

Urbandale Students Partner With Business Executives To Solve Real-World Challenges

Urbandale High School students participated in Student TEAMS, quality and critical thinking training, in order to identify, analyze and develop solutions to existing business challenges

URBANDALE, Iowa – April 3, 2017 – The Urbandale Community School District’s (UCSD) aim of transforming education in order to make it more relevant, engaging and inspiring for all learners is at the core of the fifth-annual [Langford/Iowa Quality Center Student TEAMS \(Training in Evaluating, Analyzing, and Measuring Systems\)](#) training where Urbandale High School (UHS) students partner with business executives in order to solve existing challenges. Three groups of students participated in training sessions over the course of two days where they learned critical problem solving tools and how to systematically improve work processes. Two groups of students then partnered with business executives from [Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations](#) to better understand an existing manufacturing challenge while a third group of students partnered with [Businessolver](#) to examine a challenge dealing with benefits administration technology. Both groups applied what they learned through the Student TEAMS training in order to present a solution to Bridgestone, Businessolver and District leadership.

"I had such a great experience last year that it motivated me to participate again this year and challenge myself by using new tools," said UHS Junior Zaiah Quirk.



Bridgestone Team 1: Inside Tire: Raj Oberoi Front Row: Jeff Holtan, Chuck Sigmund, Zaiah Quirk, Aubrey Brueschke, Teresa Gonzalez, Maya Sims and Cohen Mot.

"I am always surprised at the level of professionalism demonstrated by students and the deep understanding of the businesses that students obtain throughout their experience," said UHS Extended Learning Program Teacher Karlee McKibban. "This is such a great real-world opportunity for students."

Student TEAMS training is a partnership between the Iowa Quality Center and [Langford International](#) to create a learning experience for both the students and the business sponsors. The training was developed by David P. Langford based on research that determined students learn best when immersed in the learning process and constantly involved in critical thinking that can be applied to real-world problems.



Businessolver Team: Dino Arslanovic, Nick Long, Haris Serdarevic, Mariah Breeze and Ally Richards.

"It was super cool to be in a business environment and work with fellow classmates to solve a real-life problem," said UHS Senior Ally Richards.



Bridgestone Team 2: Isabel Daza, Jacob Eisbrenner, Laura Parsons, Mercedes Hendricks, Jada Griffin, Blake Arntzen, Becky Bradish and Teresa Belieu.

The five-day Student TEAMS experience includes two days of training in over 50 proven problem-solving tools in the workplace and the nine-step process following the PDSA (Plan Do Study Act) Cycle of continuous improvement. Following the training, business sponsors host the teams of students at their place of business to work on an assigned project for three days. The Student TEAMS groups then present a theory of improvement or a solution to the business leadership on the final day of the experience.

"Our time at Businessolver was stimulating and enhanced our problem solving skills and gave us a better understanding of the business environment," said UHS Juniors Dino Arslanovic and Haris Serdarevic.

"The experience was very beneficial with regard to problem solving and will have both immediate and future applications," said UHS Junior Mercedes Hendricks.

Preparing students for success in an increasingly competitive, global workforce is essential for 21st century learners. By actively engaging students in critical thinking, group collaboration and effective problem solving activities for real-world business challenges, students gain knowledge that can be directly applied throughout high school, college and career. Urbandale would like to thank the Iowa Quality Center, Langford International, Bridgestone and Businessolver for their dedication to providing applicable learning opportunities for Urbandale students and their commitment to helping students achieve success. To learn more about how Urbandale is transforming education, visit:

UrbandaleSchools.com

About Firestone Agricultural Solutions, a division of Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations

Firestone Agricultural Solutions, a division of Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, is the industry leader in the manufacturing, marketing and sales of market-leading Firestone agricultural tires. Firestone Agricultural Solutions' Des Moines, Iowa, facility is located in the heart of America's farm belt and supplies approximately half of the agricultural tires consumed by North American original equipment manufacturers as well as being the leading agricultural tire supplier in the North American replacement market. Firestone agricultural tires can be found on farm tractors, planting and harvesting equipment and other farm implements in North America and around the world. In addition, Firestone Agricultural Solutions markets and sells forestry and construction tires. Firestone Agricultural Solutions also operates a testing facility, located in Columbiana, Ohio, which is the only facility in the world solely dedicated to the development and testing of agricultural tires. For more information, visit: www.firestoneag.com

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About Businessolver

Since 1998, Businessolver has delivered market-changing benefits administration technology supported by an intrinsic responsiveness to client needs. It creates client programs that maximize benefit program investment, minimize risk exposure, and engage employees with easy-to-use solutions and communication tools to assist them in making wise and cost-efficient benefit selections. Founded by HR professionals, Businessolver's unwavering service-oriented culture and secure SaaS platform provide measurable success in its mission to provide complete client delight. For more information, visit: www.businessolver.com

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About Iowa Quality Center

The Iowa Quality Center (IQC) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established more than 20 years ago as a result of collaboration between Kirkwood Community College and Grant Wood AEA (Woods Quality Center). The IQC was established as a result of being named the administrator of the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (Baldrige based state award program) by the Iowa Business Council and the largest employers in the state of Iowa. The mission of the IQC is to provide leadership for performance excellence by connecting individuals, organizations and communities. While the IQC staff is based in Marion, its networking groups, consultation and membership activities take place throughout the state. For more information, visit: www.iowaqc.org

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About Langford International, Inc.

Langford International, Inc. provides professional consulting, customized training and keynote presentations specific to learning, applying and studying the continual quality improvement process. David P. Langford is an international consultant, speaker, writer and educator on quality implementation in education and it's correlation to business and the economy. Langford has a wealth of knowledge in case histories that illustrate the successes and pitfalls associated with implementing quality improvement methods. Organizations may request specific consulting in order to develop a long-term system implementation plan, or as support during the early stages of development. Langford International Inc. provides customized workshops incorporating specific techniques, processes, and theories presented during the Langford 4-Day Learning Seminars, 2-Day Leadership Seminars, or Student TEAMS Training. For more information, visit: www.langfordlearning.com

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About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The District serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school, one comprehensive high school and one alternative high school. The Urbandale District supports an increasingly diverse student population where 47 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the District. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](#).

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