

# Career Exploration

BOSTON PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



**Are you considering hiring a high school student to work for your organization? Do you want to share information about your organization and industry with future talent? Start with a career exploration activity!**

## Career exploration activities

Every year, the PIC works with over 200 employers from across industry sectors to connect thousands of Boston public high school students to summer employment. During the months leading up to the summer, many of these employers take part in career exploration activities. These activities help students explore their own career interests by learning about local companies and career pathways from professionals across the city.

There are multiple ways for employers to help students explore their career interests. Employers can volunteer to:

- Speak on a career panel or conduct industry interviews
- Host students in the workplace for a job shadow or tour
- Help students become work-ready by simulating hiring interviews

## Why participate in a career exploration activity?

Participation in a career exploration activity provides employers with the opportunity to:

- Connect to the city at a community level
- Meet the future workforce
- Educate local students on career opportunities within their industry
- Reinforce the link between academic performance and career attainment
- Screen potential student applicants for summer internship opportunities

## How do career exploration activities help students?

Participation in career exploration activities provides students with the opportunity to:

- Identify possible career interests and the required skills for certain jobs
- Practice appropriate workplace behaviors, including arriving on-time and dressing professionally
- Engage in networking activities and begin to build a professional network
- Learn more about a particular industry or company with the goal of working there in the future

**Meet Boston's future workforce today.**



**For more information, please contact:**

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“For me, the most valuable part of Job Shadow Day was being able to share some of my experiences—both academically and professionally—to let students know it’s not an overnight path to success.”

— Job Shadow Day Host, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



### Kicking off the summer

In the spring, the PIC organizes an annual Job Shadow Day for employers interested in hiring high school students as summer interns. The spring Job Shadow Day provides employers with the opportunity to meet students who are interested in working for their organization or in their industry. Students who are familiar with the specific work environment are more likely to be successful summer hires. The PIC encourages employers to use Job Shadow Day as an extended interview opportunity to gauge interest and “fit” among the participating students as a first step towards the summer jobs application process.

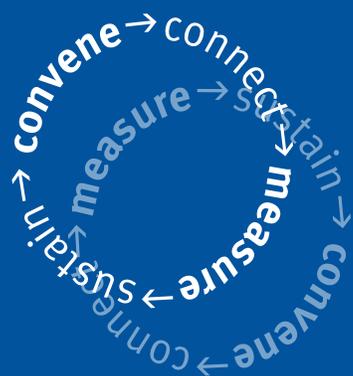
A job shadow is often a student’s first experience in a professional workplace, providing him/her with a unique opportunity to imagine themselves in the environment over the longer term. On Job Shadow Day, students visit the worksite and engage with professionals for three to four hours, observing and assisting them with their work.

The PIC also arranges job shadow experiences throughout the fall and winter for employers who are not planning to hire students during the summer.

### The PIC makes your participation easy.

PIC career specialists work directly with students to prepare them for the experience through a series of career readiness workshops. When you sign-up to participate in Job Shadow Day, the PIC will email you a brief “host’s guide” that includes suggested activities to help structure the event. Job Shadow Day hosts fill out a brief form that PIC staff use to match students to the most appropriate host sites based on the students’ career interests. Students come prepared with resumes.

**To participate in Job Shadow Day, please register at:  
[www.bostonpic.org/volunteer-form](http://www.bostonpic.org/volunteer-form)**



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