CLIENT CONNECTED PROJECTS

CONNECTING STUDENTS
TO WORK



You play an essential role in providing students with authentic problem-solving experiences. Regardless of the type of business, the following areas are great places to identify services and projects that students can complete. In this document, you will find examples of experiences that students can have with client companies – these can guide project hosts and sponsors in developing projects, or opportunities where students can identify projects to pitch to clients.









Client-Connected Projects (CCPs) are authentic problems that students can solve in collaboration with professionals from varied industries, corporations, not-for-profit companies, and community-based organizations.

Projects should require at least 24 hours of student work, with at least 4 hours of that engagment being directly with the client.

TIME INVESTMENT SUMMARY

Project Sponsor	Facilitator(s)	Students	SMEs
4 hours	~6 hours	24 hours	~2 hours



MARKET RESEARCH

Students can perform a market analysis for specific opportunities or events for the client.



Students develop and submit a report with details on existing best-practice benchmarks or competitors. They can also be asked to identify key trends associated with the growth of the company or the profession as a whole,, as well as determining key drivers for its success.



How might we be more successful with [insert product] or [insert demographic], and how will we know when we are performing competitively or opportunity?

SURVEY & ANALYSIS

Students develop a survey and provide analysis and presentation of results.



Students provide a report summarizing trends, leads and opportunities for actionable interventions and strategies to consider that align with the corporate vision.



How might we increase revenue or grow our business presence or impact in [specific area], and who should we connect with to do so?



If successful, students could extend the initial project into a commission for deeper analysis of other collaboratively developed next steps as determined by the client host.



Kearney School District

Students at Kearney High School worked with the Kearney Economic Vitality Committee on an exciting research project.

PROSPECT RESEARCH

Students research and segment existing lead lists (~100 prospects) based on previous interactions with the business, website, or through other channels.



Students create a database of prospects that includes contact name, company they are associated with, their title or role, and contact information (phone #, email address, etc.).



How might we increase our customer or constituent base, and who should we connect with to do so?



Extend project into designing a campaign or outreach strategy

AUDIENCE (CUSTOMER) PROFILE

Students use the client's website, email analytics, and interviews to create an audience or customer profile.



Students generate a demographic report of current website visitors, creates an audience profile, and researches target audiences to better understand and offer suggestions on how the client might be of better service.



How might we increase our connection to our wider audience or target populations with products and services that will convert visitors and followers into leads?

LEAD GENERATION

Students identify 25 companies/contacts that fall under client-defined audience or customer profile.



Students provide a report summarizing leads and opportunities for clients to make connections (including corporate profiles, contact names, and contact email addresses) for decision-makers.



How might we increase revenue or grow our business presence or impact in [specific area], and who should we connect with to move that vision forward?



If successful, students could extend the project into making initial contact with leads.

BUSINESS

OTHER IDEAS SURROUNDING BUSINESS GROWTH

ATTRACT AUDIENCE

- Blog
- Keywords & SEO
- Social Publishing

AUDIENCE RESEARCH

- Social Polls
- Surveys

CONVERT LEADS

- Online Forms
- Call to Action
- Landing Pages



DATA CLEANSING

Students can work with a client's dataset to remove duplicates, update outdated records, ensure consistent formatting exists, and provide all-around quality control. Students can also work to ensure data quality by verifying its integrity and making sure it is complete.



Students extract, process, and upload information into client databases and data systems.



How might we ensure there is an accurate set of information to [connect with customers, manage processes, or report results]?



Extend this to be an annual or semi-annual repeated project in partnership with the facilitator and new groups of students.

TALENT SOURCING

Using a position description, students identify 25 candidates to recommend as highly qualified and deserving of consideration for a given position.



Students provides a brief rationale for why a candidate is being recommended, and will provide customized interview questions based on information available in candidate resume to better gauge candidate fit and alignment.



How might we find the best candidates to consider for [insert position]?



