

# Make a Connection to Our Schools!

## School-Business Partnerships

School-Business Partnerships can be formed between a business and a class, grade, teacher or entire school. Projects are created based on the interests and goals of the business and the school, and offer valuable worksite connections to a curriculum. Some examples are:

- a company works with a school to help connect the science curriculum to the technical application in their research and design department;
- a publisher works with a class to develop a newsletter;
- a scientist uses her professional contacts to assist a teacher in arranging speakers for a science class;
- a retail business owner helps a class understand the working of the business and may help to set up a business in the school.

## Job Shadowing

Job Shadowing is an opportunity for students to visit places of work and experience career fields that interest them. An individual student may shadow an adult at work for one day; a group of students may visit a company and meet with several adults or departments, and may also receive a comprehensive overview and tour of the company, focusing on several areas. By preparing before and following up after their experiences, students gain a better understanding of themselves, their career goals and the realities of the work world through this program. Job shadowing sites include companies of all sizes and in all industries.



## Internships

Internships are unpaid or paid work experience that allows a student to learn about a career field and involves a regular commitment of time over a fixed period. Internships can vary in duration and schedule. They can be once a week after school for ten weeks or for a semester.

The **Senior Internship** is a voluntary three-week supervised work experience during the last three weeks of the senior year. Internship sponsors provide a worksite for a high school junior or senior; provide a project or set of experiences so students can earn academic credit; help students understand what skills, training and personal qualities are required in their field.

## Community Service Learning

Community Service Learning involves students in projects that benefit the community while reinforcing learning that is part of the school curriculum. Teachers work with the sponsoring business or organization to develop a proj-

ect that meets these goals. CSL partners are non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools and business. Activities can involve a small group of students or a whole class. Both one-time and continuing projects are possible. CSL benefits everyone by bringing community resources into school and taking students into the community.

## Field Trips and Speakers

Both of these options provide educational benefits for a group of students and an opportunity for a business to be involved in the career development of young people:

- **Field Trips** bring groups of students to the worksite to see environments that help them understand how academics are applied in the work world.
- **Speakers** bring the world of work into the classroom by sharing their experiences with students. Presentations can focus on career information or on connections between the speaker's work and what the students are learning.

## Faculty Externship Program

The Faculty Externship Program brings real world experiences into a classroom by placing a teacher as an extern in a business. Externships offer school staff an opportunity to develop an understanding of the current workplace by observing employees who are using academic skills in a business environment. Examples of successful externship sites have been 3Com Corporation, Educators Publishing Service, The Haartz Corporation, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Surf Control (formerly The Learning Company), and Parametric Technology.

“We are impressed with the work that the school and community put into the School Business Partnership program. We have enjoyed meeting with the students and introducing them to the Hospitality industry. Our staff enjoys the opportunity to mentor and interact with the students and we look forward to being included in the ongoing success of this program.”

Deborah Strate  
Holiday Inn  
Boxborough Woods

## School-Business Partnerships

- Haartz Corporation & Douglas School
- Office of Michael Rosenfeld & Gates School
- Design Partnership of Cambridge & Conant School
- Burkart-Phelan, Inc. & McCarthy Towne School
- Cisco Systems & Merriam School
- Holiday Inn & Douglas School

## Job Shadowing & Internships Representative Companies

- Acton Medical Associates ■ Acton Police Department ■ BAE Systems ■ Blanchard Memorial School ■ Boston Rescue Mission ■ Brigham & Women's Hospital
- Cisco Systems ■ Concord District Court
- Emerson Hospital ■ Fidelity Investments
- Fruitlands Museum ■ Graham & Harsip
- Holiday Inn ■ Indian Hill Music Center
- Middlesex Savings Bank ■ Monster.com
- Office of Pam Resor ■ Scheier & Katin
- Science Discovery Museum ■ 3Com Corporation ■ Turner Construction Co.
- Valley Orthopaedics ■ World Trade Center, Boston ■



“One junior who shadowed at Turner stated, “My day was a nice blend of theoretical and abstract in the morning and practical in the afternoon. I learned more about engineering during my visit than I could ever learn reading from the Princeton Review's Job Description web page. This type of experience cannot be duplicated in a classroom.”

Alison Monroe  
Turner Construction Company

## About the School-Business Partnership Committee

The Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce School-Business Partnership Committee provides opportunities for students, teachers, schools and businesses to enhance and extend student learning through sharing expertise, programs and resources for the good of the community. Some past and current projects include:

- Maintaining a Resource Registry, a compilation of businesses working with the schools to provide classroom visits, sites for job shadowing, internships, faculty externships, work study, field trips and other resources to the schools;
- Sponsoring a Job Shadowing “Kick Off” Breakfast in November;
- Sponsoring an Appreciation Celebration in June;
- Providing resources for Senior Seminar course;
- Providing expert advice to the schools for technology and curriculum.

## Make a Connection

If you would like to connect your business with one or more of these programs, or need more information, please contact us. If you would like to learn more about the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce and how it could benefit your business, please call (978) 263-0010.

## Please contact us to learn more about how your business can become involved.

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Sponsored by the School Business Partnership Committee of the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. Design by Colvin/Williams, Inc. 03-05-1000



# Make a Difference in a Student's Future

The Acton Public Schools and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools have had a long history of working with businesses to help students make curriculum connections and to help staff show students how academics are used in the work place. For over 25 years, the district has collaborated with area businesses to better prepare students for the future world of work. Activities are tailored to suit individual businesses, offer different levels of commitment, and are a great way to showcase your company. They may include:

- Inviting students to job shadow an employee for a morning or a day;
- Working with a student intern for a semester at your worksite;
- Creating an in-depth senior internship for three weeks;
- Hosting a field trip to teach students about your profession;
- Being a guest speaker in the classroom;
- Sponsoring a faculty externship for a summer, a semester, or a year.

The goals of the School Business Partnership program are:

- To provide students and educators with a variety of opportunities and experiences for understanding career choices and the work world;
- To provide businesses an opportunity to share knowledge and skills;
- To provide businesses an opportunity to prepare the future workforce and to help shape the education of the students in our community.

## Everybody Benefits

For students and educators these partnerships:

- Provide an answer to the question, "Why do I have to learn this?"
- Demonstrate the importance of academics in reaching post-high school training, college and career goals;
- Help motivate students to learn by demonstrating the tangible applications of classroom lessons and bringing their curriculum to life;
- Give students an opportunity to experience a variety of workplace environments.

For businesses, these opportunities:

- Provide a meaningful connection to students and teachers;
- Demonstrate an active commitment to supporting and improving our community;
- Help prepare the future workforce.



*“Having been involved with the School Business Partnership Committee since its inception in 1993, I have seen first hand the thousands of students who have benefited from their introduction into the business world. Conversely, I have seen so many businesses enriched by opening their doors to our students.”*

Mark L. Scheier, Esquire  
Scheier & Katin, P.C.

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Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
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# Linking Students to the Workforce



**Educational Opportunities through  
School-Business Partnerships**

**Acton Public Schools and  
Acton-Boxborough Regional  
School District**



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