CLIENT CONNECTED PROJECTS

I’ve had a chance to witness students participate in work experiences that are shaping their high school experience. I personally know how much these matter in helping students to think about the variety of career possibilities that are available to them.

Crystal Everett
Kansas City Public Schools

Client-connected projects are authentic problems which students solve in collaboration with professionals from industry, not-for-profit, or community-based organizations.

They provide students with access to industry professionals, real world problems, and essential skills. They are also one of the key work experiences that may be recognized as a Market Value Asset*.

Examples of client-connected projects are:

- Cyber Security class built a website for Buckner Chamber of Commerce
- Summer students created a youth-centered product for CommunityAmerica Credit Union
- Class provided focus group data for an energy drink for VML
- Health students took vitals and conducted intake survey for a heart clinic at St. Lukes
- See the RWL CCP Menu & Project Examples PDF for more!

Client-Connected Projects provide value for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIENT/EMPLOYER</th>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>EDUCATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Access to emerging talent</td>
<td>• Authentic project work</td>
<td>• Authentic project prompts/problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increased awareness of client organization</td>
<td>• Increase in professional network</td>
<td>• Exposure to industry trends and expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Leadership development for the client liaison</td>
<td>• School credit in real-world setting</td>
<td>• Students are more engaged in topic with real-world context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increased bandwidth for important but non-urgent project completion</td>
<td>• Potential stepping stone for future internship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a Market Value Asset is an industry valued and recognized skill that creates a seamless transition post-high school.
Who is Involved?

In Real World Learning, the student is at the center, but their success depends on supportive adults that guide, support, facilitate, and mentor them along their path. When creating Client-Connected Projects, consider these roles.

CLIENT-CONNECTED PROJECT ROLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Liaison</th>
<th>School District Real World Learning Lead</th>
<th>Lead Teacher/ Educator</th>
<th>Subject Matter Expert(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A representative from the client organization</td>
<td>A representative from the school district that helps facilitate RWL experiences</td>
<td>A teacher supervising student groups</td>
<td>An industry-based professional interested in helping students along the way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to Get Started

It’s recommended to create a project plan on the front-end of the experience (See project template here).

**Project Prompt** | Identify a project or problem from your to-do list that a high school student (or team of students) could help tackle or solve.

**Project Description** | Develop a plan that includes deliverables and a timeframe for completion.

**Client Liaison** | Determine who would connect with the educator and students to lay out the project, give feedback on progress, and evaluate final output. **Hint:** Think about individuals who are earlier in their career and interested in helping others learn and grow. Total time commitment expected – at least four hours (students will receive consistent, regular support from other adults behind the scenes).
Considerations for Planning
To plan the work of the project, the Facilitator/Coach and the Client Liaison should work hand-in-hand while considering the following:

**Evaluate Work**
- What work is available?
- Is work appropriate for student involvement?
- Which work optimizes student and organizational needs?
- Who would be most appropriate to serve as the primary client contact?

**Set Goals**
- What would make this experience a success for the employer?
- Which essential skills can be developed?
  - Communication
  - Collaboration
  - Critical Thinking
  - Interpersonal
  - Proactivity
  - Executive Function

**Set Expectations**
Establish project parameters to help students understand the project and plan execution
- Problem Statement
- Student Goals
- Engagement with SMEs
- Feedback & Reflection Cycle
- Documentation of Approach
- Finished Product

**Create Timeline**
Establish key milestones for students
- Ideate back-up plans for any surprises

---

**How to Get Started**
It’s recommended to create a project plan on the front-end of the experience (See project template here).

---

**Get Involved | Contact Us**
Anna Hennes | ahennes@kauffman.org
Salvador Ocampo | socampo@kauffman.org