

FAST FACTS

PROGRAM LEVEL: All grades

EMPLOYER/STUDENT RATIO:
1 employer to 15-100 students

DURATION: Usually 1 hour

FREQUENCY: One time

LOCATION:
School classroom/Virtual

COSTS: Staff time

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Employee selection, Company
volunteer policies and practices



Being a guest speaker in a classroom has a lot of rewards. As you share insights about your career and your business or industry, you're introducing options to potential new members of your workforce. You can give firsthand advice on expectations and preparation needed to be successful. And whether it's in-person or virtually through a platform such as Zoom, students can ask questions in real-time. You'll be rewarded with insights into what matters to them and how to effectively communicate with the next generation of workers.

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BE A
**CAREER
CLASSROOM
SPEAKER**



By sharing your experience, you help students consider career path options they may not have considered. Your presentation can illustrate the education and training needed to be successful while providing valuable context on how the academic concepts they are learning in the classroom actually apply to real-world settings.

Intrigued? Great! Reach out to your regional Iowa Intermediary Network coordinator and express your interest. IIN coordinators have deep connections and easily create opportunities to get you in front of classes with little effort on your part. Do it today and make a difference for both you and the students in your area.



FIND YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR



**GET INVOLVED!
SCAN THE CODE!**

It's easy to find your regional coordinator. Scan the code above or visit our website, iowain.org/connect. Enter your zip code and you'll have the contact information you need to reach out.

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CAREER CLASSROOM SPEAKER CHECKLIST

PREP STEPS

- Provide your educator host with website link(s) to introduce your company, industry and profession to students in advance of your visit.
- Create talking points to engage with students. Ask what they're currently studying in the classroom so you can relate your presentation to their curriculum.
- Ask your IIN coordinator for presentation tips and to address any concerns.
- Your coordinator is a tremendous resource and will help you with details like where to park, how to check-in and what might be available if you have equipment needs for your presentation (ie: projector or Wi-Fi access). If you're providing handouts for the students, they can also assist with quantity estimates.
- * IINside Tip:** Don't forget to bring business cards! You may be presented with networking opportunities from school staff, students or parents.
- * IINside Tip:** If your visit will be done electronically through Skype, Zoom or similar platform, perform a test run prior to your presentation to work out any kinks.

PRESENTATION DAY

- Introduce yourself, your company and your position. Give students an overview of what you'll be presenting.
- Try not to read from prepared notes and remember that every industry has it's own set of inside terms and language that will be unfamiliar to your audience -- make sure you explain those terms and acronyms.
- Visual aids add interest. Share products, tools or materials that will add understanding to what you do.

*** IINside Tip:** Interactive presentations have impact! Consider adding in role playing, mock projects, hands-on activities, etc. Ask questions of the students to keep them engaged.

- Describe a typical work day. Add in details that will help students understand the culture of your workplace and the nature of your business.
- Share your educational background and the path you choose to get to your current position.
- Showcase what school subjects (like math or language arts) and soft skills (like punctuality and consistent attendance) are needed in the workplace.

*** IINside Tip:** Don't be afraid to share any mistakes or lessons you've learned. There's value to students in seeing how problems and issues are addressed.

AFTER THE PRESENTATION

- Give your intermediary coordinator your observations and opinions of the experience. Your feedback is valuable to improve future career classroom speaker opportunities.
- Look at ways you might be able to utilize your speaking engagement as promotional or increased visibility for your business.

EXTRA CREDIT

- Talk to your coordinator about additional opportunities available surrounding work-based learning. The list to the right gives you other services available through IIN.

FIND MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Connect with your regional coordinator for details on these additional services:

- career classroom speaker
- career immersion experience
- connection lab live & recorded events
- individual worksite job shadow
- interactive career event
- internship/MOC support
- mock interviews
- professional skill development activities
- virtual career event
- virtual job shadow/informational interview
- worksite exploratory event

Explore with **confidence**