

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT: Industry Commissions

Overview

In the fall of 2013, after extensive engagement with private sector stakeholders and CTE schools, OPSR established a new industry engagement initiative to strengthen our collaboration with industry partners in key fields. At the heart of the effort, a team of **Industry Engagement Coordinators (IECs)** recruit and manage key employer partners through an industry commission structure that brings partners and school professionals together to increase communication, knowledge and collaboration between industry and schools to strengthen the quality of CTE career pathways. Specifically, the commissions role is to articulate industry specific benchmarks and expectations for students who want to enter the field, support curriculum development, contribute human resources for an array of student-facing engagement activities – ranging from mentoring, hosting interns, providing guest speakers, supporting student competitions, and offering student scholarships and teacher externships.

Accomplishments

The industry engagement team has launched/re-launched commissions in six sectors over the past year, with two additional commissions convening in fall 2014:

- Automotive/Transportation
- Healthcare
- Media/Design
- Information Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Construction/Sustainability
- Engineering (Fall 2014)
- Business/Finance (Fall 2014)

The “pre-work” to commission launch/re-launch included a survey of CTE schools and programs fielded in summer 2013, and several dozen visits to schools and meetings with industry partners to inform the agenda and “story” of each commission.

Each commission focuses on delivering tangible results to the schools and programs in their respective sectors. For automotive/transportation, “deliverables” include teacher externships and greater student participation in industry-sponsored competitions. For healthcare, the top priority is helping schools/programs solve staffing and educator pipeline problems, with other deliverables to include greater clarity around state approval requirements and industry conditions. Across all commissions, the IEC team has been working closely with the program quality and work-based learning teams to present a consistent message to schools about industry expectations.

The IEC team already has delivered positive outcomes in recruiting and developing relationships with partners for the 2014 cohort of 9-14 P-TECH schools, including SAP and Microsoft/New York-Presbyterian. The team also has supported the evolving partnerships with Con Edison and National Grid and Montefiore Medical Center for the two 9-14 P-TECH schools that opened in 2013. Some new partners engaged since kickoff include Facebook, Restaurant Associates, Union Square Hospitality, and Dinex Group.

For additional information, email industry@schools.nyc.gov