



Career Spark

The annual CareerSpark-JA Inspire learning experience consists of educator-ready career exploration resources for the classroom and culminates in a hands-on, interactive work and career readiness experience. It is designed to spark students' interest in the exciting careers available in the region and help schools meet PaCE Framework Objectives for 8th grade.

transforming career exploration since 2017

Students

24,100 +

Industry Leaders

150+

Investors & Exhibitors

75+

Unique Schools

75+

Volunteers

750 +

More than a career fair:

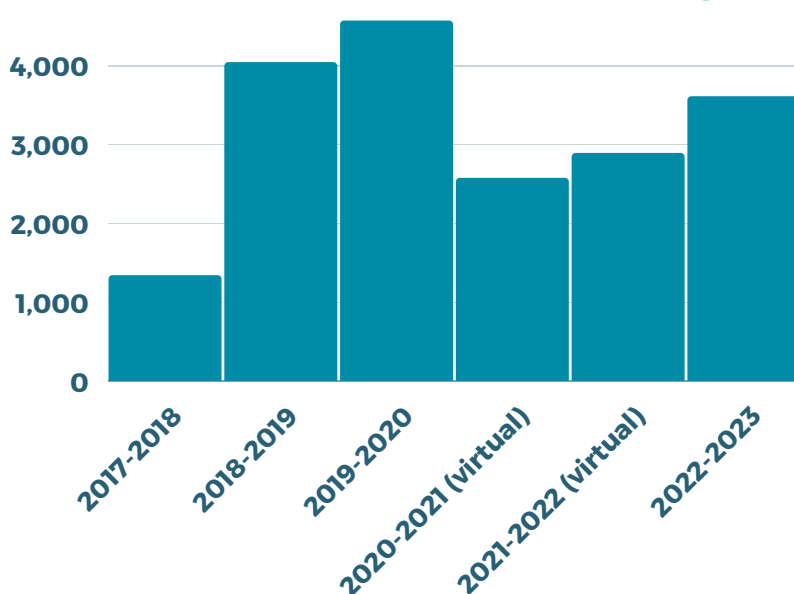
CareerSpark unites
BUSINESS COMMUNITY +
SCHOOLS

to launch students into their
future

HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE &
CAREER

- On September 28 & 29, 2023, approximately 4,000 8th-grade students will gather at the Peoria Civic Center to interact with local professionals. Students act out careers through hands-on activities to visualize their future and lay the foundation for high school studies, preparing them for a career path.
- In the spring, High School students explore local employers through an online interactive expo and gain valuable skills for landing the right job for them.
- Both experiences connect with the JA Inspire curriculum and resources showcasing our region's most critical industry clusters and employers, including manufacturing, healthcare, innovation and technology, business and finance, and more.

Annual 8th Grade Student Impact



EDUCATOR OUTCOMES

77%
agreed the program
had enough hands-
on activities

52%
of students are
considering careers for
their future they hadn't
thought of before
because of
CareerSpark
experiences

81%
agreed the program
connects learning to
industry needs

77%
agreed the program
introduces students to
critical skills

High School Student Outcomes:

I plan to pursue one or more of the following opportunities at companies I learned about in CareerSpark - You're Hired! & JA Inspire (Select all that apply):

- Apprenticeship: 24%
- Internship: 15%
- Job: 30%
- Job Shadow: 31%

What was the coolest thing students learned from CareerSpark-JA Inspire?

"It helped get a much better understanding of what I want and don't want for a job."

"I like that it was kind of realistic, and I liked learning about the new jobs I never knew about."

"The coolest thing I learned from CareerSpark was that successful people aren't successful on accident."

(Central IL 8th grade student responses)

What value does CareerSpark create?

FOR STUDENTS

KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO PLAN AND PURSUE A FULFILLING CAREER PATH

Connect with & gain knowledge of local employers

Become better prepared for the workforce

Gain confidence to pursue their dreams and learn what it takes to get there

FOR SCHOOLS

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM AND EXPERIENCES TO MEET LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Results-driven classroom curriculum and materials meet Illinois PACE framework

Business and community partners bring academic concepts to life

Resources and training to support implementation

FOR EMPLOYERS

TURNKEY MODEL TO CONNECT WITH FUTURE TALENT AND DRIVE EXPECTATIONS

Curated experiences make the most of student interaction

Opportunity to drive change earlier in the talent pipeline

Visibility targeted to an audience of students better prepared for the future workforce

How can you get involved?

⚡ be the spark! ⚡

Consider sharing within your network!

Sponsor and volunteer opportunities:

Industry Team Activity Help

Bus Greeter

Tour Guide

Zone Entrance/Exit Monitors

Ad placement in student booklet

Signage at in-person event

Virtual CareerSpark Expo Exhibitors

Select this box to sign up your school's 8th grade students!

Contacts:

School Involvement & Volunteering

Angie Houck, Junior Achievement
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Sponsorship

Sally Eastman, Junior Achievement
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<https://gpcareerspark.org>



GREATER PEORIA
Economic Development Council



Junior Achievement[™]
of Central Illinois

