



CLEARINGHOUSE FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING

Educating Iowa students for the knowledge economy requires connecting them to future careers through hands-on projects designed by employers and educators.

The Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning is a virtual space where business partners will post projects for Iowa K-12 students to gain in-depth work experience, bringing real-world application into the schools. The clearinghouse will launch by July 1.



ABOUT WORK-BASED LEARNING

Work-based learning helps students develop new skills and connections through projects, internships and even apprenticeships that are embedded into classwork. This sets the stage for great job opportunities for young people and builds a pipeline of skilled workers for employers.

The clearinghouse supports the Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by 2025.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS

The clearinghouse will make work-based learning opportunities more accessible to more Iowa K-12 students, especially in rural areas.

The clearinghouse will focus on high-demand careers, including those in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

BENEFITS OF WORK-BASED LEARNING

FOR STUDENTS

- Understand how the classroom and workplace connect
- Build job-specific knowledge and soft skills
- Develop awareness of career options and skills needed
- Find networking opportunities and mentors

FOR BUSINESSES

- Grow and develop potential employees
- Gain fresh perspectives from the next generation
- Build brand awareness
- Tackle projects and tasks on the backburner
- Build relationships with schools and communities

COMING
SOON

April - New website, toolkits for schools and businesses

July - Clearinghouse fully launches

WORK-BASED LEARNING IN ACTION

Students in the **Ottumwa High School SparkTank program** partnered with the Ottumwa Symphony Guild in preparation for the guild's annual ball. Students designed large palm trees and worked with students in the high school's Advanced Metals program to fabricate the structures.

Danville Elementary fifth-graders took part in a "Why Robotics in Manufacturing?" project with ABB, an electrical equipment supplier in West Burlington. After learning about careers and the manufacturing cycle, these students planned and created podcasts about why robotics and automation are critical to the industry's future.

Students in **Ankeny's Orbis program** worked with WHO-TV in Des Moines to produce short news stories for distribution on social media, with the goal of building engagement with younger audiences.

ABOUT FUTURE READY IOWA



Future Ready Iowa is an initiative to prepare individuals for dynamic careers and lifelong learning, to meet employer needs, to grow family incomes, and to strengthen communities.

LEARN MORE

Established by Gov. Kim Reynolds through an executive order, the clearinghouse is a partnership between AEA Learning Online, the Iowa Department of Education, and Iowa Workforce Development.

For more information, visit

futurereadyiowa.gov

or contact Jake Welchans, project manager, at jake.welchans@iowa.gov, or at 515-281-5494.