

## Distance Learning Across the Work-Based Learning Continuum

With COVID-19 (Coronavirus) forcing many businesses to shut their doors and cancel work-based learning experiences for students around the country, many states, nonprofits and industry leaders are trying to figure out what work-based learning can look like in a physically distant world. This fact sheet demonstrates how work-based learning can be provided across the work-based learning continuum, and how the public, private and nonprofit sectors can work collaboratively and be innovative in their approach to distance work-based learning, supporting equity and access amid the Coronavirus pandemic and beyond.



### Career Awareness

**Learning ABOUT work:** Learners build awareness about career and postsecondary options through experiences such as field trips and career days

#### Distance Learning Strategy

- Engage learners through virtual platforms and virtual reality (VR)
- Create take-home packets that learners can use to learn about different career pathways

#### Examples

- **Washington's Career Bridge**<sup>1</sup> helps learners find and connect to a career pathway by completing career assessments, learning data about wages and the types of training needed for certain careers, and searching available programs of study that lead to the careers learners are interested in.
- **Ames, Iowa's Google Expedition Virtual Reality Field Trips**<sup>2</sup> take learners around the world to learn about farms and volcanoes, visit high school and college campuses, and be exposed to all kinds of careers and content knowledge through VR. While the school district purchased Google Expedition kits to facilitate virtual field trips, the technology is also available for free through the Google app store to use on personal devices, and similar solutions are available from other providers.



### Career Exploration

**Learning ABOUT Work:** Learners explore career and postsecondary options in order to make informed decisions about their future. Learners can explore through job shadowing, mentorships and counseling

#### Distance Learning Strategy

- Use video technology to connect learners with industry experts
- Create take-home packets that learners can use to learn about different career pathways

#### Examples

- **Northern Illinois P-20 Network's Career Pathways Virtual Trailheads**<sup>3</sup> is a YouTube series that allows students to learn from professionals in a wide range of occupations. Professionals share details about their work, skills most important in their field and advice for prospective learners.
- **Nebraska Career Clusters® Virtual Industry Tours**<sup>4</sup> provides learners an opportunity to tour Nebraska-based industries and learn and hear from professionals without leaving their home or classroom. Videos contain interviews and information about work requirements, education levels, salaries and job prospects.



## Career Preparation

**Learning THROUGH Work:** Learners apply learning through practical experiences such as training programs and simulated work experiences that develop knowledge and core competencies necessary for success in careers and postsecondary education

### Distance Learning Strategy

- Leverage simulated workplace and school-based enterprises experiences at home

### Example

- **West Virginia's Simulated Workplace<sup>5</sup>** lets students transform their classrooms into businesses and create an authentic workplace. Many of the programs operate as school-based enterprises, entrepreneurial operations in a school setting. Some student-business enterprises have continued operating remotely to support the Coronavirus response. For example, some are making personal protective equipment with 3-D printers or preparing lesson plans to be broadcast statewide through a partnership with the Public Broadcasting Service.

## Career Training

**Learning FOR Work:** Learners train for employment and/or postsecondary education by engaging in work experiences such as internships and apprenticeships

### Distance Learning Strategy

- Transition to remote internship and apprenticeship learning experiences

### Examples

- **Carolina Fin Tech's Youth Technology Apprenticeship Camp<sup>6</sup>** is a partnership with a number of entities including the city of Charlotte. It provides high school graduates an opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers. Participants receive virtual classroom instruction, work on projects in virtual groups, and ultimately earn credentials and have the opportunity to earn a job as a developer upon completion.
- **American Health Insurance Management Association (AHIMA)'s Registered Apprenticeship Program<sup>7</sup>** is an intermediary between learners and the health care industry. AHIMA trains hired apprentices for work that can be completely remote, such as medical coding, through online classes.

**Also, check out distance work-based learning resources in the Learning that Works Resource Center!**

- [CTE On the Frontier: Connecting Rural Learners with the World of Work](#) (Advance CTE)
- [Simulated Work-Based Learning: Instructional Approaches and Noteworthy Practices](#) (U.S. Department of Education)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/default.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thetechedvocate.org/using-google-expeditions-in-the-classroom/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://p20network.news.niu.edu/2020/03/28/career-pathways-virtual-trailheads-exploring-careers-online/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nebraskacareerclusters.com/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://careertech.org/resource/west-virginia-simulated-workplace>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.wsoctv.com/community/family-focus/covid-19-impact-gives-cms-students-accelerated-opportunity-paid-tech-apprenticeship/ZOXPDIUQWZFXJJMSB5P5BOLJBU/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ahimafoundation.org/>

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