



# VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS



Work-Based Learning Alliance

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Thursday, October 26, 2023

# AGENDA

1. Introduction to WBLA
2. Our Impact & Approach
3. Partnership Panel
4. Next Steps

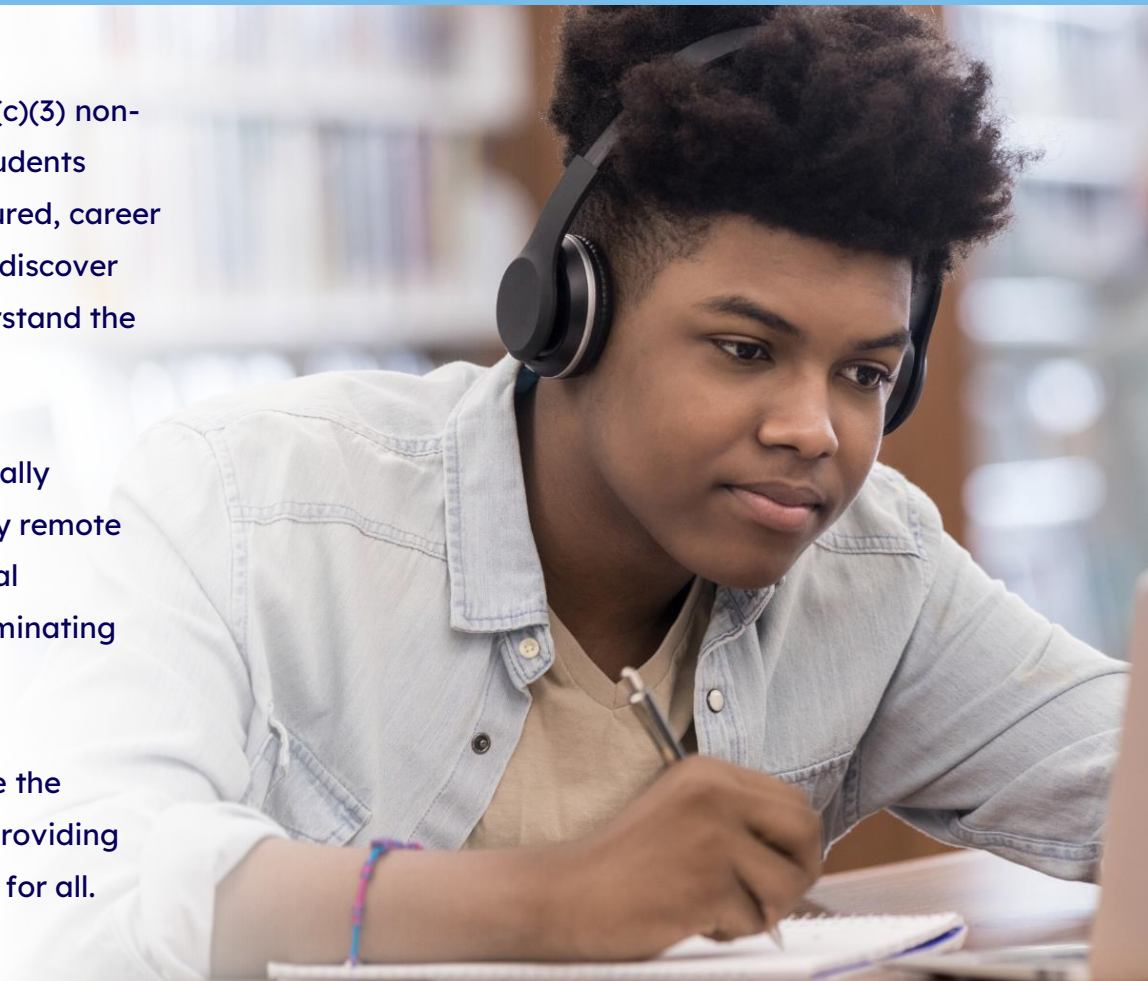


# WHO WE ARE

The Work-Based Learning Alliance (WBLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to provide all high school students across the United States with access to quality assured, career connected learning experiences that allow them to discover their passions, develop their skills, and better understand the career pathways available to them.

We are focused on addressing the needs of historically marginalized, underrepresented and geographically remote student populations by delivering mobile-first virtual experiences that meet students where they are, eliminating barriers to access.

The opportunities we give students today will shape the workforce of tomorrow, and we are committed to providing accessible, equitable and sustainable opportunities for all.



# OUR IMPACT

WBLA is committed to delivering our mission and supporting high school students across the country.

In the last six months alone we have delivered the following metrics in conjunction with our education and industry partners.

