

Lunch and Learn



Georgia Employability Skills Task Force Recommendation No. 1 School Goal 3

- ▶ Formalize relationships and partnerships with postsecondary institutions, advisory boards, and local businesses to coordinate employability skills initiatives and support systems.

Overview

The Lunch and Learn program was developed as a partnership of the Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education/Work-Based Learning (CTAE/WBL) program and the Media Center Program at Statesboro High School for members of the junior and senior classes. The sessions were led by community stakeholders interested in recruiting future employees who are interested in career and college prep in their fields. Attendance ranged from 22 to 42 students per session and served approximately 250 students in total. Throughout the school year, local- and state-level employers, and university representatives were invited to present interactive sessions of approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes during the lunch period to help students make connections to future employment, realize specific work requirements, and learn the essential importance of soft skills mastery to their future success.

Lunch and Learn Sessions

Lunch and Learn fit perfectly with the Media Center's goal of providing a space for students to uniquely and creatively explore through research and discovery. The sessions also satisfied CTAE/WBL goals of providing opportunities for students to create a network of employment resources, prepare for postsecondary options, and gain a better understanding of workplace expectations and needed skills.

Eleven Lunch and Learn sessions were held during the 2018–2019 school year at Statesboro High School. Students were invited to attend each session via a Google form email for registration. Students received a follow-up email and student pass for the event also via email. Organizers had lunch for the group delivered to the school and served during the presentation. Speakers were carefully chosen to increase awareness by students of the importance of soft skills for their future success.

The Lunch and Learn sessions included the following career and college prep topics:

- ▶ Employment Requirements and Expectations, the Statesboro Fire Department
- ▶ College Essay Writing Preparation Session, Georgia Southern University Honors Program Professor
- ▶ Employment Requirements and Expectations, Georgia State Patrol
- ▶ Apprenticeship/Employment Requirements and Expectations, ACE Electric, Inc.
- ▶ Explorer's Apprenticeship Program, Bulloch County Sheriff's Department
- ▶ Recreation and Tourism Management Degree Requirements and Job Outlook, Georgia Southern University Professor
- ▶ Nutrition and Athletic Training, Education and Job Outlook, Fitness Program Director at Georgia Southern University
- ▶ Real-World Financial Planning and Budgeting, Vice President, CORE Credit Union
- ▶ Investing in Your Future, Vice President, Heritage Bank
- ▶ John Deere Apprenticeship Programs, Blanchard Equipment

Audience & Initiative Impact

The Lunch and Learn program for junior and senior students places an emphasis on career readiness and postsecondary preparation and addresses employability skills that students need to adopt to find success in the workforce or in college. Sessions stress responsibility for meeting deadlines, promptness, and appropriate dress and demeanor. Students also utilize YOUSCIENCE, a career interest survey, to identify career interests and analyze verbal and math skills. The process helps students assess their interpersonal style, ability to work within a time frame, and ability to generate unique and workable ideas. Two students found employment at John Deere, and one was selected for an apprenticeship with ACE Electric, Inc. Also, eight students were selected in the Explorer Program. Through interacting with community presenters, students made connections for future college and job searches. Students also gained valuable information to help them become successful employees, students, and citizens.

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Georgia Employability Skills Task Force Recommendations

1. Integrate employability skills into curriculum and learning experiences from prekindergarten through postsecondary education.
2. Support educators and other stakeholders in developing employability skills instruction.
3. Develop deeper and stronger relationships between industry and education to enhance teacher and mentor roles in quality work-based learning and career development opportunities.

To learn more about college- and career-readiness work in the southeast states, please contact Beth Howard-Brown (bhoward-brown@air.org), Southeast Comprehensive Center (SECC) director, or visit the SECC website (southeast-cc.org).

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