

## **2022 NW Youth Careers Expo: Educator FAQs**

### **What is the Expo?**

The 18th annual NW Youth Careers Expo will take place on March 15-16, 2022, as a virtual event, allowing high school students to find inspiration and information about career opportunities. Students will engage with employers and post-secondary partners for community-based career exploration, using a simple yet dynamic conferencing tool that allows attendees to connect within a visually rich Exhibit Hall and Auditorium.

## **Registration**

### **How are schools able to attend?**

We give priority to our contract partners sending larger groups (Gresham-Barlow, North Clackamas, Parkrose, PPS, Reynolds, ORCA). We also set aside capacity for high schools from a diversity of suburban, urban and rural communities, as well as to community organizations serving underrepresented populations.

### **How will I know if my group is confirmed?**

We will follow up within 1-2 weeks to confirm your group's participation. Once your group is accepted, we will need your student names and emails from you in February. IMPORTANT: Students will log on using their email address. They can't log on unless this email address is registered with us.

### **Can teachers and staff attend too?**

Yes! You will need to add their names and emails to your registration list. Don't forget to add your own.

### **What about individual registration?**

Group registration is the best option for any school wanting to send more than 10 students. Individual registration works well for students attending on their own.

## **Expo Structure and Features**

### **Do my students have to attend at a certain time?**

No. Registered students in your group can attend any time on March 15-16. They can also access the platform, including on-demand career talks and booth materials, for 30 days after the live event.

### **What students can do during ALL hours of the live Careers Expo?**

They can explore exhibitor booths; access on-demand auditorium career talks, do the scavenger hunt and leaderboard, do class assignments, and find resources to put in their digital backpacks and send to themselves.

### **What are additional features during SOME live hours?**

Many employers or postsecondary partners will host live talks at certain times. Exhibitors will have several designated hours to be more active in their booths.

## GETTING STUDENTS READY

### **I'm a career coordinator. How can I prepare students at my school?**

See our [Educator Resources](#) page for an early event schedule, a student overview, sample classroom assignments, a scavenger hunt flyer and other resources. The exhibitor list is a great way to show students the range of participants, from Nike and Intel to creative agencies and construction firms.

### **What other resources can I watch for?**

A short video tutorial for students will be posted on our Educator Resources page by Monday, February 28. The Final Edition of the Expo Resource Guide (event schedule) will be posted online Friday, March 4, with the complete list of booth talks offered by employers and colleges.

### **Argh! I missed the first two office hours. What should I do?**

We have two final 30-minute Educator Sneak Peeks where you or your colleagues can go behind-the-scenes in the virtual platform and see what your students will experience. One is Friday, March 4, at noon (link [here](#)); the other is Monday, March 7, at 3:30 pm (link [here](#)).

### **How are the live days (March 15-16) different from the 30 days of open access after the Expo?**

The live days feature people! These are the days when your students can connect in small-group settings in booths via Zoom with caring professionals from amazing employers and colleges. (Pro tip: Headphones will be handy.) They can ask questions via the booth chats and through Q&A in the Auditorium. They can also participate in live features such as the Scavenger Hunt and Leaderboard, which encourage career exploration.

From March 15 until mid-April, students can explore exhibitor booths; access on-demand auditorium career talks, do the scavenger hunt and leaderboard, find resources to put in their digital backpacks and send to themselves.

## WHAT TO EXPECT WITH THE VFAIRS PLATFORM

### **What is the scavenger hunt and what can students win?**

Students can use 10 clues to find 10 icons hidden throughout the platform. Students who find all 10 icons are eligible for our prize drawing. They can also earn points on the leaderboard. Prizes include \$50 gift cards to stores such as Nike and Target, fancy adidas duffel bags and other cool swag!

### **I've heard there are two Exhibit Halls and an Auditorium. What's happening in the Auditorium?**

Students can access more than a dozen Career Talks on subjects including How to Land a Job, How to Ace Your Interview, and Networking Essentials. Four talks will be presented in Spanish. Several will focus on particular industries, such as construction, health care or technology. The full Auditorium Schedule will be released 1-2 weeks prior to the Expo.

### **How complicated is this virtual platform? Do students need special training?**

No, just basic preparation. Students can log in using the email they registered with. Two key resources will be waiting for them in the platform: an “Expo Resource Guide” with a schedule of all live events, and a short video tutorial that will walk them through platform features.

### **Can students communicate in this platform?**

Students can communicate in several ways: 1) In the moderated chats in the booths and Auditorium, and 2) in Zoom sessions hosted by exhibitors.

## **FINAL DETAILS**

### **Do you really need student names and emails this week?**

Yes! We really do, because of the platform deadlines. Send us your spreadsheet of names **by Friday, Feb. 25** so that we can upload them and officially register your students. We cannot guarantee registration for attendee names received after Friday, March 4, or for names sent in a different format. (See template in your inbox and on our Educator Resources page.)

### **Is the Careers Expo a job fair?**

No! It is a chance for students to explore the amazing range of careers in the region (and the education and skills needed to thrive in those careers). Some employers do have job opportunities or other work-based learning opportunities, either now or soon: Look for the lightbulb icon in the Expo Resource Guide next to their names.