment & Design

- + Coastal Graphics
- + Bridget Q Photography
- + Sun Graphics
- + Printing Plus
- + Granite Photo
- + Frame & Focus Media
- + Artist Cooperative Gallery
- + La Sarta Maria - Seamstress

## Advanced Manufacturing

- + Cimini & Associates
- + US Extruders
- + Maxson Automatic Machinery
- + Ivory Ella

# BUSINESS PARTNERS...OVER THE YEARS CONTINUED...

## Construction

- + Sea Coast Residential Design
- + Saint Construction
- + Evan's Welding
- + G.A. Schackner Builders
- + Brookside Electric
- + Mistrik Electric
- + Coastal Group Electric
- + Ritacco Electric
- + Century Electric
- + Westerly School Dept-Plumber  
Mark Duchesneau
- + Ready Form Company
- + 4 E Electric
- + RI Woodworks
  - + Shoreline Sprinklers
  - + Peter Ballone Home  
Inspections

## Public Service & Safety

- + Town of Westerly
- + Westerly Fire Department
- + Westerly Ambulance Corp
- + Westerly Police Depart.
- + WSD Finance Office
- + Ocean Community  
Chamber of Commerce
- + YMCA
- + Westerly Land Trust
- + Chorus of Westerly

## Marketing & Sales

- + Nigrelli's Jewelry
- + WBLQ Radio
- + Precision Fitness
- + Urban 33 Lighting

## Agriculture

- + Salt Ponds Animal Hospital
- + Turco Animal Hospital
- + Grooming with Linda
- + Pink Poodle Grooming
- + Peace Dale Shooting Preserve
- + Fenner Pines Farm

## Health & Human Services

- + Uptown Salon & Spa
- + Bella Vita Salon
- + BarreCoast Studios & Boutique
- + Tri-County Community Action

## Digital Technology

- + Mike's Computers
- + The Right Click



WHERE WE ARE HEADED...

# WORK-BASED LEARNING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

-REVISED NOVEMBER 2024 BY RIDE

For the Class of 2028 and subsequent graduating classes:

- + Students enrolled in RIDE approved CTE Programs must complete 80 hours of WBL to be considered a CTE completer in their respective CTE programs
- + High Schools must develop and implement a policy that recognizes work-based learning for academic credit

## Examples of WBL Opportunities:

- + Internship
- + Apprenticeship
- + Service Learning
- + School Based Enterprise
- + Industry Project

# WORK BASED LEARNING SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS OF QUALITY:

## WBL Standards of Quality:

- + **Rigorous** – Skills based, tied to measurable outcomes
- + **Relevant** – Connected to a student's interest & to the real world of work
- + **Reflective** – Engages the student in reflection and analysis
- + **Interactive** – Provides multiple and extended opportunities for students to interact with industry professionals
- + **Integrated** – Connected with the student's school-based curriculum and for elective or core academic credit

## WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL CTE PROGRAMS

- + CTE Programs can embed a percentage of the 80 hours of WBL through rigorous PrepareRI guidelines within the course sequence
- + To further enhance our curriculum many students require work placement in an internship to qualify as a CTE completer with credentials to go into a career upon graduation

# WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL CTE PROGRAM NEEDS:

- + In addition to my current Career courses which can be accessed by any student:
  - + 8 students in the Construction program will need to be placed in an internship within the industry during SY 25–26
  - + We are looking to develop a Business CTE program which will require students to intern with industry professionals
  - + Students within the IT CTE program need internship placements to be considered a completer of that program
  - + Medical Careers students need placements throughout the community in addition to ride-time requirements to gain work experience prior to licencing
  - + The Aviation program's 4th year students will need to complete an externship
  - + Maritime Manufacturing students not interested in working at Electric Boat need to be placed in an internship program related to their interest area
  - + Arts Designer students need community placements to complete their program

THANKS! ANY QUESTIONS?

