



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

Exploring Career Pathways and Essential Skills in Today's Workforce

Connecting Education and Employers
to Enhance the Student Experience

ACCELERATING EQUITABLE SUCCESS





Certificate of Employability

**Bringing together
education(students) and business
(employers) to explore career
pathways and key essential skills**

The Why

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce:

- *Workforce Development as a Strategic Priority- Being part of the Solution
- *Keeping Students Local
- *Visibility for our Chamber Member Businesses and Organizations

Education:

- *Students learn about local businesses that have a great impact on our community and nationally.
- *Students learn how critical essential skills are; and many employers are willing to teach the “hard skills”
- *Students learn the meaning of and examples of Benefits
- *Students learn that there are local businesses and organization that are looking for employees
- *Students will grow their network; starting to put a name/face with the businesses in the community.

The What

Creating an initiative to address two critical topics when working with students and discussing their future

1. Career Pathways-connecting students to local employers; gaining a better understanding of the many pathways in the Sauk Valley and level of education needed.
2. Essential Skills- Emphasizing and providing examples to support the Competencies included in the Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act (PWR Act)

The Who

*SVACC

*Education - High School- Classroom- Educators -”champions” for students

*Employers- Businesses and Organizations in the community who understand and want to get involved

*Students

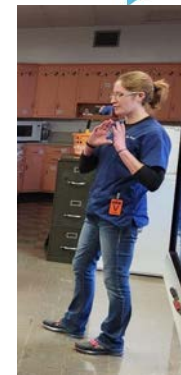
The How

- 9th-12th graders.
- Open to all local high schools in our service area (17 high schools). 1-3 schools participate/semester.
- 6-week commitment. Class schedule set up between the teacher and Chamber staff. Find educators who “get it”.
 - SHS perspective: the majority of Mrs. Koerner’s students stay local
 - Reaching out to the Chamber- they are visible in the community
- 6 different employers participate. Highlight one employer per week
- At the end of the 6-week series, each student receives a Certificate of Employability stating they have completed the course. Students evaluate the program.
- Employer chooses which session they want to participate in; on a first come basis.
- Employer and Chamber staff meet to discuss format/agenda/activity prior to the session.
- Each session:
 - Covers an essential skill
 - Includes an activity relevant to the essential skill
 - Includes 15-20 minute presentation by the employer on the various pathways their company or organization offers
 - Wraps up with question/answer session

6 Week Sessions/Topics

- How to get the job
- Work Ethic
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Problem Solving/Critical Thinking
- Teamwork/Collaboration

Class Speakers and Activities



SHS Pilot Program- Internships

- Sterling High School –
 - juniors and seniors to participate in an Internship program
 - place between 18-22 students in the community at the businesses that the students think they want to study or get training after high school.
 - businesses and the students evaluate each other and the students learn communication and time management besides other essential skills.
 - Program can be for 1 semester or for 2 semesters depending on the student's schedule. This program is set for them during the school day.

For More Information

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