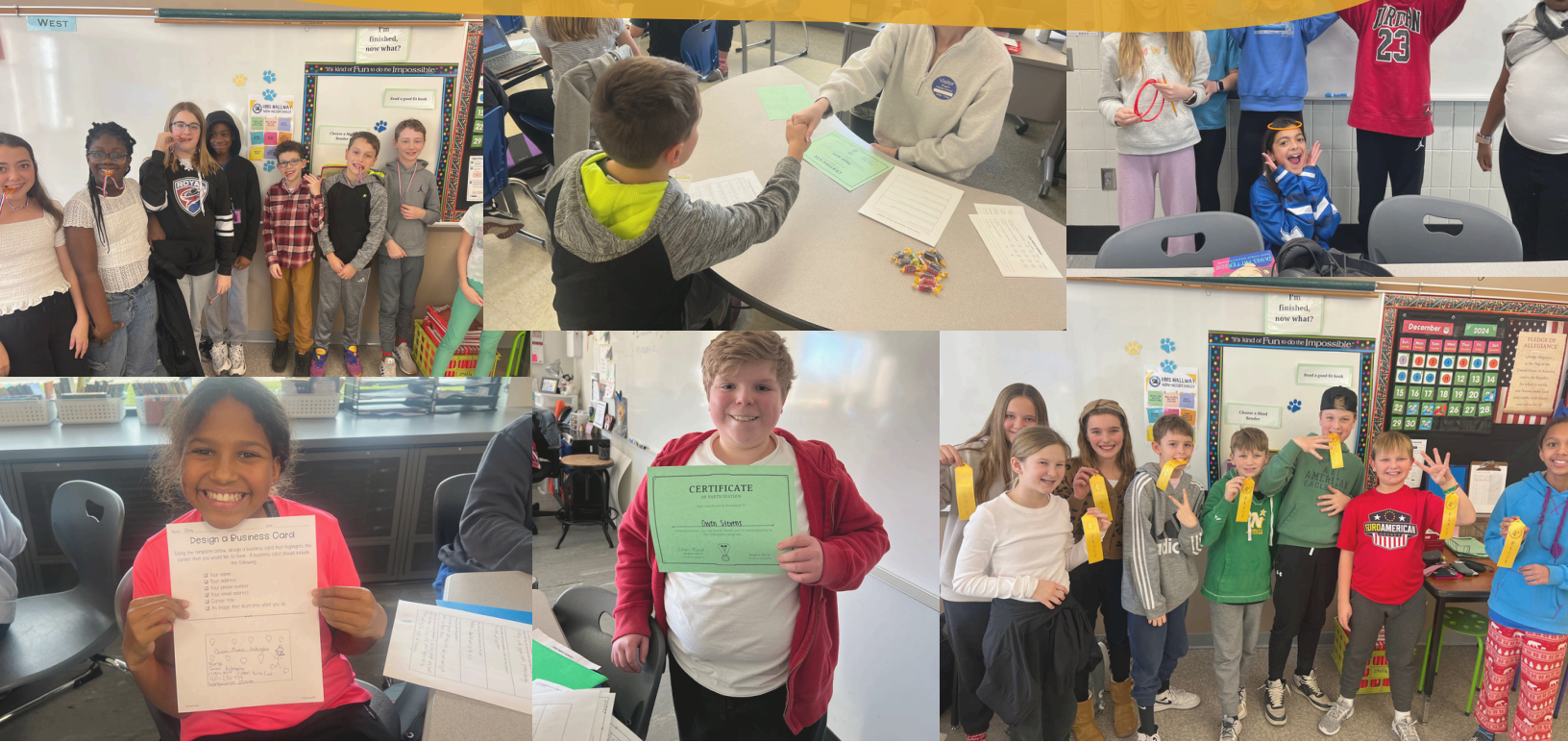




THE JOBLYMPICS

A CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION



CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statement of the Problem

78%

of states do not require middle school students to participate in any form of career development.

RHS
counselors

expressed worry about student exposure to career development topics before entering high school.

5th
grade teachers

at Rogers and Prairie View Middle Schools have concerns regarding current career development curriculums.

What was the Joblympics?

