



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Randy I. Dorn Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

January 4, 2012

For more than 35 years, Washington Business Week has connected teens, educators, and business professionals from across the state, offering unique, student-driven learning opportunities that have a powerful positive impact on program participants. I strongly support getting students, teachers, and faculty members more involved in public/private partnerships. One way this can happen is through Washington Business Week.

Business partners play the most important role in Washington Business Week, supporting students as they navigate their way through the challenges of an interactive business simulation. Professionals offer mentorship, and have a long lasting impact on students, encouraging skills that can lead to a career. Not only do business partners contribute to the future workforce, they find that as mentors, they have participated in rich professional development resulting in improved team-building, leadership, and presentation skills.

In just one week, teen participants are encouraged to step outside of their comfort zone and to push themselves to apply their knowledge and skills in career-focused pathways such as business, healthcare, energy, manufacturing, and agriculture. Participants develop leadership and problem-solving skills, and develop a stronger connection between school and work. The relevant learning experiences that Washington Business Week offer inspires students, build confidence, and real-world experiences. Real learning happens at Washington Business Week.

Students who connect learning to workplace success are motivated to achieve more. There is nothing more exciting than seeing students engaged in activities that are relevant, spark their imagination, and encourage student success. Washington Business Week is a program proven to make a positive difference in the lives of students that I am sure will endure for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Randy I. Dorn

State Superintendent of Public Instruction