

Engaging School Students: Beacon Foundation

The Beacon Foundation is a national, not-for-profit organisation that acts as a conduit to bring schools, community and local businesses together to support young people to successfully transition from education to meaningful employment. The Foundation's programs are premised on the belief that connecting educators, businesses and local communities improves the relevance of teaching and better prepares young people for work.

Program design

Beacon's Real Futures Generation (RFG) initiative uses a 'funnel' approach to employment, in that students are exposed to a number of experiences with industry sectors while still at school which 'funnels' them into a job that they are interested in. The program includes exposure to organisation-relevant career knowledge; a visit to a work site; work experience in school term or holidays; and interviews for available roles that hopefully lead to employment. Through its RFG initiative, Beacon has found that when schools are connected to an organisation's leadership and resources, and learn about future careers, students lift their aspirations and motivation and gain work and employability skills that employers are looking for.

Beacon also helps students transition from education to employment through its High Impact Programs (HIPs), which are one-day intensive workshops designed to motivate young people for a successful post-secondary school transition by preparing them to be work ready. At these workshops students are given the training to build highly sought-after employability skills, ranging from professional etiquette to dress codes.

The workshops also have a high level of involvement from industry partners and provide an avenue for employers to connect and invest in their communities. During each program, industry representatives share their unique stories and career journeys, in addition to encouraging and motivating participants to recognise their own potential and aspirations.

In the past five years, Beacon Foundation has:

- worked with more than 215 schools nationally, and 15,000 young people annually;
- worked with an average 400 businesses each year;
- enabled approximately 1250 interactions between young people and employers annually;
- delivered work-readiness training to, on average, 4700 people annually;
- designed, developed and launched an online platform, eBeacon, to extend the reach of their work; and
- supported 660 young Australians to gain their first job through the RFG program.

For more information on Grow Your Own workforce initiatives visit

www.gyoworkforce.com.au

