

Creative and Immersive

Igniting Career
Curiosity: **Student Experiences**

Warm-Up Activity

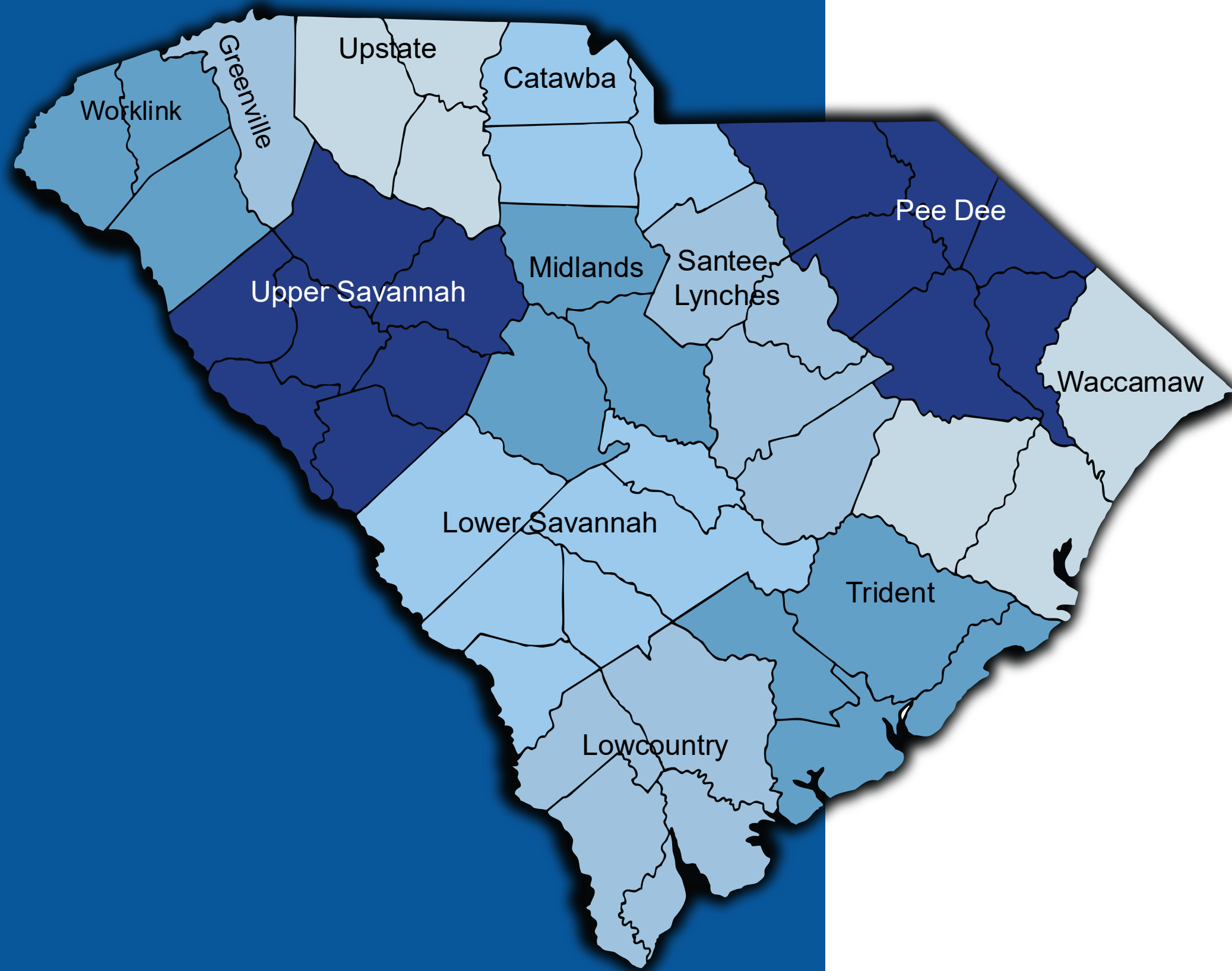
Stand up if...

- 1 You changed your career path at least once.**
- 2 You didn't know about your current career in middle school.**
- 3 A person or experience influenced your career choice.**

Why Career Curiosity Matters?

- Encourage students to see possibilities beyond traditional roles.
- Eliminate pre-conceived notions about unfamiliar careers.