Lee's Summit

The Robotics team was asked by Lee's Summit Mayor Baird to develop something innovative for the city's annual holiday lights presentation.

DATA INSIGHTS

Students review and manipulate a dataset (sales, operations, financial, transportation, logistics, other) provided by the client.



After reviewing the data, students provide a summary of actionable insights that will benefit the client's stated objectives.



How might we identify trends in [insert business area] that will help us increase revenue or grow our business?

PHYSICAL SPACE REVIEW OR DESIGN

Students may design a plan to make physical space more efficient and aesthetically appealing for customers or employees.



Students may conduct interviews and focus groups or develop surveys to understand the intended purpose and most optimal methods of utilizing the space. Students can produce a plan and budget for physical space enhancements.



How might we create an environment that allows our customers to better engage with our business or for our employees to to be more productive?



Students can begin by serving their classroom/building/district/community as a client!



OTHER IDEAS SURROUNDING OPERATIONAL GROWTH

DATA ANALYSIS

- Cost Analysis
- Forecasting

HUMAN RESOURCES / CUSTOMER RELATIONS

- Data Scrubing
- Customer
 Relationship
 Management (CRM)

FACILITIES

- Health & Safety
- Environmental Audit
- Physical Space



MARKETING & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

EVENT PLANNING

Students develop a plan to bring customers/constituents together and build connections in support of the business/organization. Establish a plan for promoting the event, attracting guests, working within a budget, and meeting engagement priorities.



Students create a budget and 'Run of Show' document outlining the details and itinerary of the event. Students develop a promotions strategy.



How might we effectively engage customers/constituents in support of our products/services/event objective?



Extend the project to include producing and implementing components of the event.

EMAIL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Students develop a series of 3-5 emails to help promote an upcoming client initiative. The emails should be structured to be sent out sequentially and play off each other to drive engagement for the client.



Students provide a draft and final copy including key art and hyperlinks. They can also provide recommendations on layout, call to action, and the timeline for sending.



How might we use email content to build engagement around an initiative?



Fort Osage High School

Students from the Critical Analysis of Current Events were tasked with identifying a current problem in education and researching a solution for an event presentation.



ENGAGEMENT

CASE STUDIES

Students create case studies for print & digital to be used for marketing purposes. Use the information provided to draft the customer's problem, alternatives considered, why they choose us, and the impact of working with the client.



Students provide a final written case study that includes key art, customer quotes, and the impact.



How might we use customer impact to market our services?

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Design 3 to 4 pieces of marketing collateral for an event or campaign. Students will work with the client to identify information needed, medium for the finished pieces, and the audience.



Students provide draft artwork and incorporate client feedback into finished digital art.



How might we create brand awareness, engagement, or attendance via well-designed marketing collateral?



Ruskin High School, Center High School, and Grandview High School

Students in the Design Pathway from the South Micro-Region are designing a mural for KC STEM Alliance.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Students develop a plan to gather experience data from customers. They will identify potential feedback vehicles, seek responses, and identify and summarize key themes and opportunities for action.



Students begin by creating a strategy document for seeking feedback, then implement it. A final report will include customer responses and recommendations.



How might we use customer feedback to improve customer relations or business operations?



If successful, students could extend the project and create a customer journey or customer profile.

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

Students create a social media strategy proposal. The posts should have a good mix of thought leadership and informational and promotional content.



Students develop a social media calendar that includes 2 posts per day for a single month with recommendations on implementation and measurement.



How might we leverage social media platforms to better engage with our customers or industry?

CONTENT CREATION

Students research and draft a 1,200-1,600 word blog or edit a video on a specific topic provided by the client. The content should be consistent with the client's brand.



Create an outline, draft version for approval, and final blog post or video story.



How might we establish our business as an expert in [insert industry/field/topic] through written publication or short video?



