

## Career Exploration: Career Study Course

OVERVIEW		
<b>Title of Event</b>	Elm Middle School - College and Career Pathway Initiative	
<b>Type of Activity</b> <i>(job shadow, guest speaker, career fair, site visit, etc.)</i>	1-credit Career Elective Course	
<b>Model for Delivery</b> <i>(virtual, hybrid, in-person)</i>	Hybrid with in-person classes	
<b>Industry Partner(s)</b>	Examples include: Sports Psychologist, Published Author, Vet Therapist, Sociologist	
<b>Endorsement Area(s)</b>	Applicable across all Endorsement Areas	
<b>Occupations Represented</b>	Career Study course offerings include: Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Game Design, Hospitality & Tourism, Sociology, Creative Writing, Business, Health Science, and Architecture.	
<b>Brief Event Description</b> <i>(include any links to resources and materials as you are able)</i>	Elm Middle school teachers developed and improved curriculum for a series of nine trimester courses on careers that include employer engagement on student projects, three of which to run each year in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students will take one career course during each trimester that are pass/fail and receive 1-credit. Each course has a team of three teachers, of which two will focus on curriculum development and one will focus on employer participation. Teacher lessons will include information on the related career clusters and a structured schedule of business-partner speakers coming to the classrooms to engage in project activity mentoring with students.	
<b>Preparation Activities before the Event</b> <i>(include any links to resources and materials as you are able)</i>	<b>For Participants</b>	<b>For Partners</b>
	Students complete interest surveys to determine courses to offer.  Curriculum continuously supports students to learn about and evaluate their options across a variety of career opportunities which they will capture in electronic portfolios.	Courses are designed from 5 <sup>th</sup> grade career interest surveys.  Teacher members focusing on employer participation from each career course team will solicit local employers and develop long-term relationships for building projects and interacting with students.

<p><b>Reflection/Follow-up Activities after the Event</b>  <i>(include any links to resources and materials as you are able)</i></p>	<p>Students add to electronic student portfolio that includes a project from each of the 9 courses and will be completed by 8<sup>th</sup> grade to support their transition to high school.</p>	<p>Continued development of a group of local employers with at least one for each course.</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> graders work with the middle school College and Career Counselor to secure work permits and work at the Park District in the summer.</p>
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This resource was created by [Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University](#).

The Illinois Work-Based Learning Innovation Network (I-WIN) is designed to help employers, educators, and students leverage innovative models for scaling high-quality work-based learning opportunities in school districts and community colleges across the State. This network explores ways to create equitable opportunities for students through both in-person and virtual learning. For more information on I-WIN and additional work-based learning resources, visit [edsystemsniu.org/i-win/](http://edsystemsniu.org/i-win/).