



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. Find these at workbasedlearning.naf.org/wbl-student-outcomes
- 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 outcomes, 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.