

Extended strategies may not come easily the first year, but as you build your teaching strategies toolbox, you should be looking for ways to involve real-world employers throughout your course.

“Real-world” can mean more than a field trip to a job site. Depending on the level of students you teach, it may mean getting them involved with teachers and students at schools that will receive your students after eighth, ninth or tenth grade.

Visiting a real-world site on a field trip is nice, but it is not an extended strategy. To extend that strategy, you need to have those employers come to your class and talk about job skills students need to have to be hired for and to keep jobs. You can also extend that experience by having those employers come in and evaluate students’ work or presentations. You work with an advisory committee in the same way.

You can also look for opportunities for cross-curricular activities with math and science courses or other CTE courses. This strategy may involve more planning with other instructors to involve both classes or even to switch classrooms to deliver and expound on certain science or math concepts.

Cross-curricular activities may also involve CTSOs and their members, which can lead to community projects.

When you are looking at a larger-scale project with extended activities, never be afraid to bring in an expert to guide you and your students.

[Whole-school activities](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/project-based-learning-whole-school-suzie-boss), even those lasting only one day, take a lot of planning and can engage not only your students, but also the entire student population. Yet the critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity that takes place while planning for the activity are as real-world as you will find on any job site.

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V9RK97M>.