



## WORKING WITH ACADEMY STUDENTS

Whether you are preparing to be a guest speaker, job shadow host, or internship supervisor, use the suggestions below to ensure that your interactions with students are successful and beneficial to you and the student(s).

### What to expect from our academy students:

- **Our students want to connect** – they value honesty and appreciate adults who treat them with respect.
- **Our students want to learn** – they may be teenagers, but they are poised to make their transition into adulthood and the professional world of work.
- **Our students are a diverse group** – they represent a range of ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and life experiences.

### Suggestions for working with our students:

- Extend **respect** to students and expect students to reciprocate – don't talk down to them.
- Share **personal stories** of your own educational and career journey – both the struggles and the successes. Brief narratives of your experiences can be engaging and informative.
- Help reinforce our **work-based learning outcomes** whenever possible. We can't have too many adults restating the importance of college and career readiness skills.
- **Model** professionalism and other career-ready skills. While the classroom atmosphere is more casual, please wear your usual workplace attire and model the skills you expect from your employees and colleagues.
- Remember to use the **academy theme** as a context for learning. Use every opportunity to draw connections between academy career theme, your specific work, and the industry as a whole.
- Show **examples** of your work and engage students by using images and artifacts. Many students are visual learners and will understand you best when you show samples of what you are explaining.
- If you are giving a presentation, try to keep it **interactive** by having students move, speak, and get involved. And please allow time for questions and answers.
- **Don't worry** about behavior and discipline. For most academy work-based learning activities, at least one teacher will be present to deal with any unexpected behavior management issues.