



## *Business Education Partnerships: A Guide to Creating Successful Partnerships*

### **What is the Partnership?**

The Business/Education Partnership (BEP) was developed in 2005 by an ad hoc committee of community leaders convened by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

### **BEP Mission:**

Its mission is to work with the educational community, the business community and other stakeholders to provide the highly skilled, literate and productive workforce necessary to support a successful economic development environment.

### **BEP Vision:**

- To be an effective advocate for educational programs and initiatives that contribute to a competent workforce within our community.
- To be recognized as a leading force in enhancing the quality of education in Sangamon County.
- To create a linkage among educational institutions, businesses, and other resources in the region.
- To provide the resources required to effectively carry out the partnership's programs.

### **Your Business Education Partnership**

Building a Business Education Partnership is a unique way for local businesses to directly invest both in the youth of Sangamon County.

The goal of this program is to foster ongoing partnerships between businesses, organizations and educational institutions.

The BEP recognizes the importance of community support in the success of our schools. In short, the economic vitality of Sangamon County is directly impacted by the continuing achievement of our schools.

When businesses and organization become involved in supporting our schools, everyone is a winner.

Your organization institutions work together to recognize the needs of the school and to work together for a solution whether it's a financial donation or a donation of your valuable time.

*Every partnership is unique and specific to the partners. You decide what works!*



The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce





### **Getting Started**

The following are the preliminary steps your organization can take to get ready for a Business Education Partnership:

- Identify resources you can provide (money, mentoring, books, etc.)
- Identify age-range of students (elementary, middle school, high school)
- Identify preferred geographical area to work in
- Identify time commitment desired (once a week, once a month, etc.)
- Recruit volunteers within your organization

### **Moving Forward**

Once you have identified what your organization has to offer, it's time to find a school! The BEP can assist with partnering your institution with a school in need based on the key items your organization has identified.

### **Things to Keep in Mind**

- Remember to try to be flexible-
  - It's important to make sure your partnership fits the needs of the school you want to adopt!
- Remember to be patient-
  - Rome wasn't built in a day-- Starting out with just a few employees is a great foundation for a long-lasting partnership.
- Remember to have fun-
  - This program is about helping schools be the best they can be! Your support is vital in growing our local economy and preparing our students for the workforce.
- Remember to talk about your partnership-
  - Promoting your relationship with your school within your organization and throughout Sangamon County will ensure that other organizations will also want to participate.

### **Contact Us**

For more information on how to get involved in a Business Education Partnership with Springfield Southeast High School, please contact:  
Liana Hoyt, Business Teacher, SSHS and Member of the Business Education Partnership at [hoyt@sps186.org](mailto:hoyt@sps186.org) or at (217) 891-6288.



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