OTHER IDEAS SURROUNDING MARKETING & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

MARKETING & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

Content

- Social Polls
- Surveys

Testimonials

- Rlog
- Keywords & SEO
- Social Publishing

Outreach / Advertising

- Online Forms
- Call to Action
- Landing Pages

APPENDIX



The appendix includes Case Studies from Kansas City regional school districts, a project template for workshopping your client-connected project, and additional project examples.

A. Project Template

B. District Case Studies

- Kearney School District
- Center School District
- Fort Osage
- Lee's Summit School District
- Hickman Mills, Center, & Grandview School Districts
- Hogan Prep
- Shawnee Mission School District
- Olathe Public Schools

C. Additional Project Examples

D. Repeatable Project Examples

Project Summary Template: Before beginning a project, the sponsor, facilitator, and/or students should come together to center around the items listed below: **PROJECT TITLE:** A clear statement to reference the project. **STUDENT TEAM:** Who is working on the project? **CLIENT:** Who is responsible for evaluating the success of the project? **DUE DATE:** When do all project deliverables need to be complete? **PROJECT DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:** 3-5 sentences to summarize at a high level WHY the project is important and HOW work will be completed and presented. **PROJECT GOAL:** Should identify what is easily assessed for completion (ie. production of a plan/presentation, a quantifiable body of work, etc). **GUIDING QUESTIONS:** 2-3 objectives for students to measure their project outcomes against. **PROJECT MILESTONES AND KEY DELIVERABLES:** Tasks/building blocks required to complete the project and an estimated timeline to ensure work progresses toward required due date. **COLLABORATORS:** Any required resources, subject matter experts, or vendors should be recognized here.

Can our downtown support an entertainment district?

Client

Kearney Enrichment Council's Economic Vitality Committee





"I think for me the biggest realization was that we can make a difference. This is something I'll take with me for the rest of my life. You don't learn this in a textbook."

- Megan Z., 11th Grade

School: Kearney High School

Class: Business Management | Teacher Liaison: Beth Freeman

Length of Project: 6 weeks

Project Description | Students enrolled in a business management class are working with the Kearney Enrichment Council's Economic Vitality Committee to gather data for planning purposes regarding creating an entertainment district in downtown Kearney. Students have created separate surveys for youth and adult residents, along with one for current business owners in the area. The students collected nearly 500 responses to their surveys! The results of these surveys were then summarized into more eye-appealing documents and were shared with the committee. The students also selected a handful of local businesses to visit, so that they could speak with the owners face-to-face. The committee members are thrilled that students are involved in this project, and the students are extremely excited that they are working on something that could truly change the town in which they live.

Deliverables I

- Created a survey for youth, adult residents, and downtown business owners.
- Analyzed results, created presentation of findings, and presented their findings and recommendations to the Community Development Director.

Read Story

How can young students still experience field trips during a pandemic?

Client

Yellowjacket Early Learning Center & Hickman Mills Early Learning



66

I learned how to communicate with a client in a professional way. I also enjoyed learning how to create a virtual reality experience. This experience was beneficial because I got to speak to a real client, and I had to meet the needs and expectations of the client. It gave me a better grasp of a real-world experience. I was able to get better with time management. I liked the idea this wasn't just a project for a grade. It actually impacted real people's lives."

Marques G., 11th Grade

School: Center High School **Class:** Computer Science

Length of Project: One Semester

Project Description | Due to COVID-19, field trips were canceled. The Yellowjacket Early Learning Center wanted to provide young students the opportunity to experience a "field trip" in a safe environment. Five junior and senior Center High School students worked with early childhood teachers from two different districts and created virtual and augmented reality experiences for their students based on what units the teachers were covering in class or what they thought the students might be interested in viewing.

Deliverables |

- A virtual reality field trip that can be viewed through VR Goggles by children ages 3-5 years old.
- An augmented reality experienced viewed using the CoSpaces Merge Cube.

What are some of the major problems in education, and how might we address them?

Client

KCSIC



66

Within my school and community, students can use their voices to stand up against bad experiences they may have had. Students like me have the opportunity to speak up so that others after me may have a better experince

Haleigh W.

