**Just What *Exactly* is**

**Work-Based Learning?**

ork-based learning links secondary and post-secondary education, business and industry, labor and government to provide high school students with a wide range of career opportunities and experiences, leading to a smooth

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transition from school to work. Work-based learning students come to realize the connection between school and living productive lives. Competency-based work-based learning experiences include non-paid internships, occupational/ technical labs, and related high school coursework. Many work-based learning programs also include additional career exploration activities like job shadowing, speakers, field trips and workshops. Benefits to work-based learning are numerous (*see box below*). Both educators and business sponsors provide students with the employability and career- related skills they need to be productive members of the workforce. Thus, work-based learning programs serve as a vital link between education and careers.

P.E.R.F.E.C.T., Tazewell County/Area Education For Employment, the Central Illinois Vocational Education Cooperative, and Illinois Central College have partnered to provide Central Illinois 11th and 12th grade high school students with region-wide work-based learning programs. Visit the high school guidance office for more information.

**How Do Students Benefit From WBL?**

Exposure to variety of careers

Hands-on, competency-based training

Related high school coursework

High school credit

Advanced college/apprenticeship placement

Dual credit

Scholarships

Opportunities for quality jobs

Potential contacts for employment and post-secondary education

Connection or “link” between school and work

Self-confidence from success at school and work

**How Do Employers Benefit From WBL?**

Provide students with a better understanding of a career field

Influence student development to meet industry requirements

Have expanded pool of qualified applicants

Evaluate potential employees

Feel pride and importance in collaborating with education

**How Do Educators Benefit From WBL?**

Increased college/apprenticeship placement and employment rates of graduates

Opportunities for professional staff development

Increased enrollment in career and technical courses

Instruction integrated with actual work and life experience

Improved attendance, reduced drop-out rate

**How Does The Community Benefit From WBL?**

Development of skilled workforce

Enhanced employability of youth

Decreased stress on families and community from unmotivated youth

Economic growth and higher quality of life through expanded skilled workforce and taxpayer base

Pride in schools and investing in youth

**Application**

Work-based learning program information and application forms can be found in each high school’s guidance department. Application information is also available online at:

[**www.perfectpeoria.com**](http://www.perfectpeoria.com/)

**For more information or to schedule a presentation for your school, please contact:**

Chris Kendall, Director Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training (309) 693-7373

