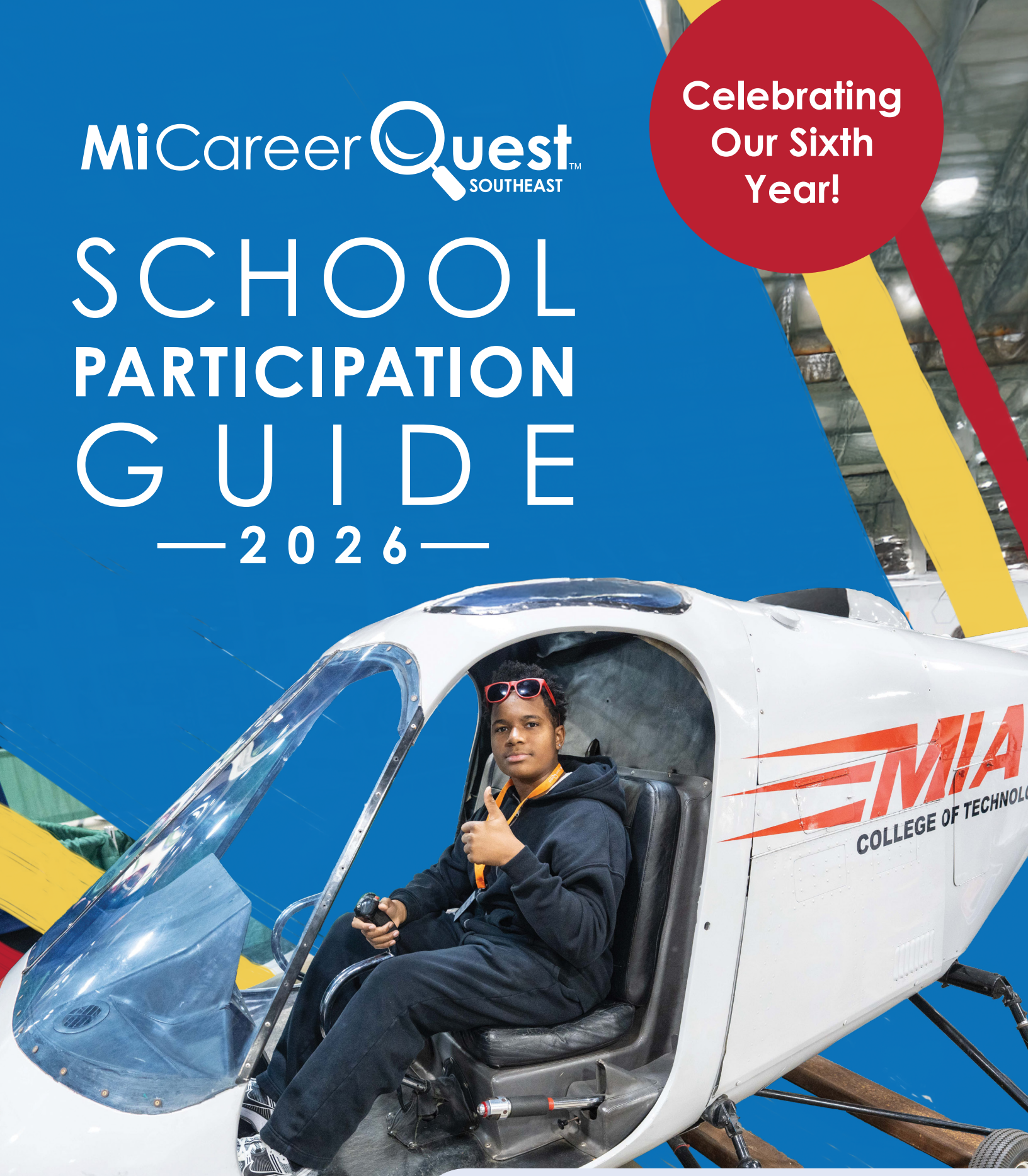
MiCareerQuest™ SOUTHEAST

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION GUIDE

—2026—

Celebrating Our Sixth Year!



