

# Virtual Work-Based Learning

## Engagement Activities & Best Practices



This resource provides a menu of recommended “virtual friendly” work-based learning activities to support NAF Advisory Boards, employer partners, and other volunteers, in providing meaningful work-based learning opportunities for students.

As a reminder, work-based learning is an activity where students interact with employers and members of the community to develop and hone their technical and college and career readiness skills. The following engagement options have been successfully delivered virtually by academies and NAF employer partners.

### VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT MENU



#### Guest Speak

Speak to a class about your industry, company, career path, or tailored topic relevant to a project, subject, or skills using video conferencing.



#### Informational Interview

Answer questions about your industry, company, or career path using the phone or video conferencing.



#### Worksite Tour

Guide a group of students virtually through your workplace (not ideal for those working from home – portable camera required).



#### Mock Interview

Provide a simulated professional job interview to students using phone or video conferencing.



#### Resume Review

Provide guidance to students on their resume development using the phone or video conferencing.



#### Mentor/Project Mentor

Mentor a student or group of students (one-time, or on a regular basis) using the phone, email, or video conferencing.



#### Internship

Host a high-quality paid intern(s) virtually, with flexible hourly schedule.

### BEST PRACTICES FOR VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENTS

- A virtual engagement should not exceed **90 minutes**, and **interactivity should be incorporated at least every seven minutes**. This can be done through chat, polls, whiteboards, Q&A, an activity, a breakout session, use of emojis and more!
- **Reinforce relationships and energize your audience** by kicking off with an icebreaker or with a 5-10-minute personal introduction. Share your education and career journey, hobbies, and any other information that might spark relatability and student interest.
- Provide any **pre-work** (optional) for students to the classroom instructor at least a week prior to your engagement.
- **Agree on a technology platform** with the classroom instructor that works for everyone. Available platforms include Zoom, GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, Skype, Google Meet.
- **Test technology** ahead of time. Ask students to join the meeting at least five minutes prior to the start time to get ahead of any technology-related challenges.
- **Use video** to personalize the conversation and keep students engaged.
- **Evaluate the experience** by surveying the students post-engagement