

What is Work Based Learning?

Indiana's updated high school graduation pathways require students to gain real-world experience through Work-Based Learning (WBL). Work-Based Learning connects classroom learning with real workplace experiences such as internships, job shadowing, apprenticeships, and other hands-on opportunities. These experiences allow students to explore careers, build professional skills, and better prepare for life after graduation. As a result, students across our community are actively looking for opportunities to learn directly from local businesses and organizations.

The stories below highlight local companies that have successfully partnered with schools and welcomed student interns. Their experiences show how businesses of all sizes can play a role in preparing students for the future while strengthening the workforce right here in our community.

For details on how you can get involved, contact Hendricks College Network (HCN) - chris@hendrickscollegenetwork.org

Let's make this happen, Hendricks County!

WORK BASED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

Ava Finds Growth and Confidence at Lifeline Christian Missions



What started as an internship has quickly turned into a powerful opportunity for Plainfield High School senior Ava to grow both personally and professionally.

Ava is interning with Lifeline Christian Missions, a Plainfield-based nonprofit that serves communities around the world through hunger relief and humanitarian aid.

In just a few short months, Ava has gained experiences that many students don't encounter until much later in their careers.

One of the biggest benefits of the internship, she says, has been the chance to meet people from many different backgrounds.

"At school, you're usually around the same people every day," Ava said. "But here I've met people from all different walks of life and cultures. I've talked to recent college graduates, construction crews, and volunteers from all over. It's really helped me grow and try new things outside my comfort zone."

That growth has already been visible. Ava recently spoke in front of community leaders at a Chamber event and presented updates to Lifeline staff during a virtual meeting with team members located across the country and internationally. Her supervisors say her confidence and communication skills have stood out.

Beyond learning new skills, Ava has also been trusted with a major project. She is currently leading the organization of a community meal packing event, where she is responsible for fundraising, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating the event itself. The goal is to raise funding for a pallet of meals and organize the volunteers who will pack the food.

For Lifeline Christian Missions, welcoming a high school intern aligns with their goal of engaging young people in meaningful ways. "We've always wanted to connect with students and involve them in our volunteer efforts," a team member shared. "This internship gave us the opportunity to bring a student into the organization and help them grow while also contributing to our mission."

Ava will also participate in an eight-week leadership development cohort through Lifeline, where she will join young professionals in weekly sessions focused on personal growth and navigating life after school. This mentorship and relational approach has made a lasting impact on Ava.



"One reason I enjoy being here is that it feels like home," she said. "They ask how my day is going, and they really care about what's happening in my life. It doesn't feel like I'm just an intern."

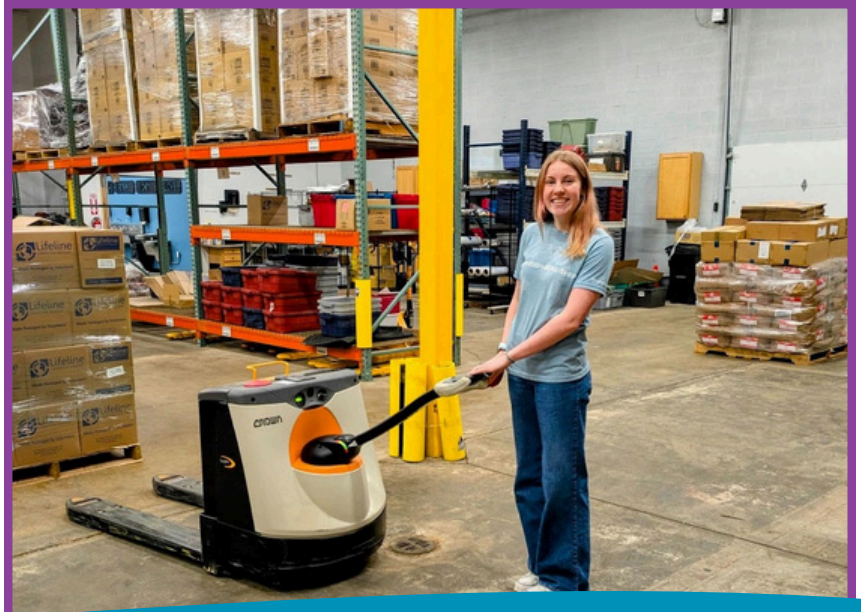
This fall, Ava will attend Purdue as a direct admit nursing student, and she says the skills she's developing, especially communication, empathy, and connecting with people, will be essential in her future career.



Ava's experience highlights the important role employers can play in helping students meet Indiana's Work-Based Learning requirements while also preparing them for life after high school. By partnering with schools and welcoming students into the workplace, organizations have the opportunity to build meaningful connections, mentor the next generation of talent, and strengthen the communities they serve.

For employers considering internships, Lifeline Christian Missions demonstrates how investing in young talent can create real value, for both the student and the organization.

Through hands-on experiences, mentorship, and collaboration, businesses can help students gain confidence, develop professional skills, and explore future career paths.



Interested In Learning More?

If your organization would like to learn more about Lifeline's approach to internships or take the next step in helping a student meeting WBL requirements, the Hendricks College(HCN) is here to help connect you with local schools and students.

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And now...A word from Ava!

Join The Meal Pack by Volunteering or Sponsoring

Hello!

My name is Ava, and I am a senior at Plainfield High School. I volunteer at Lifeline, a meal-packing non-profit. I am sponsoring my own meal-pack, and I am aiming to pack a whole pallet of meals. That would be 14,256 meals total!

I am fundraising for this event, as well as advertising for a volunteer opportunity. If you would like to donate, the **last day to be able to would be the day of the pack, April 11th**. Each meal is .34 cents, so every dollar is appreciated!

If you would like to volunteer, you can sign up to help from 10-11:30 or 12-1:30 on April 11th. There is also a free Chick-Fil-A meal that will be provided for you if you would like it!

To donate or sign up to volunteer, just scan the QR code or use the link. The street address is 2002 Stafford Road, Suite 125 Plainfield, Indiana 46168.

[Link for form](#)

