

# Work Integrated Learning: Better outcomes for students

April 24, 2014

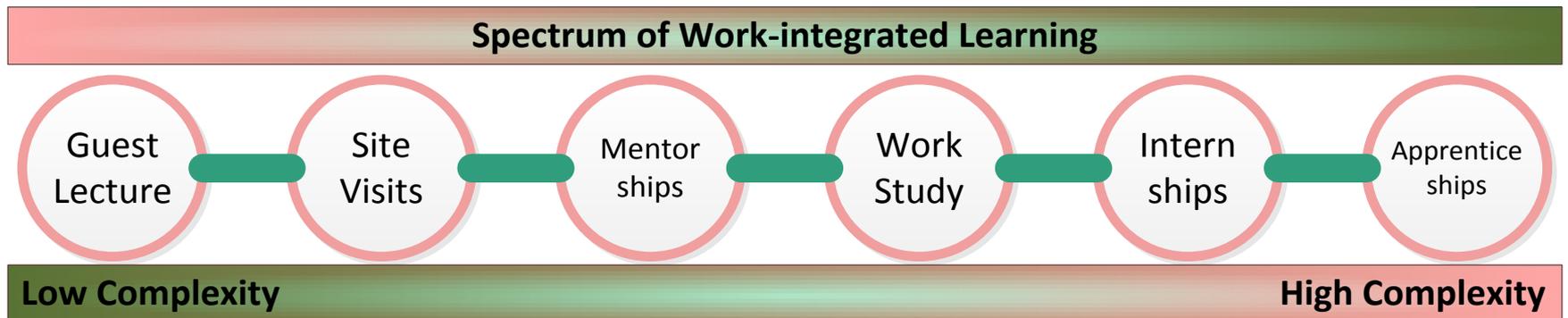
Justin Montermini  
K12 & Youth Legislative Liaison / Policy Analyst

Workforce Training and  
Education Coordinating Board



# What is Work Integrated Learning?

- **ALL** students at **ALL** grade levels and out-of-school youth exposed to work world.
- **APPLIED** experiences link **learning** to **work and careers**.
- **Community, employers & schools** team for student success.



# Areas of Impact

- **Engagement** – Work Integrated Learning, when blended with academic learning, can strengthen student attachment and motivation
- **Enhanced Learning** – Provides participants with rich out-of-classroom experiences that further cement individual learning
- **Career Connections** – Participants, both students and employers, make bridging connections between academic learning and its application in the workplace

# Why it is Important

- Students understand **connection** between **education** and success in the **workforce**.
- Students with **barriers to success** gain critical **work readiness skills**.
- Today's **youth** face **unemployment** nearly **2X** that of adults.
- Employers **struggle** to find hires with needed **21<sup>st</sup> Century skills**.



# Proven Benefits

- **Improved academic achievement** – For some students, work and hands-on learning drive better academic outcomes.
- **Improved workplace and employability skills** – Students learn how to operate in the workplace.
- **Increased student satisfaction** – Students express more satisfaction with their education.
- **Broader support base** – Students connects with caring adults invested in their success.



# Critical Elements of Success

- **21<sup>st</sup> Century skills development** – Soft skills, such as team work, communication, and critical thinking, strengthen work readiness.
- **Evaluation & Feedback** – Open communication between participants and providers is instructive and positive.
- **Vibrant partnerships** – All parties are invested in success.
- **Clear expectations** – Participants understand learning objectives and goals.
- **Integration of academic standards** – Connection to the classroom is clear.
- **Connection to student interest and goals** – Students are engaged in activities relevant to their personal pathway.
- **Clear safety expectations** – All participants, students and providers, understand safety concerns and are committed to a safe experience.

# Current Practice

- **Career & Technical Education**
  - Work-Based Learning is required component of CTE courses.
- **Career and Technical Student Organizations**
  - More opportunities for CTE students to gain career and leadership skills.
- **Project and STEM-based Curriculum (K-12)**
  - Project Lead the Way
  - Pacific Education Institute
- **“Academy” STEM-focused Schools**
  - Cleveland High School (Seattle)
  - TAF Academy (Kent)
- **Community Partnerships**
  - Wenatchee Learns
  - Career Readiness for a Working Washington --  
Pilots in Renton, Spokane, Vancouver, Wenatchee and Yelm
  - KaPow (Kids and the Power of Work)

# Questions?

Justin Montermini

Legislative Liaison

Workforce Training and  
Education Coordinating Board

360-709-4600

[Justin.montermini@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:Justin.montermini@wtb.wa.gov)

# Additional Materials

- Thomas Raymond Bailey, K. L. (2004). Working Knowledge: Work-Based Learning and Education Reform. Routledge Falmer.
- Employer Survey – Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, [www.wtb.wa.gov/EmployerSurvey.asp](http://www.wtb.wa.gov/EmployerSurvey.asp).
- Annie E Casey Foundation. (2012). Youth and Work: Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to Opportunity. Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Career Ready Partner Council. (2012). Building Blocks for change: What it means to be career ready. Career Ready Partner Council.
- Mathematica Policy Research Inc. (2011). Beyond a Summer Work: The Recovery Act 2009 Post Summer Youth Employment Initiative. Mathematica Policy Research Inc.
- The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) (2012, November). Career Clusters. Retrieved from CareerTech.org: <http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/>.
- Bradford, S. (2012). Working for a Better Future. Washington D.C : Justice Policy Institute .
- Bridgeland, J. M., & Milano, J. A. (2012). Opportunity Road; the Promise and Challenge of America's Forgotten Youth. Civic Enterprises & America's Promise Alliance.
- Nation, O. (2013), Opportunity Index, Washington Opportunity Index: <http://opportunityindex.org/#5.00/45.635/-93.089/>