

Teachers and Counselors Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the purpose of the event?

Career Expo 2009 is for students to explore careers by speaking with professionals currently working in business and industry. Students may read about a career or have some first hand knowledge (for instance when they go to a doctor's office) but it is only from one point of view. This event will provide students with a more comprehensive view of what specific careers involve so they can make informed career choices.

Why should teachers and counselors encourage student participation?

When students have a career goal and know what it takes to reach the goal, often times they are more motivated in the classroom. They can see the relevancy to not only the content but the work ethic they develop in school and the importance of these skills in the workforce. The exhibitors will share with students the educational requirements for their specific careers, which will include specific coursework and advanced education and training. This information can reinforce what teachers and counselors tell students on a daily basis.

Who should attend the event?

Freshmen through seniors in high school and community college students are all invited to attend. Many students will attend with their parents. Students attending are from High School Districts 211, 214 and 220 and Harper College. Teacher and counselors are welcome to attend the event as well.

What is the format of the event?

There will be approximately 100 participants representing a wide variety of career fields. Each participant has been assigned to one of the following career clusters:

- Arts and Communications
- Business, Management and Computer Technology
- Engineering and Industrial Technology
- Health Services
- Human Services
- Natural Resources

Each exhibitor will have a six-foot table to display any materials brought to the event and possibly handouts for students. It is suggested that students look on line at the Event Book (to be posted online in mid-April) to see which career areas they would like to explore and the questions they would like to ask each exhibitor.

How can I encourage my students to attend?

Each faculty member should receive a Teacher Guide this spring. It is also available to print out on the Career Expo web site. This document provides a **Career Interest Inventory** that students can take before the event. There is also an activity titled **What I Want From a Career**, which students can complete before the event. Both of these activities can be used to help narrow the career areas students may choose to explore at Career Expo. Lastly, in the Teacher Guide there is an **Interview Question Sheet** that can be used as a class assignment or extra credit assignment when the students attend the

event. Teachers can make classroom sets of these activities to use in their classroom or counselors can use with their counselees.

Lastly, a Parent and Student Guide will be sent home to all families after spring break. This publication (which is posted on line) will provide students with information about the program and encourage their attendance.

What time is the event?

The program is scheduled from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The doors will not open any earlier than 7:00 p.m. and there is plenty of parking at Willow Creek so there is no need for students and parents to arrive any earlier.

Where is the event being held?

Career Expo 2009 is being held in the Activity Center of Willow Creek Community Church. The address is 67 E. Algonquin Road, South Barrington, which is at the corner of Barrington and Algonquin Roads. This is a very large complex of buildings and the Activity Center, which is indicated, as Entrance F is located in the building furthest west on the campus. There are entrances to the complex from both Algonquin Road and Barrington Road. Signage and parking attendants will be in the parking lots throughout the campus to direct participants to the correct location. Click on the links to the maps and directions on the Career Expo web site for more information.

Is there a charge to attend the event?

No, there is not a charge for students to attend this event. It is sponsored by the Northwest Suburban Education to Careers Partnership and High School Districts 211, 214 and 220 and Harper College. We are also grateful to the exhibitors who are providing their time and expertise as a community service to our young people.

A few additional reminders:

- Exhibitors will not be selling any items at the event.
- Exhibitors may provide students with educational information in the form of pamphlets or flyers about their careers.
- Exhibitors are asked to refrain from asking students and parents for any personal information to be used in any commercial manner after the event.
- This event is not a job fair and therefore, no hiring will be taking place.