School: Fort Osage High School

Course Title: Critical Analysis of Current Events

Length of Project: One semester

Project Description | Students were tasked with identifying a current problem in education and researching a solution that district leaders could implement. Students researched and pre-recorded a presentation and were available for a live Q&A. Since we were in the hybrid model, we had two groups (Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday). The final presentations were recorded in front of a live audience of district leaders from the high school and central office.

Key Deliverables |

- Meetings with the clients for check-ins.
- Hour-long presentation and Q&A (both for conference and district leadership).

How can our community host a safe holiday light display?

Client

Mayor Bill Baird and the Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street Organization





I feel really proud when I hear people talk about it. Oh we saw your light display. It's really amazing. It's really cool to know that I had a hand in that and to see people's reactions."

Lee's Summit Student

School: Lee's Summit High School

Course Title: Robotics
Length of Project: 6 weeks

Project Description | Team Driven, the LSHS Robotics team was asked by Mayor Baird to come up with something new for this year's holiday light presentation for the city of Lee's Summit. The request was made the last week of September 2020, with a deadline of November 12, 2020. There were also a limited number of power outlets available, and the budget was set at \$10,000. This meant that Team Driven had to come up with a design and implement that design in about 6 weeks.

Key Deliverables |

- Submitted ideas, plans, and budget to the Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street organization for approval of funds and design.
- Fully implemented light display ready for the Mayor's Lighting Ceremony.

Watch Video

How can we provide play therapy to children during a pandemic?

Client

Chloe Anderson, physical therapist with Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County



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I think this was my favorite project yet! I had lots of fun, and knowing that this could help or just bring a smile to the baby's face made me really happy."

Olathe Student

School: Olathe School District

Course Title: BioMedical Engineering Class

Length of Project: 6 weeks

Project Description | Students in the Introduction to BioMedical Engineering class (in the BioMedical Engineering Academy) were matched with children who have developmental or physical delays and receive at-home therapy through Johnson County. Each of the five groups received a client brief from Chloe Anderson, and then designed a budget and a proposal for a busy board specifically for that client. After approval, students built the boards. The busy boards were then donated to the children as part of their play therapy in an effort to help with their developmental or physical delays.

Key Deliverables |

• 5 total busy boards, one for each client

How can we make our school accessible to students with visual impairments?

Client

Shawnee Mission School District, Erin Meyer, orientation and movement specialist



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Our projects are so much more meaningful when the students can design, present, and implement a solution for a real client with a real problem."

—— Greg Thiel, Engineer Instructor

School: Shawnee Mission School District

Course Title: Engineering Design and Development (EDD)

Length of Project: One semester

Project Description | Engineering students were asked to create a tactile map of a middle school where a visually impaired student will be attending in the 2021-22 school year. The purpose of the initial test was to determine the success or failure of the system's user-friendliness to a visually impaired student. The engineering students designed three prototype maps using Autodesk software and a 3-D laser engraver to create each model.

Key Deliverables |

Three prototypes were created to test. Each was made of different materials including cardboard, Masonite (hardboard), and birchwood, and were different weights and heights. The material is important as the map needs to be portable since it will be carried with the student.

How can we promote an inclusive and welcoming environment at KC STEM Alliance?

Client

KC STEM Alliance



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Being able to coach the students in design and then to watch their incredible talents unfold before my eyes was definitely a highlight! I knew that our students were talented, but in reality, I was blown away with their innovations and abilities to defend their design choices."

- Danielle Agin, Art Teacher

School: Center, Grandview, and Hickman Mills School Districts

Course Title: Pathways to Design program

Length of Project: One semester

Project Description | Students in the Design Pathway (a combination of students from Grandview, Ruskin, and Center High Schools) were divided into three teams. Each team was assigned the task of designing a public mural that represented the combined concept of "STEM" and "inclusion" for the KC Stem Alliance. Student groups were notified at the start of the project that out of the three groups, just one winning group would be chosen to have their mural installed large-scale on the outside of KC Stem Alliance's building in Kansas City at 4825 Troost.

