

# Engaging with partners through applied learning

Forging industry and educational learning  
opportunities at Wichita State University





# Introduction

- Purpose
  - Discuss initiatives at Wichita State University that address university, college, and degree program strategies for engaging with business & industry regarding talent development.
- Who are we?
  - **University:** Tonya Witherspoon
    - Associate Vice President, Industry Engagement & Applied Learning
  - **College:** Shirley Lefever & G. Clayton Stoldt
    - Dean, College of Applied Studies & Associate Dean, College of Applied Studies
  - **Program:** Mark Vermillion
    - Director of Workforce Leadership & Applied Learning



# Wichita State University Commitment

## Vision

Wichita State University is **globally recognized** as the **model for applied learning and research**.

## Mission

Wichita State University is to be an **essential educational, cultural and economic driver** for Kansas and the greater public good.



# Background & Context

- We've listened to the talk; we've listened to business and industry
- WSU has been responding to the demand by integrating applied learning opportunities
- Strategic planning
  - Activation Teams & Town Halls
    - Community, business partners, students, and faculty/staff
  - Refreshed Goals
  - Refreshed Clarity of universal and distinctive values
  - [Refreshed Plan](#) (as of September 2019)



# Department & Program-Level: Workforce Leadership

- Identification:
  - Anecdotal conversations with B&I; ICT ecosystem(s); national trends
- Observation:
  - Students (WSU & WSU Tech) provided impact (n=521)
- Response
  - Workforce Leadership & Applied Learning (Bachelor of Applied Sciences)
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, leadership, 1,700 of O-T-J training
  - Partnership Alliance, Flexibility (CPL) for students and industry
- Moving forward
  - McConnell, on-campus, online
  - Focus on 'talent development;' pipelines



# College-level: Teacher Apprentice Program

- Identification
  - Teacher shortage (nationally, regionally, locally)
- Observation
  - Western Kansas conversations (Liberal, Garden City, etc.)
  - Para-educators: How to transition them to fully certified classroom teachers?
- Response
  - TAP program
  - Inverted curriculum
  - Mass consumption (over 500 students in less than two years)
- Moving forward
  - Further expansion of scope of TAP
  - Work with teacher preparation providers in multiple states



# University-level: Paradigm shift

## Education + Experience = Applied Learning at Wichita State University

At Wichita State every degree we offer has opportunities for an applied learning or research experience. This gives Shockers in every major the chance to gain practical experience, a professional network, college credit and even a paycheck, all while still in school.

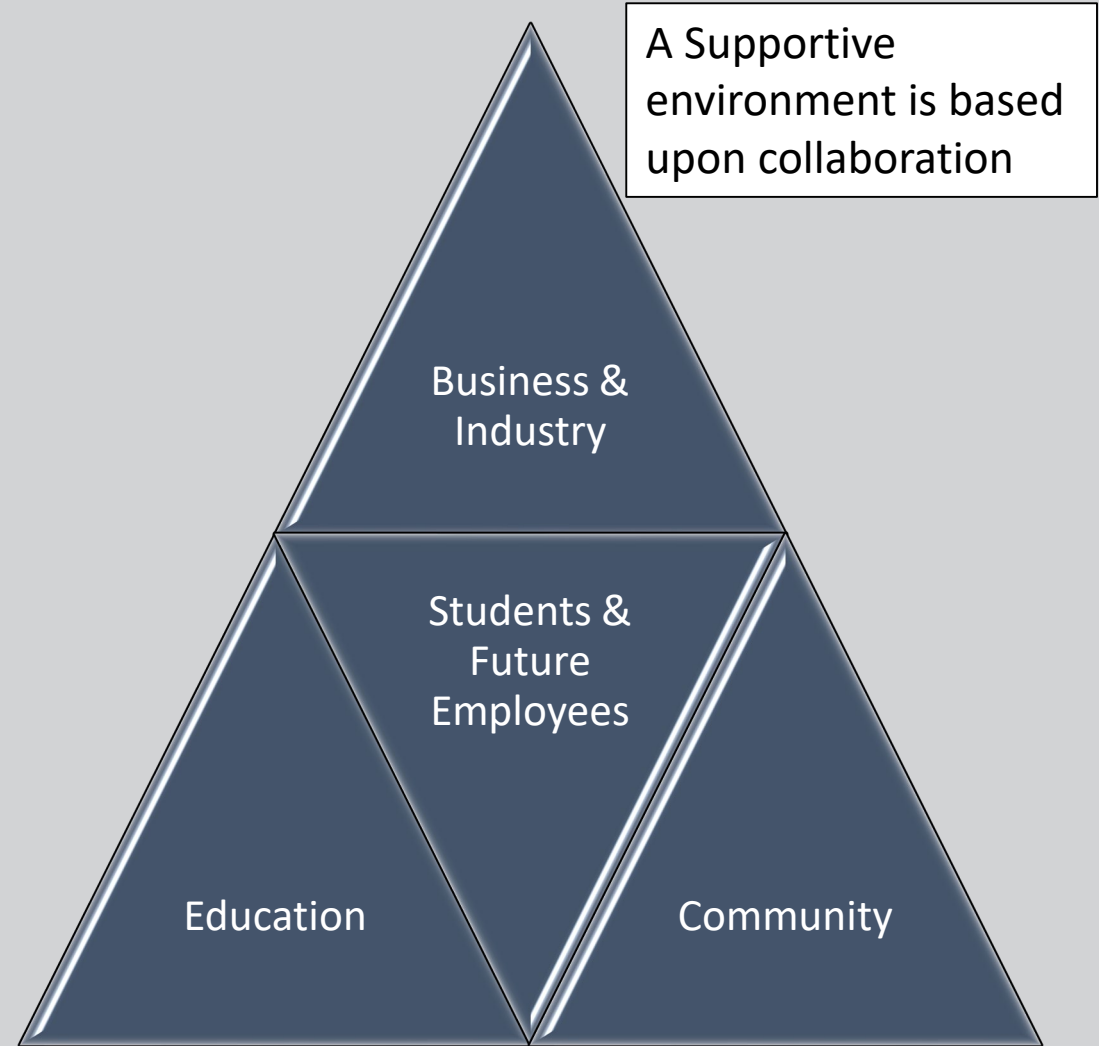
### APPLIED LEARNING IMPACT

<b>STUDENTS EARNED \$18 MILLION+ IN WAGES IN 2018-19</b>	<b>CO-OPS &amp; INTERNSHIPS AT  500 EMPLOYERS</b> <small>*Save</small>	<b>STUDENTS WORKED IN MORE THAN 4,000 JOB POSITIONS IN 2018-19</b>
--	---	--



# Summary

- Context is crucial to any strategic initiative
- Identification & Observation
  - Conversation must include multiple **key stakeholders partnering** towards a unified goal
- Response & Moving Forward
  - **Coordinated** and **joint** efforts that include experiential learning, flexible training/education programs are successful





Questions? We would love to  
discuss things....

**Thank you so much!**

