



Tips for Creating a Fun & Engaging MiCareerQuest Exhibit

Thank you for participating in MiCareerQuest! We appreciate your willingness to invest your time and resources to make this event a HUGE success! Your MiCareerQuest exhibit will provide an opportunity for hundreds of young people to experience the wealth of career possibilities in West Central's Michigan's high-demand industries.

Here are some tips to enhance the planning, design and implementation of your MiCareerQuest exhibit.

Planning and Designing Your Exhibit. Use the 3 Modes of Learning. People learn by *listening*; by *seeing*; or by *experiencing/touching*. An exhibit that engages all three learning modalities will create the most memorable experience. Successful exhibits will be those that are engaging, hands-on, interactive and accurate in the information they convey.

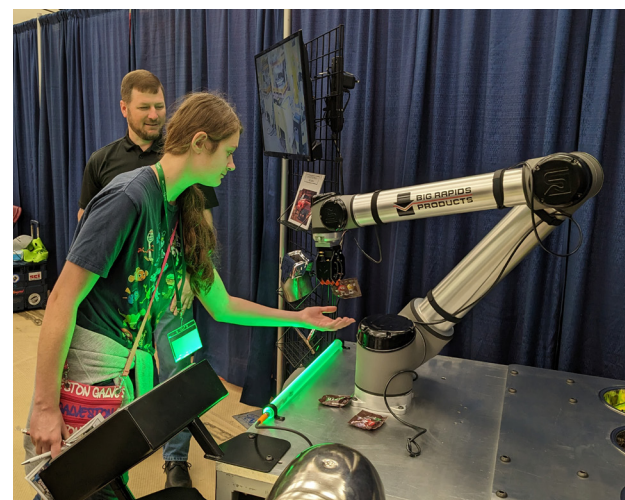
Always Consider Your Audience. MiCareerQuest is intended for ninth-grade school students (13-14 years of age). Keep that in mind when creating your hands-on activity.

Timing is everything. Hands-on activities should last no more than 5 minutes and should be designed to be presented to 5-6 students at a time.

Speak in Clear, Everyday Language. When talking to the students, don't use too many technical words, terms or acronyms. When you do use technical terms, make sure you follow it immediately with a clear, concise explanation. And remember, ... humor, smiles, voice inflection and gestures are other good ways to keep your audience engaged.

Give Them Something to Touch. Young people like to be physically active in the learning process; interactive tactile activities are the most fun and memorable. When planning, think about what interactive experience would draw you into your booth if you were a spectator, and then plan accordingly.

Keep Your Presentation Active By Asking Questions. Keep the learning process active by asking students probing questions from time to time, such as, "What do you think we use this kind of tool for?" or "Can you think of others reasons why, ... ?" *Ignite their curiosity!*



Don't Forget Passersby Who May be Interested. Assign a volunteer or two to draw-in other students if you are busy engaging your audience. Some students are more timid and might appreciate an invitation to participate.

Plan for Supplies and Booth Staffing. MiCareerQuest will host nearly 1,500 students. Keep this in mind when ordering supplies or give-away items.

High- and Low-Tech Activities. An activity can be "high-tech" like letting kids explore virtual reality headsets, or they can be "low-tech" like making virus particles with marshmallows and tooth picks. The goal is an interactive activity that allows students to experience some aspect of the particular occupation.

Exhibit Safety. Keep in mind any safety precautions for an activity and plan accordingly if your booth requires lab coats, gloves or safety glasses. If your exhibit might get messy, bring any necessary cleaning materials (paper towels, trash bags, etc.).

Helpful Tips for Your Staff and Volunteers:

- Make sure everyone is trained beforehand.
- Volunteers should be at least college age or older.
- At least 2-3 people should staff the booth at all times to help with explaining the hands-on activity and crowd control.
- Have the volunteers overlap shifts so that they can observe the activity.
- Have enough volunteers for shifts of 2-3 hours long. If you are limited to a number of people, have them rotate throughout the day and explore other booths to help refresh them.

Things you might want to bring:

- Lozenges for your volunteers who will be talking all day.
- Snacks (water and lunch will be provided).
- Hand sanitizer, facial tissue, cleaning wipes, first-aid kit, paper towels.
- Most importantly- HAVE FUN!!

To see an example of what employers have done for previous MiCareerQuest events, visit MWWC.org/micq. And for questions and ideas, please contact your Michigan Works! West Central Business Services Specialist.

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