

abec

**Deb Raeder
Vice President
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The Arizona Business & Education Coalition

The mission of **ABEC** is to sustain collaboration between business and education leaders, focused on increasing measurable outcomes for every student, by serving as a non-partisan forum to educate others and build political will toward the improvement and investment in K-12, with linkages from pre-kindergarten through higher education, as an element of a superior public education system and economic future for Arizona.

The voice of ABEC includes:

60+

The number of Arizona public school districts and charter schools that are ABEC members

**2/3
Million**

The total Arizona K-12 student population represented by ABEC members

500K

Combined student enrollment of the colleges & universities that are ABEC members

2K

The number of public and privately owned businesses, associations and organizations represented by member organizations

100K

The total number employed by all ABEC member organizations

www.azbec.org/



THE ABEC CAREER EXPLORATION PROJECT

Research indicates that middle school is the most effective time for career guidance programs, when students begin thinking about careers and seeking information that will help them connect their education to their future career aspirations.

The ABEC Career Exploration Project is an effective strategy to:

- **Improve student engagement.**
- **Provide experiences that help student develop their career identity.**
- **Relate coursework to future careers.**
- **Strengthen the transition to high school.**



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ACED in ACTION

ABEC Career & Exploration Development



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arizona business & education coalition





DESIGN

- Equitable and inclusive of each student
- Anchored in careers
- Standards based
- Grounded in experiential and hands-on learning
- Integrated into the broader P-20 career development system
- Includes intentional and meaningful employer engagement
- Involves dedicated instruction time
- Communicated effectively to students and their families
- Focus on student growth

APPLICATION

<p>Standards/ Curriculum Assessments</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AZ Career Literacy Standards • Possible Futures Curriculum • ABEC Curriculum 	<p>Course/activity structure/career exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CommunityShare • Edge Factor • My Future AZ 	<p>Experiential learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project based learning • Business partnerships 	<p>Teachers and leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development • Externships 	<p>Data & Measurement</p> 
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OUTCOMES

- Awareness and exposure to a wide array of careers
- Increase self-awareness and begin to form potential career identity
- Develop employability skills
- Develop foundational technical skills as appropriate
- Position to make more informed educational choices
- Transition to high school with an actional plan for next steps

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ACED in ACTION

ABEC Career & Exploration Development



ABEC's primary program is the well-established, sustainable, award-winning ACED Project, which has provided the foundation and proven strategy to engage business AND education partners in creating meaningful career exploration programs for students. The overall goal is to assist students grades 6-14 in making informed decisions regarding their education; bridge the gap between rigorous academics and relevancy to real work environments; and provide an understanding of critical employability skills or credentials needed to succeed in the workforce.

ABEC's ESSER III Grant will continue to support the development and expansion of career exploration and development programs throughout Arizona that guide students to discovery and nurturing of career aspirations; connects success in school to success in the workforce; and provides another link for meeting Arizona's future economic and workforce demands.

"As a proud recipient of an ESSER III Grant, ABEC will continue to make great strides toward a collaborative, statewide, voluntary career education model that integrates existing independent successful components into an overall strategic plan to ensure ALL students have access to quality career awareness, exploration, preparation, and placement programs." Dick Foreman, ABEC President & CEO.

For more information:

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ACED in ACTION

ABEC Career & Exploration Development



Since 2012

- Engaged over 300 business and community partners
- Provided multiple professional development opportunities for over 100 middle school teachers
- Implemented over 206 career exploration modules providing on-line platforms, curriculum, and hand-on, real-world projects and activities
- Currently impacting approximately 7,000 students on a yearly basis

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ABEC Career & Exploration Development



For more information:

www.azbec.org/business-education-partnerships1

www.yumaabec.com

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