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

MICHIGAN WORKS!®

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DAVID COULTER
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NOV
17
2026

Vibe Credit Union Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave
Novi, MI 48374



This fall, your students will experience the most exciting career exploration event held in our state: MiCareerQuest Southeast, celebrating our sixth year in 2026!

It takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace in Novi and covers more than 400,000 square-feet of floor space.

You will be joining 8,000 students and chaperones from more than 125 high schools across our six-county region, who will meet with employers in three exciting industry sectors:

NEW FOR 2026!

Two sessions:
9:15 – 11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; times adjusted to help address bus transportation concerns

Three industry sectors: advanced manufacturing and technology now combined

Students can now explore each sector for 37 minutes

This guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for the fast-paced, unique event, which is guaranteed to open their eyes to so many career possibilities. Please read it carefully, for there are plenty of details on the day's activities.

We look forward to seeing you in November!

Pre-Event Planning

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Each career quadrant features a variety of in-demand, rewarding careers. A full list is included in the back of this guide. Students are encouraged to review the occupation list and note their "must see" jobs.

BUS TRANSPORTATION
To help address bus transportation challenges, we have adjusted the start and end times of the event. All students must be transported to the event by bus. All buses must be clearly marked with the school's name to facilitate a smooth departure from the venue.

EVENT FORMAT
Students now participate in one of two sessions, each lasting two hours, starting at 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Each session is split into three, 37-minute blocks. Students are required to visit all three career sectors. This does not include time to check in your school, so arrive early.

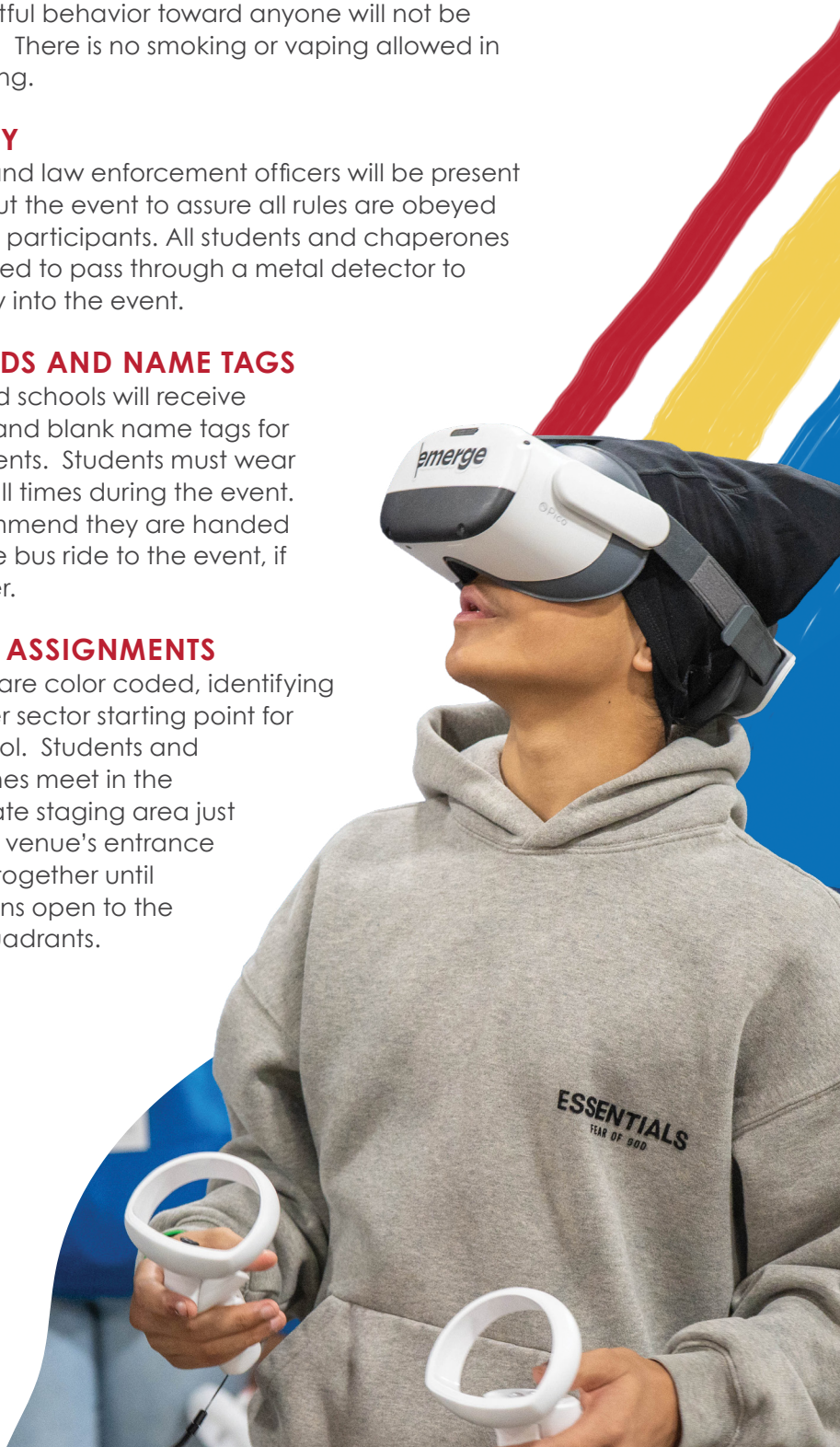
DRESS CODE
Students should follow their school's dress code. Comfortable, closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended. Long pants also are recommended – no shorts, skirts or dresses. Also, no loose, hanging jewelry. Backpacks are not allowed in the building. If a student does not want to wear a coat inside, it should remain on the bus.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Students will be subject to their school's student code of conduct. Once inside, they will not be allowed to leave the building until exiting for their buses. Fighting, foul language and other disrespectful behavior toward anyone will not be tolerated. There is no smoking or vaping allowed in the building.

