FROM WORK IMMERSION TO EMPLOYMENT

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Being part of pioneer teachers in Senior High School is quite exciting and challenging. Overwhelmed with tasks on hand, I had the opportunity to become the work immersion coordinator for the first two batches of our senior high school graduates. It’s worth the time and effort dealing with partner institutions getting their sweet ‘yes’, an approval for a stronger partnership to come. It’s even exciting to accompany the students to their designated areas, a world of 10 days career path, for them to apply their skills and learn more. It’s even more fulfilling to hear positive feedbacks from both partners and students. Facing the reality that not all of them will attend college, its great news to hear that the company where they’re serving are ready to absorb and offer them a job after schooling. Statements from their lips like “They want me to stay longer” or “They want to hire me after this” are commendations they deserve. Not only of these precious memories and experiences students had with partners, but with the important lessons they’ve learned through work immersions prepare them better for a career path ahead.

The transition from being a student to job workers could be a challenge to new graduates of senior high school. This is why on-the-job trainings and work immersions are provided by educational institutions including senior high schools to help prepare students explore their chosen career path and acquire 21st-century skills.

VCS (2015) described work immersion as a program preparing students for the real world by giving them trainings and experiences on how a real-life work scenario in a company feels like, and eventually help them excel in a specific career. Immersion helps students gain various competencies that these future professionals would have ready for
employment. In addition, the immersion program aims to provide relevant learning experiences to the students by giving them first-hand exposure or on-the-job-training to the actual workplace setting. It is likewise a venue for the student trainees to learn more about their chosen field and decide on what course and career to pursue. Proper orientation and endorsement are important ingredients before the actual immersion of students.

As a requirement of the Work Immersion subject integrated into the K to 12 curriculum, senior high school students were deployed to different partner institutions and companies to be trained in a realistic work environment. Some of them remained at school for a capstone research project or culminating activities. During work immersion, students would be able to apply the skills they’ve learned in school, familiarize themselves in the workplace, and develop abilities which would prove useful in their future employment and career endeavors.

Here are to mention some of the benefits a work immersion may provide to students in preparing for employment:

1. Students become goal-driven. Goals drives students to feel exited and perform at work. Immersion trains them how to achieve these goals by giving them an opportunity to work with and be supervised by professionals and highly creative people. These people can inspire students to discover their capabilities.

2. Another is that work immersion improves and builds new skills. It provides students with new skill sets and improve their existing capabilities. Some of these skills can only be experienced out of the four walls of the school. It is also through immersion that students get to discover themselves and jumpstart their talents and professional growth.

3. Moreover, students become good team players. A person who works well with others can go places. Through work immersion, students learn the value of
cooperation and trust. Students who know this early on are better able to improve their communication skills and can be an asset to the team in building projects and future goals.

4. Finally, students become financially aware at an early age. By being exposed to the daily operations of a real work environment, just like in business, students learn how to think like an adult, manage their finances effectively, and be exposed to acquiring other related skills such as budgeting, auditing, marketing and making sales.

References:


LCUP. Senior High Commences Work Immersion, January 2019.


The Asia Foundation. Work Immersion: Real World Experience at Senior High, October 2018