

Employer Guest Speaker Fact Sheet

When guest speakers visit a classroom, learners⁷ listen to a presentation to learn about the speaker's career, business and industry, and ask questions to help them consider whether they might like to pursue a career path in the industry.

Designed to meet specific learning objectives, guest speaker presentations are linked to the curriculum and help learners connect what they're learning in school with the workplace. Presentations are usually conducted at the school but in some cases, guest speakers may visit a classroom via Skype, Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams or some other technology; and the activity is conducted through a remote classroom.

Program Level: All Grades.
Employer to Learner Ratio: 1 - 3 employers to 40-100 learners.
Duration: Usually 1 hour
Frequency: One time
Location: School/Classroom/Online
Costs: Staff time
Special Considerations: Employee selection. Company volunteer policies and practices.

Why are guest speaker presentations important for learners?

- Exposes learners to potential careers and jobs and help build occupational knowledge.
- Illustrates the education and training needed for entry into certain industries.
- Provides a context for learning and fosters an understanding of how academic concepts are applied in a real-world setting.
- Lets learners know about your company's processes and products/services and the role your business plays in the community.

What are the benefits to my company?

- Exposes potential future workers to job opportunities and careers with your company, as well as the required skills and education to be successful in your industry.
- Introduces learners to one or more of your employees.
- Helps your employees understand how to communicate with the next generation of workers.
- Provides an efficient way to introduce and engage multiple employees with your commitment to education and connect your company with the community.

What do I need to do next?

- Determine who will coordinate the guest speaker presentation for your company and have them connect with the work-based learning Connector to address scheduling, planning and logistics.
- Arrange for a presentation to those employees who will participate as guest speakers.
- Distribute the Employer Guest Speaker Tip Sheet to interested employees.
- Consider any impacts on company policy.

Resources

- Review the Employer Participation Options Fact Sheet to learn more about how to get the most out of your partnership with Earn & Learn.

⁷ Learners include K-12, community college and college students; youth and young adults engaged in workforce development programs; and adults participating in career development activities.