South Carolina RWAs

- 1. Bridge** education and industry
- 2. Create** meaningful student experiences
- 3. Support** workforce pipeline development

Vanity Plate Challenge

Think back to when you were young. What career did you want before reality set in? You only get six characters. No spaces and no overthinking.



Let's See Your Plates

- What was your dream career?
- What skills from that dream do you still use?
- Who helped or could have helped you see options?

Imagine if every student had someone like you helping them connect the dots.





Immersive & Creative Experiences



Looks Like:

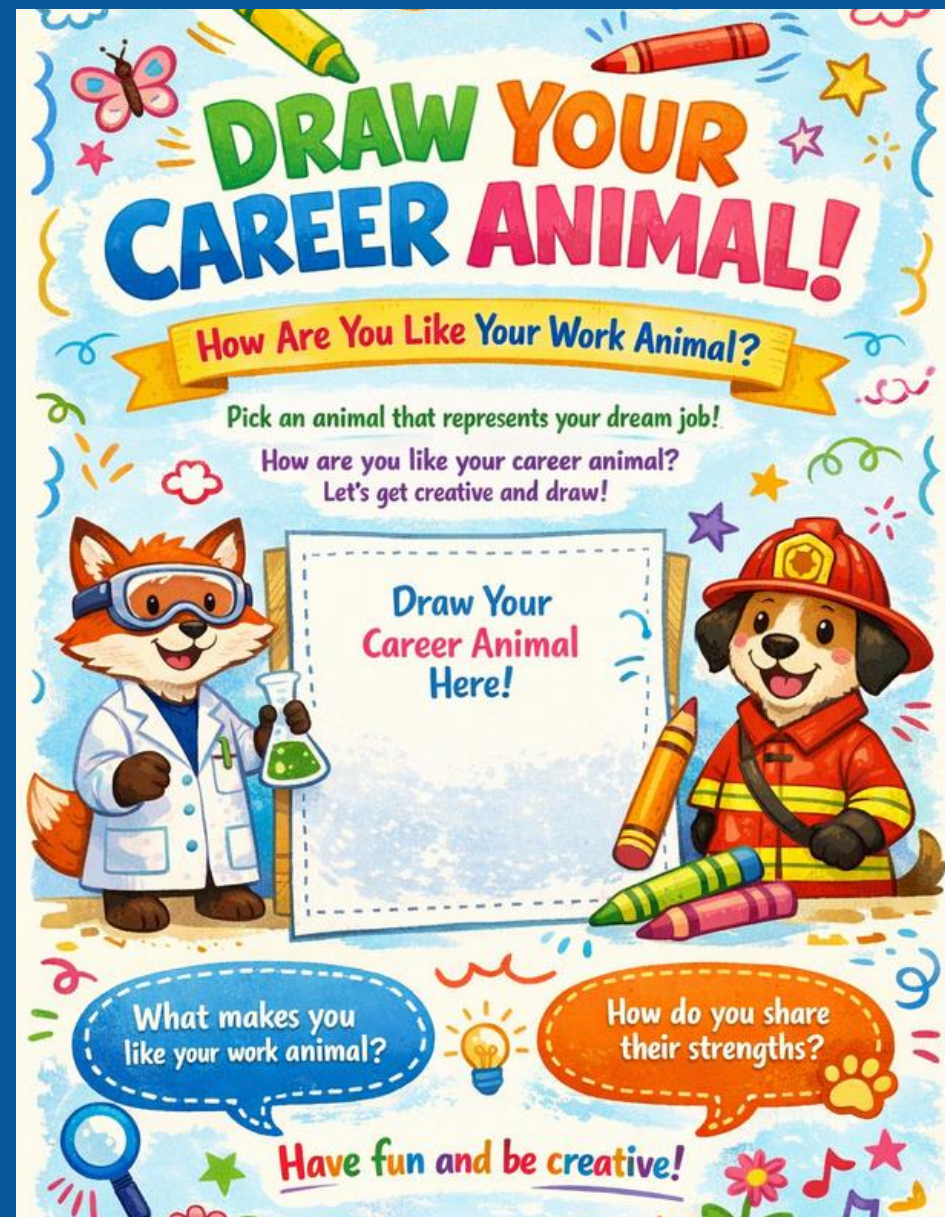
- Interactive Career Fairs
- Industry Guest Speakers
- Hands-on Classroom Activities
- Industry Tours
- Educator PD
- Immersive Virtual Reality Simulations
- Business and Industry Showcases
- Field Experiences

What Is Your Career Animal?

