

# CAREER JAM

Career Jam is a one-day, hands-on career exploration event for 8<sup>th</sup> grades students from all over the North Country. Last year, we had 2100 students from Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Oswego & Oneida counties attend!

The focus of the event is to introduce students to the 16 National Career Clusters. As 8<sup>th</sup> graders begin to develop their high school programs, it's important for them to take certain courses in order to achieve necessary requirements for training programs they wish to pursue. Career Jam helps students get a feel for what they want to do in high school, and hopefully as a career once they finish their education!

We rely on local businesses who donate their time and create a booth at Career Jam with an activity or demonstration that provides an educational opportunity to see what goes into various occupations. Some examples include:

**Health Sciences:** A hospital creates a mock surgical room with a mannequin and lets students remove a "foreign object" from the patient. This highlights the various occupations in an operating room; from surgical technician, to surgical nurse, to a surgeon. Each of these occupations require training that ranges from a certificate program to a medical degree.

**Hospitality and Tourism:** A hotel sets up a pillow stuffing contest where they demonstrate to the students how to properly insert a pillow into a pillowcase, and then has two students see who can do it fastest. The student that gets the pillow into the case correctly first wins a prize. Last year it was Hershey's Kiss.

**Manufacturing:** A manufacturer lays out a water flow system using the drip tape their company makes for irrigation. They use colored water to show how the drip tape works, and talks to the students about the process from the salesperson who works with the user to determine what they need, all the way through the engineering phase and on to the production and testing of the product.

These are just a few of the booths that we have set up each year for students to explore!

You can view a video from our first Career Jam at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sPgdawJzyk>

Thank you for your interest in Career Jam and we look forward to Jammin' with you in May!

The WorkPlace

