

Guest Speaker

Using Guest Speakers to support learning is a structured Career Awareness activity in which students listen to a presentation to learn about the speaker's organization, careers and industry and ask questions to help them consider whether they might like to pursue an opportunity in the industry. Guest Speakers can also address core academic concepts, or support an activity currently underway in the classroom. Guest Speaker presentations are conducted at the school and involve preparation and follow-up, including research and reflection by youth. In some cases, Guest Speakers may "visit" a classroom electronically via Skype or some other technology.

Program Level: All
Employer/Student Ratio: 1 to 20+
Duration: 60 to 90 minutes
Frequency: One time
Location: At the school
Costs: Staff release time
Special Considerations: Employee selection. Company volunteer policies and practices.

Why is hearing from a Guest Speaker important for students?

- Provides a context for learning and fosters an understanding of how academic concepts are applied in a real-world setting.
- Provides exposure to an adult professional who can inspire pursuit of a particular career (especially if it's "someone like me").
- Promotes awareness of careers and builds occupational knowledge.
- Builds awareness of the education and training needed for particular jobs and entry into the industry.
- Creates awareness of the business's role in the community, as well as its functions, processes and products.

What are the benefits to my company?

- Exposes potential future workers to job opportunities and careers with your company.
- Exposes students to the skill needs, educational requirements and the full range of career opportunities in your industry.
- Promotes an understanding of the role and contributions of your business.
- Introduces students to your employees and vice versa.
- Helps your employees understand and practice how to communicate with the next generation of workers.
- Provides a way to introduce and engage multiple employees with your commitment to students and connect your company with the community.

What do I need to do next?

- Contact your NYS P-TECH coordinator to learn more.
- Arrange for a presentation to those of your employees who might be interested in guest speaking and seem to be a good fit for the job.
- Consider any impacts on company policy.

Resources

- Distribute the *Employer Tip Sheet: Guest Speaker* to interested employees.
- Review the *P-TECH Professional Skills*.
- Review *Employer Fact Sheet: Participation Options* to learn more about how to get the most out of your partnership with NYS P-TECH.