Two ways to engage students around drawing their career animal

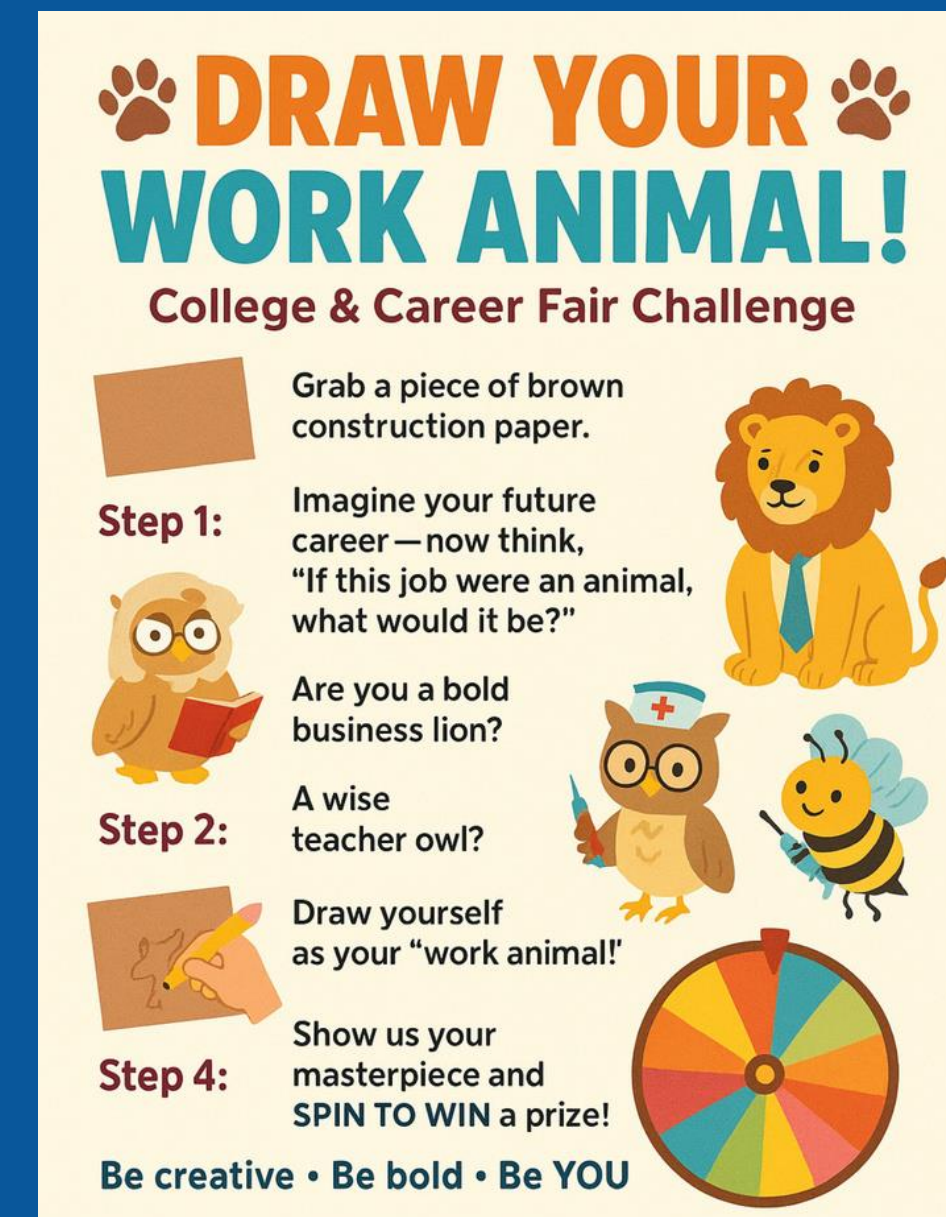
Classroom Activity

Reflective, self-paced worksheet for the classroom.
Students explore strengths and creativity.



Career Fair Challenge

High-energy, interactive challenge at events. Draw, share, and spin to win!



What Is One Career You Wish You Had Explored Earlier?

- **Challenge:** Students had limited exposure to real careers and struggled to see how school connects to the real world.
- **Impact:** Students didn't just learn about careers, they experienced them. You could literally see the moment it clicked.



