

Career Connection Wessington Springs Senior FCCLA Chapter 2016-2017

Whitney Reider coordinated a Career Fair for students in grades 7-12 to help them explore career opportunities in our area in each of the 16 career clusters. Whitney used the project as her Senior Experience capstone project and an FCCLA project. Students from Wessington Springs and a neighboring school, Woonsocket, heard motivational information from two local business women, interacted with over 20 professionals from the area, and talked to perspective post-secondary schools about educational opportunities.

WSHS senior creates forum for the future at career fair

TRUE DAKOTAN / KRISTI HINE

Employers and professionals from around the region showcased a world of opportunities during face to face meetings with Wessington Springs and Woonsocket students at a student-hosted career fair last week. As part of her senior experience and FCCLA projects, WSHS senior Whitney Reider planned, organized and hosted the event at the Wessington Springs Elementary School gymnasium.

"I felt that students in our high school weren't aware of all the possibilities for careers in our area," said Reider. "I wanted to show them that there are many options beyond agriculture, business and health care."

Reider said that when she began looking into different professions to feature at the career fair she

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was surprised at the wide variety of careers available in the area. She had originally planned to only invite Wessington Springs 7-12 graders but soon discovered she could be of service to more students and invited students from Woonsocket to attend the fair.

"Once I saw the long list of different careers I had written down I knew I could positively impact students from another school as well," Reider said.

Reider ended up recruiting 21 different professional organizations to set up a booth at the event, in addition to six different post-secondary institutions. Students were able to visit with the following professionals: human resource representative, insurance/travel agent, banker, electrician, interior designer, newspaper editor, diesel mechanic, pharmacy technician, dental hygienist, social worker, lab technician, mid-level health care provider, registered nurse, diabetic educator, health care administrator, physical ther-

apist, physician assistant, mechanic, law enforcement officer, agronomist, transportation program manager, veterinarian and restaurant owner.

Reider explained that she gained more than event-planning experience, she also overcame her fear of public speaking.

"I had to talk to so many people during the planning part of this that I became comfortable speaking to just about anyone," said Reider. "I also learned that it takes a lot of time to plan an event like this and you cannot procrastinate."

In addition to serving as her senior experience project, the career fair will be her FCCLA project. "It's a great fit for my FCCLA project because FCCLA teaches us to lead and be successful. Planning this career fair definitely helped me strengthen my leadership and organizational skills."

After high school, Reider plans on studying nursing at SDSU, with long term plans to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

SENIOR EXPERIENCE CAREER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS



As part of her senior experience and FCCLA projects, WSHS senior Whitney Reider planned, organized and hosted a career fair at the Wessington Springs Elementary School gymnasium. Reider recruited 21 different professional organizations to set up a booth at the event, in addition to six different post-secondary institutions. Pictured are some of the career stations at last week's career fair.



Over 200 students attended the career fair and learned more about career opportunities in the Wessington Springs and Woonsocket area.