Key Deliverables |

Students had to conceptualize and envision their initial plan, begin designing, learn how to present their work to a variety of audiences, receive in-progress feedback, revise their designs, and create resolved finished products for submission. The winning mural will be installed in mid- to late- June.

How can we recruit 100 new Retail Champion volunteers?

ClientGoodwill



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The student group did a great job describing reasons why people should volunteer. The project made a real difference to our employers, too. It helped move an initiative forward while showing the students the impact of their work.

— Kristen Wood
Director of Strategic Initiatives Goodwill

School: Hogan Prep

Length of Project: One semester

Project Description | Students from Hogan Prep collaborated with Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas (Goodwill) to create two videos for the purpose of recruiting new volunteers. One video was 60-seconds and designed for social media audiences (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). This video encourages individuals and groups to volunteer with Goodwill - why volunteer, volunteer benefits, and who is a good fit. The second video was a 5-minute video to provide more information on being a Retail Champion at Goodwill, and how to get started. The videos were presented and approved by Goodwill staff and then published as recruitment tools.

Key Deliverables |

Create and publish two marketing videos.

Watch the student produced video #1

Watch the student produced video #2



Ray-Pec High School

Ray-Pec's English 4 classes implemented client-connected projects into their course of study for the entire school year. 170 high school seniors worked with 20 different clients over the course of 6 months. Students used 'Design Thinking' to identify a solution to answer the problem statement from the client. Final projects were presented to a group of adult evaluators on 'Drive Night'.



WATCH STUDENT PRESENTATION

Guiding Question:

How can we enhance COVID-19 safety protocols and training for technicians entering homes?

Client

Balance Point Heating & Cooling "I had to adapt and become more flexible. When our client didn't have all the answers, we had to do our own research. It (also) taught me how to talk more professionally."

Nyre B., Senior



WATCH STUDENT PRESENTATION

Guiding Question:

How can we aid in solving the decline of applicants and recruit more police officers?

Client

Peculiar Police Department

"Throughout the project, we had to adjust to respond to the client. We learned to share our opinions (regarding the defund the police movement) in a respective manner, so we could get to our final solution. I want to be a therapist, and what I learned from this project will definitely help me."





WATCH STUDENT PRESENTATION

Guiding Question:

How can we raise awareness and promote a new children's book on cancer?

Client

Author, Jared Adams

"I personally don't think I'll be going into the book publishing field, but I got the chance to learn flexiblity, and we had to find new ways to communicate with each other and persist during COVID-19."

Kaitlin H., Senior

19

Project | Jobs Incubator

Project Details

Startup company based in DeSoto, KS, trying to revolutionize the way people look for a job and the way employers look for new employees. Match employers with potential employees. Project Goal is to plan and execute a jobs fair and a social media campaign to get the Jobs Incubator noticed.

Client | Start-Up / Zach Brewster

Lead Class | Global Business

Deliverables | Social media strategy
development for Facebook, Twitter, Blog

Project | Website for Chamber of Commerce

Project Details

Cyber Security class built a website for Buckner Chamber of Commerce.

Client | Buckner Chamber of Commerce Lead Class | Cybersecurity Class Deliverables | Website

Project | Not Perfect

Project Details

Address issues often relayed by society creating the desire to be perfect and meet others expectations. We reaffirm that you are not meant to be perfect, encouraging acceptance of yourself and others despite outside pressures that drive people to be perfect.

Client | Cindy Wittman
Lead Class | Business

Deliverables | Business Plan development, student input on business model, social media recommendations

Project | Financial Literacy Class

Project Details

Global business students partnered with Freedom Bank to offer Financial Literacy classes to the community. Three students led two classes at Freedom Bank on a Saturday morning for 60 middle school and high school students, teaching them about debit cards and how to input entries into a register.

