

ABOUT US

WorkSMART connector is a community collaboration that prepares young people for exciting local careers through unique work-based learning opportunities.

Ambitious and growing local employers are looking for qualified team members like never before. Young people are looking for personal pathways to a degree or a career, with opportunities to advance themselves along the way.

WorkSMART connector has a solution!



WorkSMART connector is a collaboration of local high schools, colleges and employers, in alignment with Future Ready Iowa and the goal to prepare Iowans for the workforce.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TERI VOS
DIRECTOR OF WORK-BASED LEARNING
info@worksmartconnector.org

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR ME?

- ✔ If you are a hands-on learner and would gain more knowledge at work than in a classroom.
- ✔ If you enjoy classes and want to grow a stand-out resume and career experience.
- ✔ If you want to explore career options in a particular field to see what best suits you.
- ✔ If you are concerned about paying for college and want to earn while you learn.
- ✔ If you want to try the college experience before making a long-term commitment.

Or even if you just don't know...

WorkSMART connector is for YOU!

4 REASONS WHY MY CHILD SHOULD PARTICIPATE

- 1 Get valuable (paid) work experience and earn college credit for it.
- 2 Launch a career with guidance from a professional mentor.
- 3 Enjoy a college experience while gaining skills that will successfully transition into the workplace and adulthood.
- 4 Choose a pathway to a degree in one to four years post-high school.



HERE'S HOW WE'RE BUILDING THE PATHWAY



CAREER AWARENESS GRADES 2-9

Discovering a variety of careers and related skills in the classroom.



CAREER EXPLORATION GRADES 8-11

Identifying and considering specific career interests and related classes.



WORK-BASED EXPERIENCES GRADES 10-12 AND BEYOND

Gaining specific technical skills, related coursework and temporary employment.



FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT POST-HIGH SCHOOL

Completing certifications and degrees and securing fulfilling employment.



PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH DURING EMPLOYMENT

Becoming role models for the next generation entering the local workforce.

MENTORING

Being a mentor is recognizing something amazing in someone else, that they haven't even recognized in themselves.

We know local schools are full of students with untapped potential. WorkSMART connector is determined to help students discover their talents, through mentors who help connect those interests to a local career and guide them in their professional journey. Mentors are trained to be a safe, personal resource for students, coaching them in learning a skilled trade, a brand new technology, how to work in a team environment or even how to progress in their chosen career.

LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING

"Adulting" isn't always easy. School teaches us a lot, but life-skills training is intended to affirm students through their steps to successful, adult living.

WorkSMART connector participants find themselves with a significant paycheck, a busy schedule, leadership opportunities, decisions and more. They can thrive through all of those realities with WorkSMART connector learning opportunities in financial management, community engagement, workforce skills & mentoring, leadership & character and health & well-being. We can't do it for them, but we will provide the skills and guidance for them to learn how to do it on their own.

ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

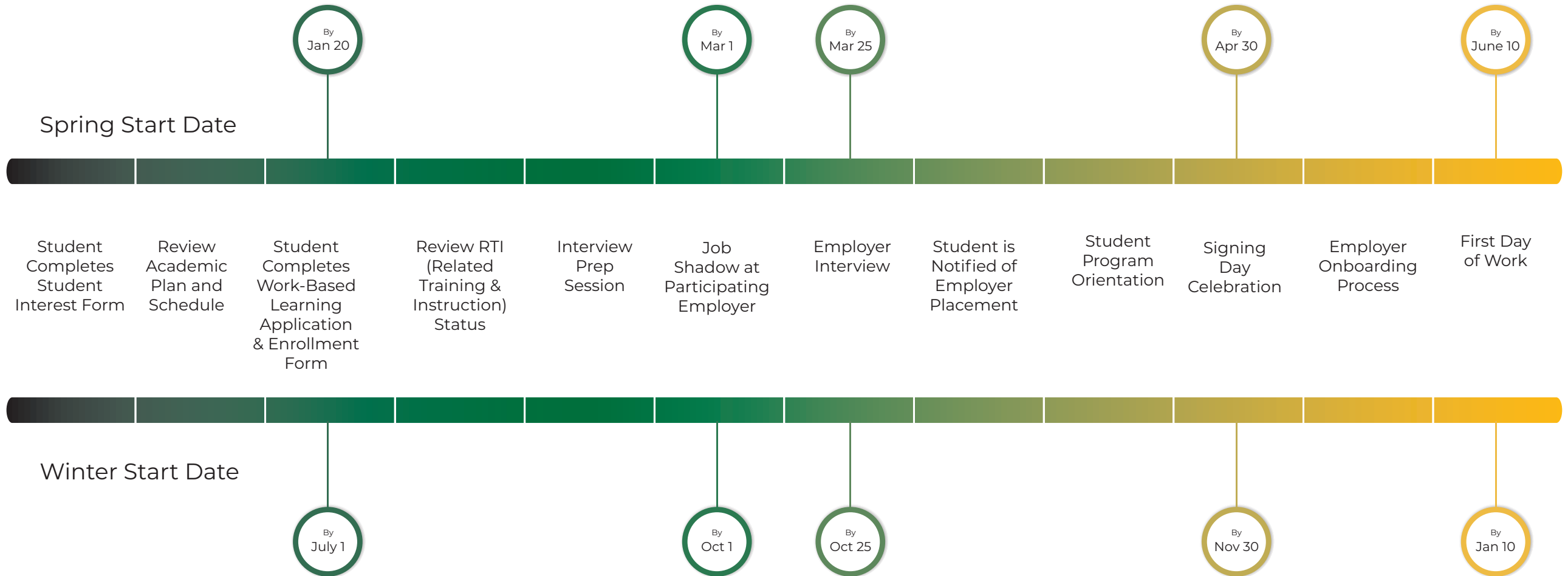
How many times have you heard it... "college is all about the experience." But incredible experiences also happen in the workplace. And in all of life. Now you can experience both college and career, with people who care about your unique journey.

With WorkSMART connector, you have the option to live on Central College's campus while you earn your apprenticeship certification and degree from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in one year after high school graduation. Enjoy on-campus amenities with the support of a Pathway Navigator to help meet your educational goals. After that first year, pursue independent life and career OR your Bachelor's Degree on Central's campus. It's up to you.



WorkSMART Connector

Apprenticeship/Certification Program Timeline



Student Interest Form

Student completes Student Interest Form found on the Work-Smart Connector website to receive program information.

Review Academic Plan and Schedule

Student reviews their 4-year academic plan and schedule with their high school counselor.

Work-Based Learning Application & Enrollment Form

Student completes Work-Based Learning Application and Enrollment Form provided, with their counselor. This form confirms students' request to enter the program and enrolls them through the PCSD Registrar.

Review RTI (Related Training & Instruction) Status

A student's RTI status is reviewed in collaboration with their counselor and Work-Based Learning Team. This is the training that prepares a student for the workforce.

Interview Prep Session

Work-Based Learning Team coordinates an interview prep session to help the student prepare for an employer interview.

Job Shadow

Student has the opportunity to job shadow at a participating employer.

Deadlines for:

Spring Enrollment

Winter Enrollment

January 20th

July 1st

March 1st

October 1st

Employer Interview

Student has an interview with potential employers. Interviews are coordinated by the Work-Based Learning Team. Students and employers rank their preferred employment pairings (not applicable in rotational programs).

Placement

Employment placement is determined by the Work-Based Learning team. Student is notified by their Principal or a school contact regarding their assigned employer (not applicable in rotational programs).

Student Program Orientation

Employers lead a student orientation the day of the signing event. The orientation includes payroll information, employer introductions, and next steps.

Signing Day

Students and their families attend a signing day celebration. Students sign an apprenticeship agreement with the Department of Labor, or a letter of intent for certification

Employer Onboarding

Employer leads student in an onboarding process and next steps. Student receives information such as required paperwork or testing, and employment start date.

First day of work

Student begins first day of work with employer.

March 25th

October 25th

April 30th

November 30th

June 10th

January 10th