Pee Dee Pathways VIDEO HERE
https://youtu.be/nKK8-7B9j4Y?si=6m_P1fqhoY-bA8Kz



Steel Day

Hands-on career exploration with local industry partners

Who Thinks Students Learn Best By Doing VS. Just Listening?

- **Challenge:** Traditional career exploration wasn't sticking; students weren't engaged.
- **Impact:** Students became more curious, more confident, and more open to careers they hadn't considered.





Greenville Drive

Healthcare, Aerospace & Manufacturing Night(s)

Hands-on career exploration with local industry partners

Imagine Being A Student Who's Never Met Someone In The Career You're Interested In....

- **Challenge:** Lack of access to professionals and real-world insight.
- **Impact:** Students started seeing possibilities—and realizing those careers are within reach.



Careers in the Classroom

Employers visit classrooms directly to offer students a deeper understanding of their work, while sharing real-world insights into their respective industries.

Manufacturing, BMW Scholars, and Automotive

Milliken, BMW, and Cooper Standard

Construction and Agriculture

Roebuck Landscaping

Logistics and Supply Chain

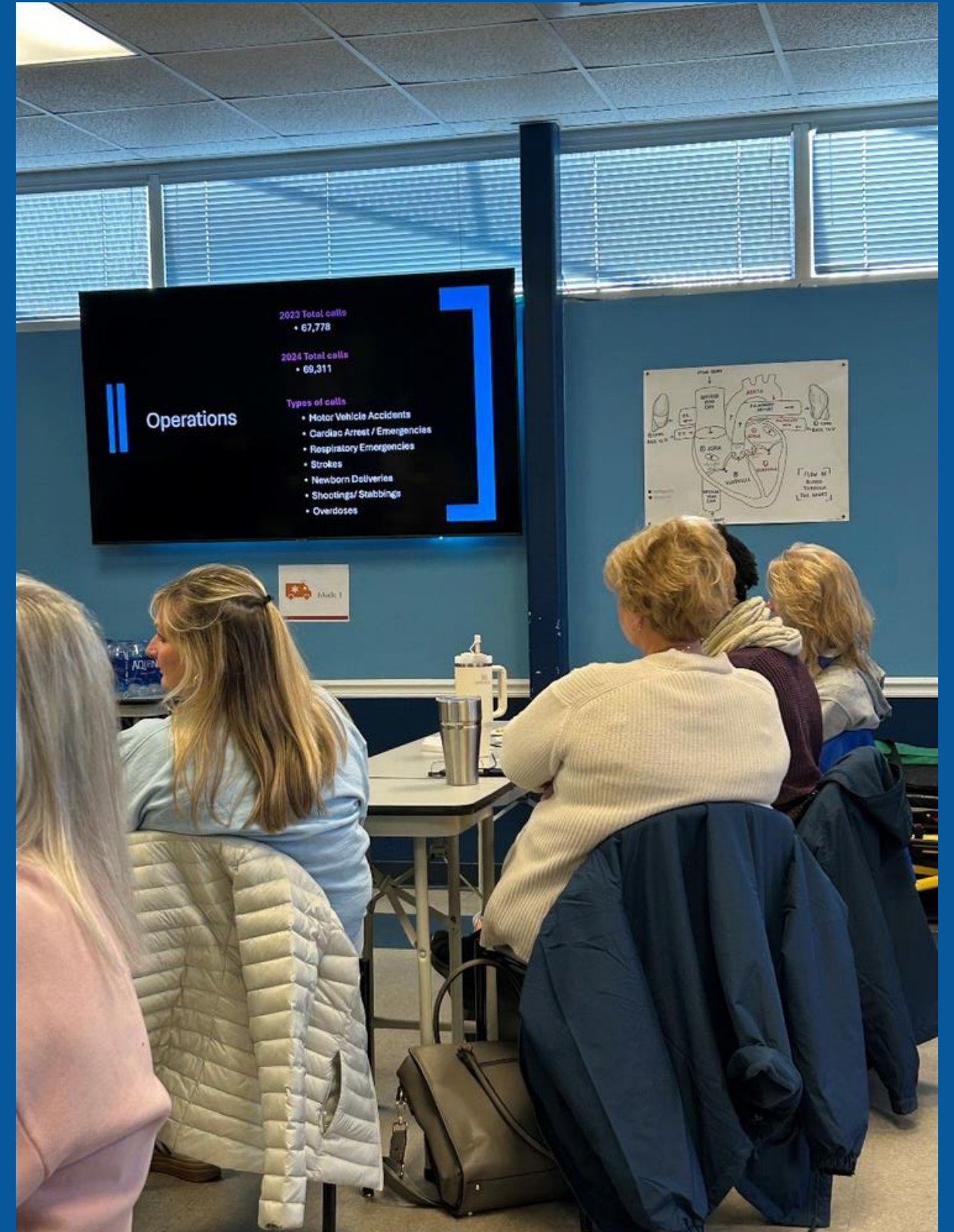
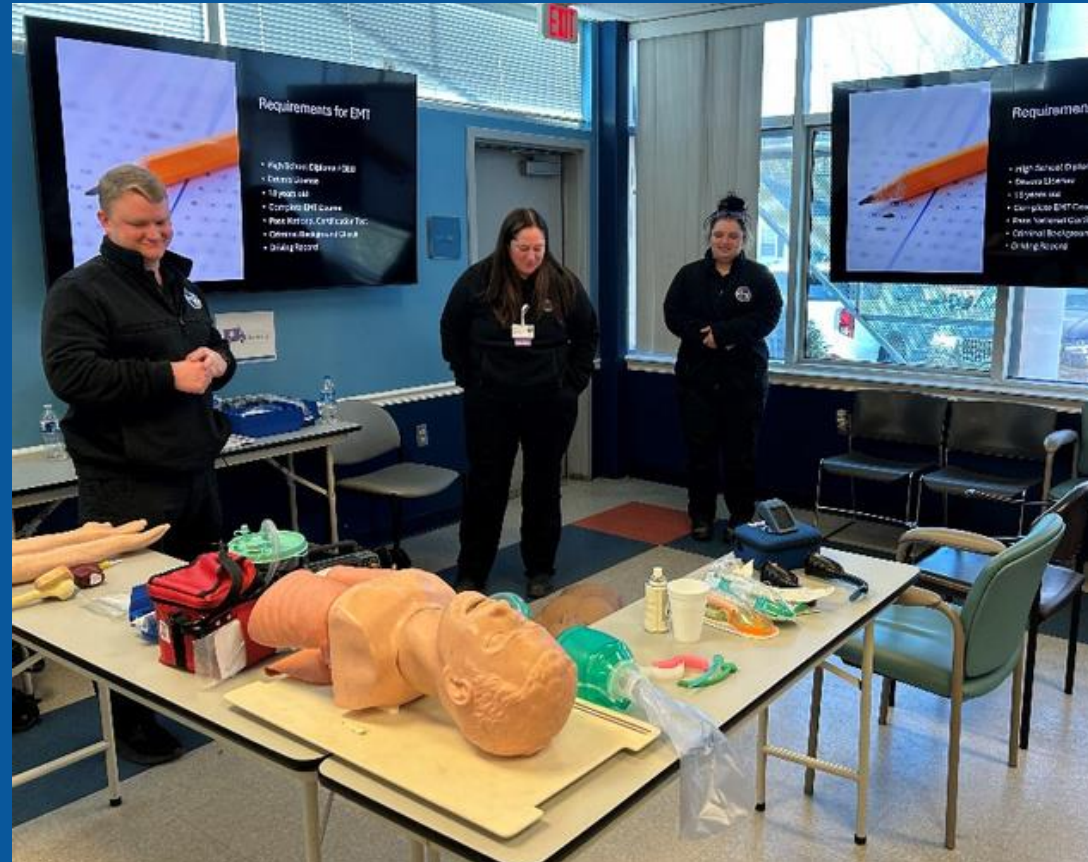
The Lemonade Game with Chuck Baker

Engineering

Wauseon Machine Kuka Robotics

Law

Advocate Law Firm



Pilot: Spartanburg EMS



Students in Action

Call out: what's one word that describes what students need most right now?

What We Do Together:

- Build bridges between schools and industry.
- Create meaningful, memorable experiences.
- Support educators in bringing careers to life.

Impact: When students + educators + industry come together, that is when the magic happens.





Commit to One Action: Your Next Step Starts Now

- What is **ONE** thing you will do differently in the next school year to ignite career curiosity?

The careers we dreamed about as kids still matter, now we help the next generation find theirs.

CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL WORKFORCE ADVISOR



THANK FOR YOUR ATTENTION YOU

