

Mica, Peggy

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.

Your Name

Mica, Peggy

Email Address

peggy_mica@roundrockisd.org

Title

Coordinator, Career & Technical Education

Employer

Round Rock ISD

Phone Number

5124645077

Your Relationship to the Partnership?

I am the school district liaison for the externship program described below. I solicit the teacher needs while the Chamber finds business hosts. Together, we match the teachers with the businesses and manage the program requirements.

The Partners: Business & Industry

Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.

Business/Industry Partner 1

Business/Organization Name

Round Rock Chamber

Address

212 East Main Street
Round Rock Texas 78664 US

Website

<https://roundrockchamber.org/>

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Other

Point of Contact

Mike Odom

Title

President and CEO

Email

modom@roundrockchamber.org

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name****Address****Website****Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact****Title****Email**

Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)

Business/Organization Name

Address

Website

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1

Educational Institution/Program Name

Round Rock ISD Career & Technical Education

Address

1311 Round Rock Ave.
Round Rock Texas 78681 US

Website

<https://roundrockisd.org/>

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Middle School, High School

Point of Contact

Sheri Bonds

Title

Director, Career & Technical Education

Email

sheri_bonds@roundrockisd.org

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

Page: Support Information

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

In 2015, our superintendent asked our CTE department and the Round Rock Chamber to join forces to offer a staff externship in the summer.

Our summer externship program invites secondary staff members to sign up for a unique professional development experience where they shadow a business partner for three days. Afterwards, they take the knowledge gained, write a lesson plan to teach their students and present their experience to their peers.

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

The school district CTE Director and CTE Coordinator worked very closely with the Chamber President/CEO and the Chamber VP of Community Enhancement. Though we already knew each other and had worked together on smaller efforts, this has become our largest collaborative effort.

Round Rock ISD asks the teachers what they would like to learn in business and what type of company they would like to be placed with. The Round Rock Chamber then finds business hosts that match those requests.

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

The externship program absolutely supports high-quality CTE and education in general:

- Our staff are more prepared and effective because they learn the most up-to-date expectations in the industry related to their content.
- Our staff are able to provide more engaging instruction by relating their experience in the industry to their students and by involving the business partner in their class activities.
- Partnerships are developed for future classroom connections; a very large, diverse group of employers/industries are utilized in the program; and as our partners learn more about our efforts, they are able to provide more input and assistance.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

The program began in the Summer of 2015 with 6 staff members participating. Summer 2016 had 41 participants, Summer 2017 had 72 participants, and Summer 2018 will have 75.

The professional development experience is unique and very different from traditional professional development settings. Just as CTE is proud of its real-world, authentic, hands-on learning for its students, this program provides the same for the teachers. These experiences would not have been possible without the CTE Department and Chamber working together to find business hosts.

A major outcome of this program is that our teachers learn the most up-to-date information from industry and then share that information with their students and colleagues. Another major outcome is that our business partners are learning more about our efforts in the school system and therefore learn how they may better assist us.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

The partnership between Round Rock ISD and the Round Rock Chamber has always been strong. We honestly worked very well together and simply spent our efforts on program logistics. Everyone approached the project with the heart of doing what was right for teachers and businesses, and ultimately the students and community. Since we all approached it from that angle, the partnership was easy, natural and highly productive.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

The partnership between Round Rock ISD CTE and the Round Rock Chamber is very strong. We have worked together on the externship program for 4 years, and each has seen the district and community excitement surrounding this program. We definitely feel the partnership is sustainable.

Potential staff changes will affect the program, but with training, the program will continue with no problems. (This actually happened between the 2016 and 2017 externships, and the program remained as strong as ever.)

If the TWC grant funding ever becomes unavailable, our program may change regarding the number of teachers we can accommodate. But that will have no effect on the excellent partnership between the CTE department and the Chamber.

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

Less than 6 months

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

A grant was obtained from the Texas Workforce Commission (and managed by Texas Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area) to pay for teacher stipends and gas cards for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Regarding time, as an example, for the 2017 externship program alone, Round Rock ISD and the Round Rock Chamber collectively spent 330 hours to make the matches and manage the program. As the number of externs varies per year, the number of hours spent varies each year.

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Yes