

Midlands Education and Business Alliance connects students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

www.mebasc.com



Midlands Education & Business Alliance

The Need

- Over 40% of Midlands students will not complete high school and thousands will graduate from high school unaware and disconnected from the excellent education and career opportunities in the new economy.
- 85% of today's jobs require postsecondary education.
- Midlands employers cannot find enough qualified candidates to fill current jobs forcing many to recruit from out of state.

The Solution

Midlands Education and Business Alliance, a partner of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, collaborates with businesses, educational systems and communities to promote high academic standards and successful learning experiences that increase career awareness and prepare learners for life and work. The MEBA Board is composed of college presidents, deans, district superintendents, and business leaders. MEBA coordinates the activities of 200 volunteers from business and education and provides services to 158 schools serving over 100,560 students.

MEBA Results

- A growing number of employers are filling critical jobs through innovative programs and public-private partnerships.
- Internships, co-ops and extended learning opportunities with business partners are available.
- Unprecedented collaboration of our nine school districts to establish a middle college high school at Midlands Technical College to help address the high drop-out rate.
- Midlands Technical College is experiencing significant increases in the number of students enrolled in health, engineering, machine tool technology, information systems, legal and industrial technology programs.

MEBA Successes

- Students have participated in over 27,069 mentoring, 48,012 shadowing, and 169,935 service learning opportunities since 1998.
- Over \$1,410,046 in-kind contributions have been received from business, education and agency partners since February 2000.
- *Your Child Is Job #1* seminars are conducted on business sites to help parent employees understand careers and scholarship opportunities available. MEBA has reached over 10,000 parents since the programs inception in 2004.
- Over 1746 teachers have been trained through Teacher Institutes and over 7744 participants in seminars and workshops.
- 2076 teachers, counselors and administrators have participated in on-site field studies in the past six years to learn about the full range of technical careers and education opportunities for students.
- Clusters of study with career majors have been developed and implementation began in Midlands high schools in 2003.
- WorkKeys skills assessment program and KeyTrain academic supplements have been installed in all nine school districts.
- Recipient of National Tech Prep Award for Women in Technology with Cisco Systems and Caterpillar Exemplary Learning Award for Teachers in the Workplace.

Business Alliances

Business partners work closely with education to increase awareness of career opportunities in the Midlands' economy and to direct students to the education they need to prepare for these jobs. The alliances which support the 16 career clusters of study are:

- Architecture & Construction
- Arts & Humanities
- Business, Management & Information Systems
- Engineering & Industrial Technologies
- Health Science & Human Services
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance
- Public Services
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

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