



2020 Career Exploration Day Orientation

Career Exploration Day is an annual event of the **Bridges Career Academies & Workplace Connection** that showcases careers and career training programs through a fun environment with hands-on activities. This year's event will be **Friday, March 6, 2020** at Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

Important Facts

- **You will arrive and depart from CLC's campus at THE SAME DOOR.** Other schools are arriving and departing from different doors, so remember YOUR ENTRANCE DOOR. See bussing list included.

Departure times will be announced over the PA system.

- You may leave your coat and backpack on the bus, but should take with you anything valuable, such as a purse or phone. It's best to leave most everything at school in your locker, if you can. The entire event is inside, so there is no need for your coat or other things to keep track of.
- Either at your school or when you arrive at CLC, all students will be given a special **event bag** to hold onto any information or giveaways you may receive at the Career Exploration Day.
- The **map** you will be given is **color-coded**, with different colors matching different industry, or cluster areas.
- You will be at the event for several hours, so use your time wisely. We ask that you try to visit at least 3 different industry areas.
- **Lunch will be provided in the gym between 11 – 12:30. ONLY STUDENTS WITH RUBBER WRISTBANDS WILL BE ADMITTED TO LUNCH between 11-11:30 am.** These schools are the first to depart, so they will have the first opportunity to eat. You may eat ONLY in the gymnasium area. Please treat the CLC campus as you would your own school. Don't litter, and recycle what you can.
- You will be given an **exit survey** to complete on your return bus ride. Please give complete, honest answers to make this event even better for future years. Give the finished survey to your teacher when you get off the bus.
- There is an event website -- **BridgesConnection.org/ced2020**. Everything you'll need to know about this event can be found there. List of business/programs participating, types of careers, map of event and more. We encourage you to visit this site BEFORE you attend the event so you are prepared.

Bridges Career Exploration Day Event Overview

Nearly 2,500 students from 28 school districts are expected to interact with more than 250 volunteer businesses, non-profits and educational partners to explore more than 150 career options.

Background Information on Bridges

The **Career Exploration Day** is just one of the programs of the **Bridges Career Academies & Workplace Connection** to better integrate work-based learning between schools and business.

Bridges strives to provide students career awareness, exploration and preparation to ensure a viable workforce. We provide leadership that engages and empowers students and educational professionals to: explore career pathways, enhance partnerships between education and the business community, inspire innovative ideas, and promote regional career opportunities.

Bridges projects are divided into 3 main categories: career exposure, academic enrichment and career experiences.

Career Exposure

- *Career Exploration Day*: One-day event showcasing more than 150 regional high-demand careers with hands-on demonstrations, simulators, and breakout sessions.

Academic Enrichment

- *Career Academies*: Courses focused on career pathways, providing hands-on learning activities that combine technical, academic, and employability skills related to a specific career. Courses are delivered by high school instructors with support from industry representatives.
- *ProStart*: Industry-led hospitality pathway via [ProStart](#)

Career Experiences

- *Career Depot*: Website portal supporting career exploration and finding first job. Includes an exclusive centralized database of entry-level style jobs for 18 years old and under.
- *Business tours*: Support/coordination/transportation for a 30-90 minute tour of a local business
- *Speakers in the classroom/industry videos* (video library): Local professional speaking on specific industry topic to classroom, or using pre-recorded videos and video resource guide

The **Bridges Career Academies & Workplace Connection** is funded in part by Sourcewell and the Central Lakes Perkins Consortium, and is supported by the Brainerd Lakes Chamber, Central Lakes College, MSTATE and participating school districts.