Client | Freedom Bank

Lead Class | Global Business

Deliverables | Financial Literacy classes

Deliverables | Financial Literacy class curriculum and presentation resources

20

Project | Kansas City Music Teachers Association Video

Project Details

Created 19, 30-45- second videos to introduce a new selection of music and allow performers to enter and leave the stage. Two concerts take place in Lawrence at the Lied Center in February. This is a project we work on every year in the fall. The project is a whole class project, led by a student leader. As a team, they decide the look and feel that will be present in all of the videos. Depending on the theme, students gather original footage, create animations, and use stock footage from creative commons.

Client | Kansas City Music Teachers Association

Lead Class | Filmmaking

Deliverables | Nineteen, 30-45- second videos to introduce a new selection of music

Project | Design Office Artwork

Project Details

Pathway to Design students are designing quotes and artwork for the office walls in a chiropractic clinic.

Client | Whitmore Chiropractic Lead Class | Graphic Design

Deliverables | Design art for office walls

Project | Annual Report

Project Details

Students work with president of South Kansas City Chamber to curate assets, conduct interviews for testimonials, and take photos for their annual report. Client | South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Lead Class | Marketing

Deliverables | Photography and testimonials for annual report

Project | Capital Electric Interface and Database

Project Details

Create a user interface and database program which will track employee, foreman, and cable installation on large electrical projects in the Kansas City area. This is a very complex project. Coding work has been done in Java, SQL, C#, and others.

Client | Capital Electric

Lead Class | Technology Solutions

Deliverables | User interface and database

21

Timeline | Three semesters

Project | Mobile Application to provide nutrition and exercise information

Project Details

Build a mobile application using rarewire to provide nutrition and exercise information for various large restaurant chains. This app will provide the ability to select items from a menu, calculate calories, then to see how much of a particular physical activity would be necessary to work off those calories.

Client | C3 – Creative Consumer Concepts

Lead Class | Technology Solutions

Deliverables | Mobile app, business plan, marketing strategy

Project | Weathermetrics Weather Application

Project Details

Creating an instant weather app that will access the weather information, including live or stored video from the company's proprietary weather/camera locations worldwide. For locations that do not have weather stations, the app will access weather data from other sourc-

Client | Peter Levy

Lead Class | Technology Solutions & Business Marketing

Deliverables | Weather app, business plan, marketing strategies

Project | Kansas City Music Teachers Association Video

Project Details

Created a 7-minute promotion video explaining what Heartland Therapeutic Reading is and how donations of resources help the mission of the organization. The promo video was used by the board of directors as they solicited resources. Students also created a shorter version that is on their website. Four students worked on this project with a student leader. They captured all original footage, conducted interviews, and met regularly with the board of directors.

Client | Heartland Therapeutic Riding

Lead Class | Filmmaking

Deliverables | A 7-minute promotion video

22



REPEATABLE CLIENT-CONNECTED PROJECT EXAMPLES

These are projects that, once goals and deliverables have been 'tested,' can be repeated year after year with new students and the same client or same project and new client. When identifying CCPs for students, consider how a project could be repeated and take extra notes on what worked and what did not to improve on the CCP for the following session, semester or year.

Project | Recruiting Families for Early Childhood Education

Project Details

Students help develop a marketing campaign to encourage families to enroll their Pre-K children into a district's early childhood education offerings.

Client | Any school district

Lead Class | Marketing

Deliverables | Recruitment materials, social media graphics, email newsletter, media campaign.

Project | Annual or Quarterly Reports

Project Details

Students help gather testimonials, take photos, and/or create informational graphics that captures the annual or quarterly success of an organization.

Client | Any business

Lead Class | English, marketing, photography, graphic design

Deliverables | Case statements, testimonials, surveying

Project | Energy Audit

Project Details

Students help gather data and insights on the energy efficiency of a given building or space within a school district. They take into consideration equipment, appliances, design, and usage.

Client | School District

Lead Class | Science

Deliverables | Final audit and recommendations for improvement