**777**

Students Served

**85,000+**

Hours of Paid Work-Based Learning

**8.6**

## Willingness to Recommend

Our students rated us an 8.6/10 when asked how likely they would recommend our programs to a friend

**93%**

## Industry Awareness

93% of our students believe they increased their industry awareness as a result of our programs

**100%**

## Employability Skill Development

100% of our students believe they developed 1 or more employability skills during our programs, with 97% of students developing 2 or more

# OUR APPROACH

We leverage a proven team-based project learning methodology that has been extensively studied and deployed over the last 10 years to deliver programs that catalyze scalable career exploration & industry exposure while removing traditional barriers to participation for students, schools & industry.



## Virtual

- 100% virtual experiences drive equitable access by removing hurdles such as geography and transportation
- Students work synchronously and asynchronously in teams to deliver projects that solve real business challenges for industry partners



## Industry Aligned

- Projects are designed using proven work-based learning templates that align to real world industry roles and skills
- Projects provide career discovery for students & support industry partners to develop tomorrow's workforce



## Structured

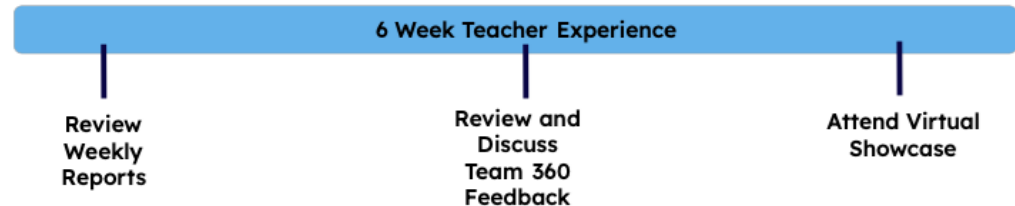
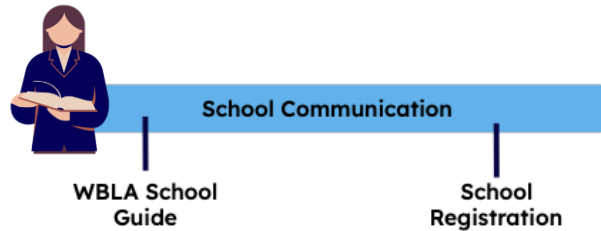
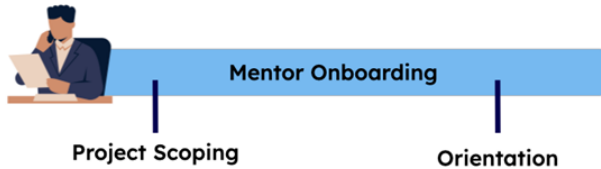
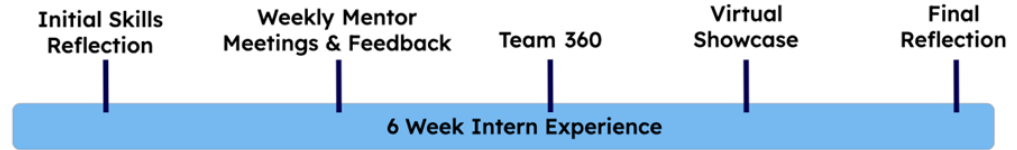
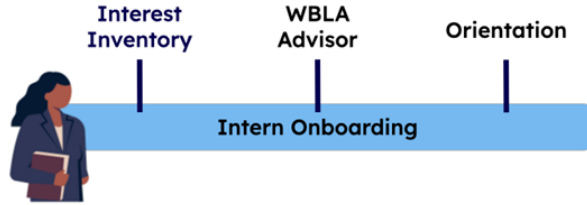
- Programs are designed as structured student learning experiences that develop each student's technical & in-demand employability skills
- Structured industry feedback creates greater value for students and builds social capital



## Quality Assured

- In-depth and real-time data and reporting on learning, skill development, participation levels, engagement & performance at work
- Data & reporting can be made available to schools, industry partners, & designated government groups

# OUR INTERNSHIPS



# SIX WEEK INTERN EXPERIENCE



## Anticipated Outcomes For Students

- Equitably expand access to work-based learning experiences
- Help students develop social capital
- Apply the skills developed in the classroom to a real project for a real industry organization.
- Gain real world experience that can be added to resumes and college applications

## Current and Future Programs

- 100 hour virtual internship over 4, 6 or 8 weeks
- 20 hour (3 week) cybersecurity experience project sponsored by IBM SkillsBuild
- 20 hour (3 week) data analytics experience project sponsored by IBM SkillsBuild
- 20 hour (3 week) web development experience project sponsored by IBM SkillsBuild
- 20 hour (3 week) CAD experience project sponsored by Dassault Systemes



# PARTNERSHIP PANEL

## **Robert LePage**

Assistant Secretary, Career Education  
Massachusetts Executive Office of Education

## **Jessica Callanan**

Interim Principal and Director of Academic Achievement  
Reading High Memorial High School

## **Liam Connolly**

Junior  
Waltham High School



# INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?



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