

Workforce 2005 and Beyond

Panhandle Tech Prep

Best Practice – 2005

Workforce 2005 and Beyond began in 1997 as a collaboration between Panhandle Tech Prep, Amarillo ISD Career and Technology Department, and Texas Cooperative Extension Services in Potter and Randall Counties. This program was designed as an educational opportunity for selected students to help them prepare for the world of work. Students participate in four half-day sessions. Students from all four high schools come together for these sessions. Typically, these students are juniors or seniors.

In order for students to participate in the program, they must complete the following requirements.

1. Complete career survey on the computer.
2. Complete a Career Survey Selection Form.
3. Have their teachers sign an approval form for them to participate.
4. Have their assistant principal sign an approval form for them to participate.
5. Write a paragraph describing why they would like to be involved in the program and the job shadowing event.

After students are selected, they attend the following sessions as described below.

Session One – 8:20 – 12:00

Students travel to the Amarillo ISD Education Support Center.

Welcome – History of the program is shared with the students. They were chosen to participate and this is an honor.

Get Acquainted – Since students attend four high schools, this activity helps them meet each other and kind of breaks down school rivalries.

Attitude and Work Ethic – The gentleman who does this presentation graduated from one of the high schools, graduated from Amarillo College, and owns his own Computer Training Center. He is very frank with the students about dress code, gossip, work ethics and their attitude. He definitely gets their attention.

Break

True Colors – Two consultants from our Region 16 Education Service Center presented True Colors. Students completed the True Colors Name Game and then the Word Cluster to determine their color.

Session One Evaluation

Students return to high schools.

Session Two – 9:00 – 12:30

Students attended Amarillo College's Showcase of Technology that was highlighted in a previous best practice section.

Session Three – 8:20 – 1:15

Students travel to The Big Texan Restaurant. They meet in a meeting room for the first activities.

Welcome

Real Game – Panhandle Tech Prep presents Real Game activities such as creating a wish list and dreaming, getting a job, budgeting activity, and then trying to combine those dreams and their budget based on their job. Students learn about other jobs/careers from other participants. They quickly recognize the differences in education, salary, vacation, transferable skills, etc. Tech Prep materials are shared as well.

Break

Job Interviews – The director of secondary personnel and the director of elementary personnel from Amarillo ISD conduct mock interviews. They interview each other showing incorrect and correct interviewing techniques. This is usually quite comical; however, very effective as the students can visualize chewing gum, answering the cell phone, bringing a friend, telling too much information, etc.

Etiquette Luncheon – The Randall County Extension Agent guides students through a four or five course meal. She teaches them proper etiquette for a formal dining setting. The majority of students have never eaten a meal like this.

Session Three Evaluation

Students return to high schools.

Session Four – 8:00 – 1:00

Students go directly to job shadowing mentoring sites for the morning. Each student was placed with a business that was one of their three career choices. Students and mentors then attend an Appreciation Luncheon.

Session Four Evaluation

We will be glad to share any forms, documents, agendas, etc. for our programs. Please email us for additional information at shelley.sparks@amaisd.org