The Joblympics was a program created with the purpose of exposing fifth grade students to career exploration and the process of getting a job with an engaging, competitive Olympic theme. Throughout the six-lesson program, students explored careers they were interested in, learned how to fill out a job application, and built a basic resume. Additionally, they were taught basic interview skills.

MISSION STATEMENT

To expose students to a variety of career development topics, helping them develop "gold medal" skills.

TARGET AUDIENCE

fifth grade students at Rogers Middle School and Prairie View Middle School

Project Goals



Generate

a program that exposed students to career development topics.



Obtain

sponsorships to fund the Joblympics program.



Launch

the Joblympics to local fifth grade students.



Develop

"gold medal" habits in students.

Key Metrics

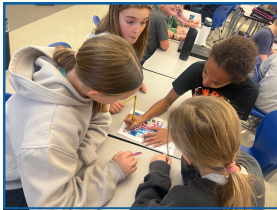
Increase student knowledge by **80%**

Collect **\$400** in sponsorships

Reach **50** fifth grade students

Establish an **80%** student participation rate

Joblympics Execution



MILESTONE 1

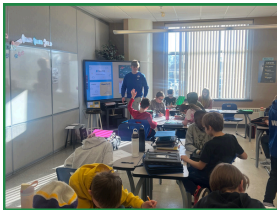
Develop

Investigated career-related concerns; developed an engaging curriculum

Collaborated with teachers; collected sponsorships

MILESTONE 2

Collaborate



MILESTONE 3

Implement

Implemented the Joblympics program in fifth grade classrooms

Examined and evaluated program results; district office meeting

MILESTONE 4

Examine



Monitoring

Schedule

- A color-coded **Google Calendar** monitored our project schedule outlining class lessons, team meetings, and more.

Budget

- Sponsorships were collected to fund the program and expenses were monitored using a **Google Spreadsheet**.

Quality

- Our team **collaborated with teachers** to ensure the Joblympics program was of satisfactory quality.

Evaluation of Key Metrics

93.5% increase in student knowledge

\$870 obtained in sponsorships

93 fifth grade students reached

98.9% student participation rate

Recommendations for Future Projects

1

Meet with teachers during program development

2

Utilize a color-coded calendar system

II. INITIATING

A. Statement of the Problem

Career exploration is a fundamental step in setting adolescents up for success later in life, as it can assist individuals to make informed choices regarding their professional paths and increase the chance for job success and satisfaction. However, not all students are receiving proper exposure to these ideas. While 75% of states have established career exploration in middle school as "an important component of a student's education," only eleven states (22%) explicitly state in their state legislation that middle school students are required to participate in career exploration in middle school (Alvarado 2024). Currently, Minnesota is a part of the 78% of states not requiring teachers to introduce students to career development materials until ninth grade.



75%

acknowledge career development as important



22%

require student participation in middle school



10%

recognize career development as a priority

The lack of career exposure has become apparent in students entering Rogers High School. Ms. Handrick, the college and career counselor, expressed concerns regarding student career development exposure before entering high school. She remarked that the number of students unsure of what they'd like to pursue after graduation has increased significantly. Ms. Handrick indicated that she was a firm believer that career exploration should be initiated prior to students entering high school, but is concerned with the efficiency of current middle school career development programs. Additionally, Ms. Shrestha, one of the guidance counselors, mentioned she'd seen an increase in students setting up appointments with her for guidance on various professional skills, including how to apply and interview for a job. She noted that in the past two years, she had seen a significant increase in these appointments. While she commented that she doesn't mind assisting students, she is, however, beginning to infer that students are not receiving proper exposure to these topics.

Research has indicated that middle school is the peak time for students to benefit from career exploration. This past year, the fifth grade departments at Rogers Middle School and Prairie View Middle School voiced concerns regarding the effectiveness of career development in classrooms. Teachers viewed the current material provided to students as too complex and challenging for fifth grade students to understand. When speaking with fifth grade teacher Ms. Stella, she expressed how important it is for students to receive exposure to career readiness topics, especially in middle school. She also noted that in past years, various speakers have been assigned to her classroom to discuss such concepts, and while the information provided was good, students struggled to grasp it. Ms. Stella and the rest of the fifth grade teachers were looking for a better way to expose their students to career development topics.



Last year we had a speaker come into class to discuss different career development topics. The information was good, but was way too complex for students and flew right over their heads.

-Ms. Stella (5th grade teacher)

