

**For more  
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Findlay City Schools

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**WHAT CAREERS HAVE  
STUDENTS EXPLORED IN THIS  
PROGRAM?**

There has been widespread professional involvement throughout Findlay and the surrounding areas. Career interests have included:

Actuarial Science  
Archaeology  
Architecture  
Aviation  
Genetics  
Business Management  
Computer Software/Programming  
Corporate Lobbying  
Cultural Anthropology  
Environmental Science  
Forensics  
Graphic Design  
International Law  
Journalism  
Marketing/Advertising  
Medicine/Psychiatry  
Photography  
Physical/Occupational Therapy  
Polymer Engineering  
Veterinary Medicine

**FINDLAY CITY  
SCHOOLS**

***Honors Career  
Mentorship  
Program***



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**An Experience  
in  
REAL-WORLD  
Learning**

## WHAT IS THE FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS HONORS CAREER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

The goal of the mentorship experience is to give motivated students a new perspective on the demands and expectations of the professional world. The Findlay City Schools Honors Career Mentorship Program provides capable high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to explore a profession under the guidance of a mentor for 18 hours after school over a 7-8 week period. Introduced to a field they hope to pursue, students learn by doing, preparing for the real work environment. Mentors acquaint students with the organization, assign and supervise their involvement in projects and tasks, and give them insights into the operations. Mentors candidly discuss their feelings about the workplace and their job responsibilities. While working with and observing the mentors, students keep a journal of project successes and failures, questions, and general impressions of the experience. Upon completion of the term, students compile a final report. The mentor completes an evaluation that is used for assessing the program to make modifications as needed.

### WHO PARTICIPATES?

**Student** - The participating AP/Honors student is a motivated, college-bound, mature junior or senior with high expectations and standards. He/she understands the importance of goal setting and works hard to achieve those goals.

**Mentor** - An effective mentor provides stimulating and challenging experiences for the program participant. The mentor involves the student in major issues and programs, has sensitivity to the needs of youth, and devotes personal attention to the student.

## HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT?

- Students understand/appreciate the real life challenges of the workplace.
- Students have the opportunity to apply skills and attitudes necessary for success in the world of work.
- Students gain self-confidence working with mentors and participating in a work environment.
- Students have the opportunity to learn personal attitudes and behaviors appropriate for the professional world:
  - respect for co-workers
  - teamwork
  - promptness
  - confidentiality
  - dress
  - commitment
- Students learn how academic skills contribute to professional success.
- Students recognize a variety of career options.

## HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Student selection is a competitive process based on academic achievement, teacher recommendation, standardized test scores, and self-reported interests and activities. A selection committee reviews applications.

## HOW DO MENTORS BENEFIT?

While participating in the program, the mentor observes, guides and interacts with a motivated, bright assistant who is ready to tackle projects and learn as much as possible in this "real world" situation. The investment of time and energy to a student eager to learn is balanced by rewards such as the satisfaction of having had a positive influence on the future life of a special young person.

## WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Students consistently remark on the importance of interpersonal skills, a strong academic foundation, the influence of the mentor and the positive work environment. The following comments were taken from student reports and discussions.

### Importance of Interpersonal Skills

- I realized that besides being a master in your field you must communicate and work well with others as a team in order to be successful;
- I've learned how to conduct myself around colleagues and important people;
- I've seen how important teamwork is.

### Importance of Strong Academic Foundation

- School has given me the skills I need to go out and compete in the working world, but my mentorship has taught me how to use my skills effectively;
- These skills, stressed so often in class, have taken on a new importance for me now that I have seen their practical use;
- At school you learn, and at work you take what you've learned and put your knowledge to use.

### Work Environment

- Everyone was wonderful and friendly;
- I quickly felt comfortable;
- I hope the office where I end up working five years from now is as friendly as this;
- My mentor was extremely kind and helpful.

### Influence of the Mentor

- No seminars, workshops, speeches, or research have given me the insight I've gained by participating in the mentorship program;
- I now understand the real life challenges and commitment of working;
- Thank you for allowing me to spend this time learning more about life and myself.