



Groundhog Job Shadow Day

Overview

Job shadowing is an activity designed to give young people an up-close look at the world of work and to answer the question, "Why do I have to learn this?" Through this experience, students get to see, first-hand, how the skills learned in school relate to the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.

On January 30th, nearly 1,000 students will visit worksites and shadow professionals for half a day, observing and even assisting them with their work.

The PIC facilitates the event from start to finish. PIC Career Specialists work one-on-one with students to prepare them for this half-day experience through a series of career-readiness workshops. Employers provide a brief job description to ensure that PIC staff can match students' career interests with relevant businesses. The PIC provides the shadow host with a handbook of suggested activities to help structure the event.

History

Launched jointly by the Boston PIC and the Boston Public Schools in 1996, Groundhog Job Shadow Day was established to introduce Boston students to the world of work. This event is dedicated to helping young people explore careers and make the connection between the classroom and the "real world". Job Shadow Day is now a national initiative, thanks to a coalition of sponsors that includes America's Promise, Junior Achievement, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Labor. View the coalition's website at www.jobshadow.org to learn more.

Results

Nationwide, over 500,000 students participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day each year. Last year, the PIC organized more than 100 employers in the greater Boston area and nearly 800 students from Boston's public high schools. Job Shadow sites varied from small businesses hosting one student to larger companies that hosted 75 students in various departments.

To get involved, call Josh Bruno at 617-488-1327.