



Tips for Creating a Fun and Engaging MiCareerQuest Exhibit

Thank you for participating in MiCareerQuest! We appreciate your willingness to donate your time and resources to make the event a HUGE success. Your MiCareerQuest exhibit will provide an opportunity for thousands of young people to experience the wealth of career possibilities in West Michigan's high-demand industries.

Here are some tips to enhance the planning, design and implementation of your MiCareerQuest exhibit.

Planning and Designing Your Exhibit:

Use the 3 Modes of Learning. People learn by listening, by seeing or by experiencing/touching. An exhibit that engages all three learning modalities will create the most memorable experience. Successful exhibits will be those that are engaging, hands-on, interactive, and accurate in the information they convey.

Always Consider Your Audience. MiCareerQuest is intended for middle and high school students (12-16 years).

Timing is everything. Hands-on activities should last no more than five minutes and should be designed to be presented to 5-6 students at a time.

Speak in Clear Layman's Language. When talking to the students, don't use too many technical words and terms. When you do use technical terms, make sure you follow it immediately with a clear, concise explanation. And remember...humor, smiles, voice inflection and gestures are other good ways to keep your audience engaged.

Give Them Something to Touch. Young people like to be physically active in the learning process; interactive tactile activities are the most fun and memorable. When planning, think about what interactive experience would draw you into your booth if you were a spectator, and then plan accordingly.





Keep Your Presentation Active By Asking Questions. Keep the learning process active by asking students probing questions from time to time, such as “What do you think we use this kind of tool for?” or “Can you think of others reasons why...?” Ignite their curiosity!

Don’t Forget Passersby Who May be Interested. Assign a volunteer or two to draw in other students when you are busy engaging your audience. Some students are more timid and might appreciate an invitation to participate.

Plan for Supplies and Booth Staffing. MiCareerQuest will draw about 7,500 students. Keep this in mind when ordering supplies or give-away items.

High and Low Tech Activities. An activity can be ‘high tech’ like letting kids explore virtual reality headsets, or they can be ‘low-tech’ like making virus particles with marshmallows and tooth picks. The goal is an interactive activity that allows students to experience some aspect of the particular occupation.

Exhibit Safety. Keep in mind any safety precautions for an activity and plan accordingly if your booth requires lab coats, gloves or safety glasses. If your exhibit might get messy, bring any necessary cleaning materials (paper towels, trash bags, etc.).



Helpful Tips for Your Staff and Volunteers:

- Make sure everyone is trained beforehand.
- Volunteers should be at least college age or older.
- At least 2-3 people should staff the booth at all times to help with explaining and crowd control.
- Have the volunteers overlap shifts so that they can observe the activity.
- Have enough volunteers for shifts of 2-3 hours long. If you are limited to a number of people, have them rotate throughout the day and explore other booths for a few hours to help refresh them.

Things you might want to bring:

- Lozenges for your volunteers who will be talking all day.
- Snacks (water and lunch will be provided)
- Hand sanitizer, Kleenex, cleaning wipes, first aid kit, paper towels



Most importantly- **HAVE FUN!!**

