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iChallengeU Program: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is iChallengeU?

iChallengeU is a two-week educational opportunity for high school students to work with area teachers, corporate, civic, and community leaders to develop solutions to real problems posed by the corporate/civic/community partners. Teachers trained in project based learning will work with the partners to identify "driving questions or challenges" that reflect real issues or problems in the participating companies and organizations.

Student teams will have two weeks, through their own research and evaluation processes and by working with assigned teachers to propose solutions to the real life questions or challenges.

When will the next iChallengeU program be held?

The next round of iChallengeU projects will be conducted July 10 - July 21, 2017. Teams will meet eight hours each day to work on "challenges" presented by area business partners.

Where will the projects be conducted?

Each team will meet at a site chosen by business partners within Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties. For example: During the summer of 2014 Lenawee United Way conducted a challenge related to promoting healthy eating. A Hillsdale County manufacturer asked its team of students to develop a plan to improve attendance with its hourly employees. In Jackson County, students were given a manufacturing challenge designed to broaden the company's customer base.

What business partners will be involved during 2017?

Business partners are currently being identified and a list of partners will be made available in January 2017.

Student Applicants

How do students become involved in the program?

Each project will include three to six students. Students must have completed at least two years of high school and have a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Students must submit an application and supporting documentation in the spring of 2017. Applications will be available at SCMW's website (www.scmw.org). The deadline for submitting student applications is May 10, 2017.

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Why should students become involved?

Students will have the opportunity to apply the skills that they are learned in the classroom to real world problems/challenges. They will work with area business professionals throughout the community. Students will be eligible to earn college credit and will compete for college scholarships.

Teacher Applicants

How do teachers become involved in the program?

Each project will be led by an area teacher. Teachers must submit an application and supporting documentation in early 2017. Applications will be available at MWSE!'s website (www.mwse.org). Teachers must participate in Project Based Learning training on June 27, 28, and 29, 2017. Teachers will develop a plan to address their respective challenge during this training. The deadline for submitting teacher applications is May 10, 2017.

Will teachers be paid?

Teachers earn 18 continuing education credits during training and are paid a \$1,500.00 stipend for their work with their assigned student team on their "challenge."

How will teachers be assigned to projects?

Teachers will be assigned to projects within the county where they currently teach.