

Connecting Education with Business

Workpaths.com



*Promoting and facilitating **Work-Based Learning Opportunities** for the k-12 community of Kent County, MI*

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From this:



To this:



A look back

- Partners in Public Education (PPE)
- Funding Issues
- Interest Group to continue the work

Initial Considerations

- Technology available
- Funding
- Staffing
- Website development
- Needs of area employers
- Employer Commitments— job shadow, speaker, etc.
- Promotions

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Work-based learning experiences include

- **Job Shadows**
- **Workplace Tours**
- **Career Speaking**
- **Career Fairs**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Mock Interviews**
- **Internships**
- **Service Learning**
- **Mentorships**

Advisory Board

Area Education and Business Representatives to strengthen the connection

Nancy Ayres- *Educational Advisory Group and Flexco*

Julietta Brothers-
Kentwood Public Schools

Jay Dunwell- *The Manufacturers Council and Wolverine Coil Spring Company*

Jay Ediger- *Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes*

Chris Glass- *Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce*

Jarrad Grandy- *Kent Intermediate School District.*

Mattie Hampton- *Grand Rapids Public Schools*

Fiona Hert- *Grand Rapids Community College*

Sylvia Hopson- *ACSET (Area Community Services Employment & Training Council)*

Liz Jones- *Kent Intermediate School District*

Kathi Jorgensen- *Northview Public Schools*

Deb Laakso - *DS Business Resources Role of advisory board members*

Growing Pains & New Insights

- Needs of School Districts
- Marketing
- Additional Target Audiences

Target Audiences

- Employers
- Educators
- Parents
- Students

Site Redesign

- Searching capability- db, zip code, pathway,
- Eye appeal for all audiences
- Profile updating
- Mass messaging to employers
- Advisory committee commitment
- Company descriptions, current info, website links,
- Pathway description and sample careers
- Career awareness and planning connections

Kent ISD (4 Step) Career Planning Process

- Self-Awareness
- Option Awareness
- Decision Making
- Action/Planning





There's a Path For You!

Follow the SODA Steps to Career Success



Self Awareness:

Understanding yourself based on interest, abilities, values and achievement test results. Ask questions like:

- Who are you? What do you love to do?
- What excites you? What is boring to you?
- What are your favorite classes? Why?
- Do you feel like you have a special purpose in life? What is it?
- What makes you unique?



Option Awareness:

Understanding and realizing all the career, education, employment and training opportunities from which to choose. Ask questions like:

- What careers have you already explored?
- What are other career areas (related or unrelated) to what you've already explored?
- What education/training options are available to you?
- What kind of training and education are you willing to pursue?



Decision Making:

Determine the match between yourself and your opportunities. What is the best fit for you? Ask questions like:

- When you predict where you want to be after high school, what are you doing?
- What steps do you need to take to get there? What kind of education/training do you need?
- How are you making money to support yourself--housing, food, entertainment, etc.?
- Which courses should you take to help you gain the proper skills, knowledge and training?
- What kind of experiences will help you grow closer to your goals?



Action/Planning:

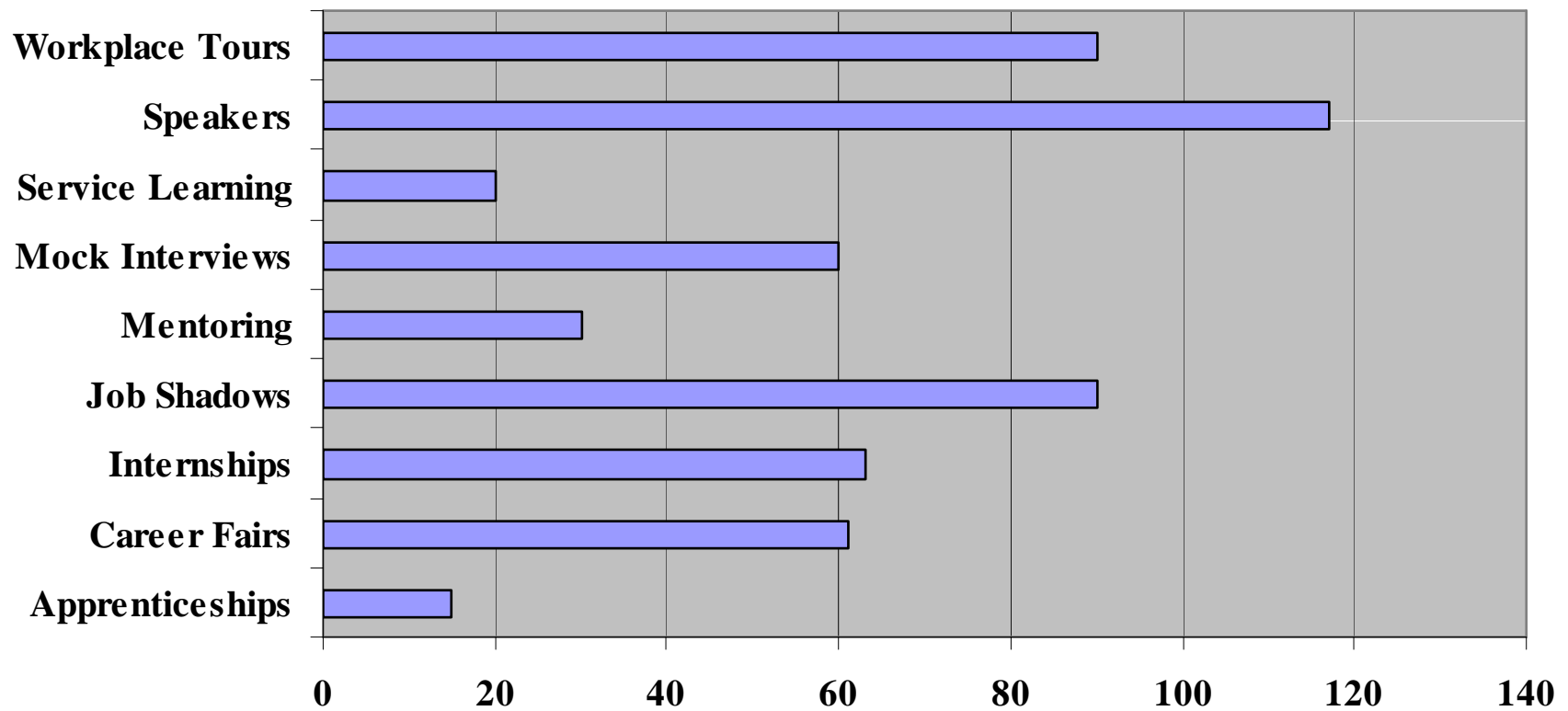
Identify and record the steps toward your goal on your Educational Development Plan (EDP). Ask questions like:

- Have you created, reviewed and/or updated your EDP?
- Is your EDP still accurate?
- From new learning and experiences this year, what do you need to change on your EDP?





Types of Experiences Offered



Site as it is today



- New site design Launched fall 2009
- www.workpaths.com

Reactions and Utilization stats since new launch

Audience participation

Questions

Contact