

# **EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS**

## **SAMPLE CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **Wilkes University's Entrepreneurial Experience**

Wilkes University's Entrepreneurial Experience is a school-to-work program designed to expose high school students to self-employment and entrepreneurship as career alternatives. This one-day event encourages students to develop a business plan and learn skills in networking, team building, creativity and idea generation, feasibility analysis, business planning, and communication. The culmination of the day is a competition to determine which team has developed the most unique product or service, crafted the most realistic business plan for launching the venture and presented their plans most effectively. Community and business leaders judge the contest and offer feedback to the students.

### **Wilkes University's School-to-Careers Program**

The Wilkes University's School-to-Careers Program was developed by faculty, with a focus on students in the eighth grade, and based upon the national Schools-to-Work project. The project was funded through the Luzerne County Business and Education Partnership. The program connects classroom education with the working world, allowing students to see their education in practice on the job. The project consisted of three parts: two videos, a curriculum packet for students in twelve participating school districts and two interactive distance learning sessions which anchored the week-long curriculum. The first video follows a product through manufacturing, distribution, retail display and promotion. The second video follows a consumer family's search for the product after hearing the product's advertisement. The distance learning sessions were also broadcasted on w.edu, Channel 66, for reception in area schools without the interactive distance learning technology.

## **SAMPLE JOB SHADOWING**

### **Northeast Pennsylvania Hearing Impaired/Job Shadowing Project**

Through the work of Dorothy Koons and Rita Sordoni, area administrators, educators and counselors formed the Northeast Pennsylvania Hearing Impaired/Job Shadowing Project. This project's goal is to work with industries to provide job-shadowing experiences for hearing impaired high school students. The group first identified seven students and six employers to participate in their project. The students represented Hazleton Area, Wilkes-Barre Area and Wyoming Valley West school districts. Job Shadowing enables a student to gain knowledge of the duties of a specific occupation, which may lead to an interest in pursuing a career in that field. It also allows the students to understand where the occupation interacts with other jobs in that specific industry. Employers participating in the program included: Bell Atlantic-PA, Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises, Mine Safety & Health Administration Assessment, Tobyhanna Army Depot, Sallie Mae and the Wilkes-Barre Social Security Administration.

## **EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS (continued)**

### SAMPLE MENTORING PROGRAM

Penn State Wilkes-Barre students involved in publication of the student newspaper have benefited from mentoring by the staff of the Citizens' Voice newspaper. Since 1997, Citizens' Voice staff members have provided assistance in layout, design, content, balance, style, grammar and editorial positions to the students who publish the weekly Collegian newspaper at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus. Prior to this mentoring program, the student government noted improved campus communications as a major priority. Since the Citizens' Voice staff members have devoted time and energy working with the college students on good journalism, the students now have a viable channel of campus communications. The Citizens' Voice staff members have shown outstanding patience and persistence in growing the skills of the students.

### SAMPLE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

#### **The Meyers Speech and Debate Team**

Attorneys Kim and Ruth Borland, owners of Borland & Borland, established the Speech and Debate Team at Meyers High School in 1996. Since then, the team has attended numerous tournaments throughout the Northeastern part of the U.S. Through the efforts of Ruth and Kim, this team has also been able to qualify for state and national tournaments. This program started with approximately 10 students, and has evolved to over 80 team members. Kim and Ruth have also encouraged other schools such as GAR, Dallas and Berwick to become tournament participants, which gives the students involved an opportunity to compete and improve their communications skills.

### SAMPLE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

#### **Wyoming Valley Health Care Nursing Sponsorship Program**

Wyoming Valley Health Care Nursing Sponsorship Program is an innovative, educational sponsorship program developed to encourage students to pursue careers in nursing. Wyoming Valley Health Care System works with College Misericordia, Luzerne County Community College and Wilkes-Barre Vocational-Technical School to interview prospective nursing students for eligibility in the program. Once eligible students choose a school, Wyoming Valley Health Care System will pay for the student's tuition, books and education-related fees. In turn, the student agrees to one year of paid professional service at Wyoming Valley Health Care System for every year of sponsorship. The Nursing Scholarship Program was developed to help alleviate the profound nursing shortage by establishing a mutually beneficial relationship early in a nursing student's career. The sponsorship program is a pro-active way to bring well-educated nurses to the bedside of patients, while giving enthusiastic students the economic assistance and the opportunities that they need to succeed.

## **EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS (continued)**

### SAMPLE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

#### **Tobyhanna Army Depot's Electronic Co-Op Program**

Tobyhanna Army Depot's Electronics Co-Op Program is a cooperative education and employment partnership between Tobyhanna Army Depot and area colleges and technical schools designed to provide qualified students, majoring in select electronics and computer maintenance curricula, with practical experience in the repair and maintenance of critical military communications-electronics systems. Students are given part-time work experience to supplement their technical education and, at graduation, are converted to full-time employment

status. Not only does the co-op program provide the student with valuable workplace experience, career growth opportunities and potential job placement opportunities, but it also generates direct revenue for Tobyhanna and provides a convincing marketing tool to attract new students to area schools.

### SAMPLE WORKPLACE EXPOSURE / TOURS

#### **Sallie Mae's Life at Work Program**

This program is designed to provide students a hands-on introduction to what takes place in the workplace and how lessons and habits learned in the classroom affect their future in the workforce tomorrow. There are three kinds of presentations offered by the "Life at Work" program: The *Half Day Intern Program*, attended by up to 20 students from high school business classes, which includes a skills evaluation workshop, a resume building workshop and a site tour concluding with student presentations. The *2-Hour Program*, an abbreviated version of the Half Day Intern Program, is designed for middle school and special needs students, which include the skills evaluation, resume building session and a tour. The *One-Hour Tour*, which consists solely of a tour of the program, is available mostly for younger students and includes a tour of several Luzerne County sites in one day. Students leave the program with an increased sense of what area businesses/industries are looking for in terms of skills and expectations and possibly with ideas regarding their future career aspirations.