

Collaborative Partner News

The Work-based Learning Collaborative includes 30 partner organizations that cover the gamut of work-based learning from the student, employer, and educator perspectives, as well as direct-service, capacity, and policy levels. We are proud to share highlights of our WBLC partners - state agencies, industry associations, colleges, high schools, and nonprofit organizations.



Teacher Extern Success

Teacher Externships are work-based learning experiences for educators, providing an opportunity for educators to gain experience in a business to inform classroom curriculum. Kari Hinkle, a High School Science & Chemistry Teacher, HOSA Advisor, and Science Fair Advisor at Cut Bank Schools, participated in a teacher externship in summer 2023.

"I spent three days at PureView Community Health Center in Helena job-shadowing everyone from the front desk staff to the CEO. The team at PureView treated me like family, and I was impressed with their mission-oriented approach to health care. The team helped me to develop a mini-unit for my students in Anatomy and Physiology. I implemented that unit last year and enlisted the help of Glacier Community Health Center (GCHC), our local federally qualified Community Health Center. They provided a flipped internship where my students presented solutions to the problem of recruiting healthcare providers in remote and rural areas. PureView also hosted a healthcare day camp for my HOSA students," says Hinkle.

WBLC members Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, Montana Primary Care Association, Office of Public Instruction, and Reach Higher Montana work together to facilitate teacher externships each year. Applications for educators are open Jan-March and can be found at wblmt.org.



Kari Hinkle's HOSA students at PureView.

Quantum Under the Big Sky, co-hosted by WBLC, focused on the intersection of education and the workforce

"More than 80 people from industry, government and academia gathered Oct 11 at an event hosted by Montana State University to promote career paths and job creation in the emerging field of quantum devices and systems.

Suzi Taylor, director of MSU's Science Math Resource Center and the organizer of the meeting, said coupling education and workforce development with research has been part of the university's land-grant mission since its origin. "Back then, it may have been advances in plows and threshers, and today we see innovations in quantum and photonics, but the mission is the same – to build collaborations that reach beyond Bozeman and support the entire state," she said."

WBLC appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this valuable convening. Several WBLC members attended and engaged in inspiring conversations, made new connections, and learned about emerging technologies in Montana. We are excited to continue helping young Montanans understand the diverse opportunities in our state, whether they want to work right after high school or pursue a PhD.



Students with disabilities get job-shadow experience

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services, a member of WBLC, celebrated Disability Week in October and coordinated 120 work-based learning experiences for students across the state, including [a job-shadow with the governor](#).

Clayton, a participant of the Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, has an interest in sound engineering and was able to job-shadow Paul Holzwarth, the chief engineer at Non-Stop Local.



Throughout the week, Clayton gained invaluable insights into the world of sound engineering. He toured the station, exploring the control center and getting hands-on experience with the

various equipment used in broadcasts. Paul guided him through the setup processes that took place before a newscast, ensuring Clayton learned the intricacies of the operations. This experience proved to be a fantastic learning journey, and we were thrilled to see Clayton thrive in this role!

Accelerate Montana Sees Success with New Mobile Training Unit

This summer, Accelerate Montana's brand-new Job Site Ready Mobile Training Unit visited communities across Montana to deliver entry-level construction trades training. Learners in Pryor, Poplar, Hamilton, and Troy participated in a 15-hour hands-on skills workshop coupled with 30-hours of online, self-paced modules. During the in-person workshops, learners collaborate with one another and an instructor to build a shed, from start to finish. Additionally, local employers are invited to visit and participate in training to share industry insights and relevant employment opportunities. Job Site Ready trainees are given exposure to tool use and maintenance, materials handling, workplace safety, construction math, blueprint reading, basic framing, and more.

If you are interested in hosting the Mobile Training Unit in your community, please visit www.jobsitereadymt.com or reach out to Katherine Booher at katherine.booher@mso.umt.edu



2024 DLI Labor Day Report

Montana's Department of Labor and Industry annually creates a report to the governor on the current state of Montana's economy. The 2024 edition was recently published. It's always an interesting read!



Celebrate the 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week!

EDUCATORS - WE NEED YOU

We are looking for teachers, administrators, and counselors to help us understand what is happening in Montana schools around work-based learning. Please complete this [survey](#). It takes 5 minutes and we'll draw 4 names for \$50 gift cards Nov 30. Please share the opportunity with your networks too!



News You Can Use

Curious about child labor laws?

The National Institute of Standards and Technology offers some clarification on local and federal regulations.

MAPS Media Institute: "Beyond the Bell", Montana

MAPS Media Institute, a 21st Century Community Learning Center subgrantee in Montana, offered filmmaking workshops in three rural Montana programs located in Boulder, Box Elder (Rocky Boy Indian Community), and Lewistown. Participants played an active role in planning, filming, and editing videos that showcased the importance of quality out-of-school time programs. Students also gained real-world skills in creative collaboration, narrative development, camera and audio operation, and video editing. Each program produced a short video that contributed to a long-form showcase that highlights the impact of out-of-school time programs across Montana. The video can be found [here](#).

Navigating Opportunities Across America

The Unlocking Pathways State Policy Heat Map map highlights some of the State policies that impact career pathways programs across the four keys of Unlocking Career Success: Dual Enrollment, Work-based Learning, Workforce Credentials, Career Advising and Navigation. Check out how Montana compares to other states in the country.

How to Grow the Impact of Education-to-Career Pathway Intermediaries

Regional education-to-career intermediary organizations are playing an increasingly critical role in the national education landscape. Through their leadership, K-12, higher education, youth serving organizations, and employers have joined forces to design career-connected learning opportunities that equitably accelerate students' path to a credential with value in the workplace. The functions these organizations play are key to expanding high-quality pathways and unlocking their massive potential to expand equitable economic opportunity.

Indiana aims to train 50,000 apprentices by 2034

A coalition of nearly 200 Indiana leaders released a new statewide education pathway that seeks to create additional classroom and work-based learning opportunities, especially in the form of apprenticeships, for high school students. "This new pathway is a win-win for students and employers. For employers, the pathway will bring in eager, motivated Hoosiers who can grow and innovate within our industries," said David Becker, co-chair of theiLab Indiana and chairman and CEO of First Internet Bank. "For students, it's an opportunity to gain hands-on experience, build valuable skills, and start on their career path."



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Work That Matters

Work-based learning (WBL) opportunities span a continuum from workplace tours to apprenticeships (and many models in between).

In addition to building employability skills, WBL experiences help students develop **meaning** from their classroom learning and explore **purposeful** career opportunities. Employers who intentionally cultivate **belonging** in the workplace for young workers can gain access to future workforce talent. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative works to promote belonging, meaning, well-being, and purpose for all young Montanans by building capacity for high-quality WBL experiences.

There are components of work-based learning in the K-12 education system, the postsecondary education system, and the public workforce system – but no single entry point for students or employers to access them. Our work to improve coordination among agencies and WBL partners benefits Montana's emerging workforce and Montana's businesses.

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