

## What Community Partners are saying about the program

"It's the nature of business today to accomplish more with fewer resources. We appreciate having a single resource for maintaining our relationships with local schools. It allows us to connect young people with the right professional in our organization in the most efficient manner."

**Kathleen Pennington, Manager of Employee and Community Relations, ConocoPhillips**

"From a small businessowner's perspective, our partnership with schools has helped students better understand employer expectations and standards. Community Connections affords a unique opportunity for Whatcom County businesses to provide real work experience for students without overwhelming staff resources."

**Mary Deets, Owner, Fountain Drug**

"Using Community Connections as our central resource is much better than having students pick up the phone book. Students are able to find high quality matches for their interests, and they know that the person is willing and informed before they place the call."

**Debbie Granger, Educator, Squalicum High School**

"Students can't possibly understand the world of work until they experience it. These opportunities help students develop a realistic view of their future and offer life skills you can't teach in the classroom."

**Sue Ann Heutink, Educator, Nooksack Valley High School**

"I learned a lot about myself and how to communicate with co-workers better."

**Student, Nooksack Valley High School**

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## How Do I Become a Community Partner? It's easy to register!

1. Visit [www.whatcomconnections.org](http://www.whatcomconnections.org) and read through the Community Partners pages for more information.
2. Click on **Community Partners > How Do I Participate / Register?**
3. Complete the three easy steps:
  - a. Register with your contact information;
  - b. Complete the Survey;
  - c. Complete the Hold Harmless Agreement if you will meet with students at a worksite.
4. Keep in touch with the Whatcom Community Connections office if you have questions or concerns.

### WHATCOM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

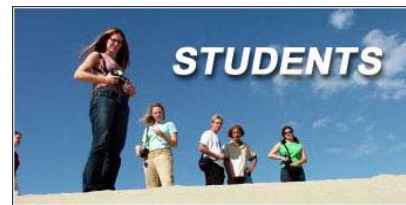
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## Whatcom Community Connections Partnership Website



**A virtual communication system  
designed to link Whatcom County schools  
with Community Partners**

*The Whatcom County Consortium of schools, in collaboration with Community Partners, helps prepare students to make a successful transition from school to future education, career opportunities and lifelong learning.*

# Join Whatcom Community Connections Today!

## Welcome Community Partners!

Whatcom Community Connections is a web based communication system that links Whatcom County Schools and community members for Community Based Learning experiences.

### Would you like to:

- Make a difference in a young person's life?
- Inspire future community leaders?
- Expand a student's horizons?
- Prepare students for the realities of the workplace?
- Make learning connected, real, and applied?

### Community Partners share their expertise with students:

- Community Advisor / Mentor for Culminating / Senior Projects
- Panel Member for Culminating / Senior Projects
- Mock / Informational Interviews
- Field Trips / Tours
- Job Shadows
- Internships
- Clinical Internships / Externships
- Community Service / Volunteer Opportunities
- Service Learning Projects
- Career Fair
- Guest Speakers
- Tutors
- Paid Work Experience

**Register today to work with students!**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How does Community Connections Work?***

Community Partners register and complete a survey at the website, educators and students search the database for a partner matching their activity and interest area. You choose the activities, which schools you work with, and how you will be contacted.

### ***What is the time commitment as a Community Partner?***

Community Partners make a good faith commitment to be available to work with students when the need arises. Not every contact will lead to a scheduled activity. Some activities may take as little as 30 minutes, some several hours over a period of time.

### ***I already work with the schools. Why should I register with Community Connections?***

Community Connections is a web-based database that is a resource for the schools. By using a central clearinghouse-approach, we are able to control the number of requests made to area partners and coordinate community-based activities in a more professional and efficient manner.

As a result, we are able to provide high-quality placement opportunities and resources for students / educators, and students are better prepared for the experiences our community partners have to offer.

### ***Do I need to complete a background check to work with students?***

Each school has its own requirements for participation. You may be asked to complete a background check depending on the activity you participate in and which school(s) you work with.

### ***Is Whatcom Community Connections related to the Clearinghouse Network?***

For more than eight years the Clearinghouse Network served as the communication liaison between Whatcom County businesses and partner schools. In 2004 the program adopted the new name Whatcom Community Connections along with expanded services and a new website. If you have worked with the Clearinghouse Network in the past, we hope you will continue to support this valuable program!



***Students studying health care get some hands-on experience.***