

# **SAMPLE ACTIVITIES**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH**

Curriculum ideas have been included to provide school staff with concrete ideas for implementing career education and guidance strategies with students. The following classroom activities are taken from the list of Connections 2002 Award of Distinction winners. Connections is a conference devoted to developing and disseminating activities innovations throughout the State of Illinois. These activities have been provided as examples of experiences that can meet career development needs of learners in the following levels:

### **Construction Trades Fair**

Grundy Area Vocational Center (GAVC)  
1002 Union Street  
Morris, IL 60450

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Construction Trades Fair at Grundy Area Vocational Center was organized to plant the seeds that outstanding career opportunities are available within the construction trades. The eighth grade audience for the event was selected in order to plant the seeds early enough to be incorporated into the decision-making processes of the young participants prior to their selection of a high school course of study. The Three Rivers Construction Alliance (partners in this project) worked to secure representatives from the construction trade areas who were willing to sacrifice days of their time to present the various construction options through hands-on experiences.

Three hundred area students, teachers, administrators and counselors attended the fair. Upon arrival, the participants were placed into smaller groups of 10-15 each and rotated through as many stations as possible. While rotating through the various stations, participants were able to try their hand at laying brick, leveling concrete, wiring circuits, tying rebar, using a transit and other hands-on activities. Lunch was furnished for program participants between the morning and afternoon sessions. In an effort to provide a realistic setting, the fair was held outdoors in a setting similar to a construction work site.

By holding the fair near the GAVC, students were also exposed to the career and technical training programs that prepare one for a career in the areas demonstrated at the Trades Fair. Current students enrolled in career and technical programs at GAVC provided logistical support for the event, and GAVC instructors were encouraged to observe the experience as schedules allowed. Due to the success of the first Trades Fair, the 2002 Trades Fair has been extended to two days in an effort to provide the experience for all of the county's eighth grade students.

## **Exploratory Art Technology**

Hadley Junior High School  
240 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

### **ABSTRACT**

Exploratory Art Technology project at Hadley Junior High School was designed to help middle school students see the connections between the fine art concepts they have learned and the applications for those concepts in the world of work. To initiate the project, Hadley Junior High School teachers formed partnerships with local businesses that utilize technologies like photography, desktop publishing, video, laser imaging and computer-generated imaging. Students made site-visits to these businesses and employees of these businesses have made presentations that demonstrated the role of technology in contemporary art processes.

Teachers associated with the program have also developed a curriculum that extends the learning beyond the initial site visits. Units of the Exploratory Art Technology curriculum have also been revised to include connections to the Illinois Learning Standards, SCANS, National Professional Teaching Standards for Career and Technical Education, and applications in the workplace. The program and some individual projects of students in the program have won numerous awards since 1975. Most notably, the Illinois Department of Commerce has used project designed within the program in its annual Student Touring Show in schools near its overseas offices.

## **Junior Achievement of Central Illinois**

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois, Inc.  
416 Main St. Suite 831  
Peoria, IL 61602

### **ABSTRACT**

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois (JACI) strives to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics to improve the quality of their lives. This simple sentence is the purpose of all Junior Achievement programs and partnerships. One of the oldest partnerships with JACI is a partnership between the group and Concordia Lutheran School in Peoria. JACI has held a partnership agreement with Concordia for the past twenty years. During that period of time, the partnership has evolved from a simple arrangement into a sequential learning program that starts in Kindergarten and follows the students through the eighth grade year. JACI has been providing programs along with business volunteers to supplement the social studies curriculum that is already in place. Local teachers use the materials to help the students meet the Illinois Social Science Goals 14, 15, 17 and 18.

JACI's unique approach integrates program materials, training and support. By providing this support, JACI has been the successful bridge between education and business and it is this bridge that Concordia uses to prepare students for the work for the work world. The students come in contact with volunteers from many different career fields and the dynamic interaction between volunteers and the students promotes active learning and brings theory to life. The partnership has been instrumental in causing students at Concordia to explore the elements of the free enterprise system so they can meet the demands of a fast-paced economy and ensure their quality of life.

The partnership between JACI and Concordia Lutheran School in Peoria has been a great success. Leaders from JACI suggest that the partnership is helping to inspire a new generation to learn the fundamentals of economics and preparing those students to enter the world of work with a stronger educational foundation.

## **KMS News Team**

Kennedy Middle School  
4664 N. Rockton Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61103

### **ABSTRACT**

Kennedy Middle School's News Team began as a technology assignment within an eighth grade Career Technology program. While awaiting technical support concerning a computer programming issue, a lesson was developed to have students design a brief news, weather and sports program. Teams quickly formed, each selecting a news, weather and sports anchor. Student teams with the best programs are allowed to present their "newscast" to the entire school utilizing the existing building-wide communications technology system that includes a closed circuit television in every classroom.

With each presentation, it became clear that this would not be a short-term project: Kennedy Middle School would have its own daily news program. Before long the KMS NEWS was on the air daily. Making improvements with each show, students began to take ownership. Soon, other students wanted to take part. Responding to a before and after school enrichment program titled Club Excel, students from all grade levels began to participate.

Students participating in the program completed assignments in each of the following areas of responsibility: equipment set-up, Internet connections, video and sound, field reporting, text editing and camera operation. While students were assigned to a particular area (above) based on interest, students were required to audition for a coveted spot on the news team. The audition involved completing a detailed lesson that was accessible via the Internet as a Web Quest lesson plan. Students were instructed to access the site for all the information required for the audition process.

During the first year of operation, the news team completed interviews with the mayor of Rockford, State Representative Doug Scott, and the superintendent of the Rockford Public Schools. In addition, the KMS NEWS team was selected to be one of a 140 schools to demonstrate their abilities at the TECH 2000/AT&T Technology Show at the state capitol in Springfield.

This practicum experience and connection with local businesses has strengthened the reputation of Kennedy Middle School within the community and within the school itself. Students talk about how they are the only school in the district to have their own "news team." Again, a sound sense of ownership exists within the student body.