SECURITY
Security and law enforcement officers will be present throughout the event to assure all rules are obeyed and assist participants. All students and chaperones are required to pass through a metal detector to gain entry into the event.

LANYARDS AND NAME TAGS
Registered schools will receive lanyards and blank name tags for your students. Students must wear them at all times during the event. We recommend they are handed out on the bus ride to the event, if not sooner.

SECTOR ASSIGNMENTS
Lanyards are color coded, identifying the career sector starting point for your school. Students and chaperones meet in the appropriate staging area just inside the venue's entrance and stay together until the curtains open to the career quadrants.



Arrival

EAT BEFOREHAND
No food will be sold at the event so, depending on what session your school is attending, students and chaperones should eat breakfast or lunch beforehand.

TRAVELING TO THE EVENT
Each school is responsible for transporting its students. Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes before the start of your assigned session, if possible.

BUS DROP OFF
Upon arrival, school and charter buses will be directed to the student drop-off area located in the front of the building. A bus greeter will board and provide a brief overview of the event. When directed, please disembark as quickly as possible to keep the line of buses moving. After the drop-off, bus drivers will be directed to the designated parking area. A bus driver break room is available near the school registration desk inside. Light refreshments will be available.

LANYARDS
Students should wear their lanyard on the bus, which will indicate the sector where they start their two-hour session. Students will also receive a sticker with a number corresponding to the section where their bus can be found in the bus lot. Students will leave the building through exit doors on the west side of the building featuring the same number.

PARKING AREA
If a school brings multiple buses, they will be parked together. Attendants will direct the buses where to park, so they are easy to find when the students exit. If charter buses are used, signage must be placed in the front window of each one, so they are easily identifiable.

WELCOME AND CHECK IN
An event volunteer will greet each busload of students on their bus. Once they unload, another volunteer will lead them to the student staging area inside the building. Only one school chaperone should check in at the registration table. Students will be directed to the color-coded sector holding area matching their lanyards. All students from the same school will have the same color lanyard.

RESTROOMS
Men's and women's restrooms are located near the staging area. Restrooms are also located in the back hallway of the facility, behind the construction sector. Students can use the restrooms at any time.

REFLECTION/PRAYER ROOM
Private rooms will be available throughout the exhibit space for religious observation or students needing to step away from the crowd. These areas are monitored.





PROHIBITED ITEMS

No weapons of any kind are allowed in the facility. Law enforcement officers will be on-hand and metal detectors will be at the entrance to the event. Outside backpacks or knapsacks are also not allowed.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

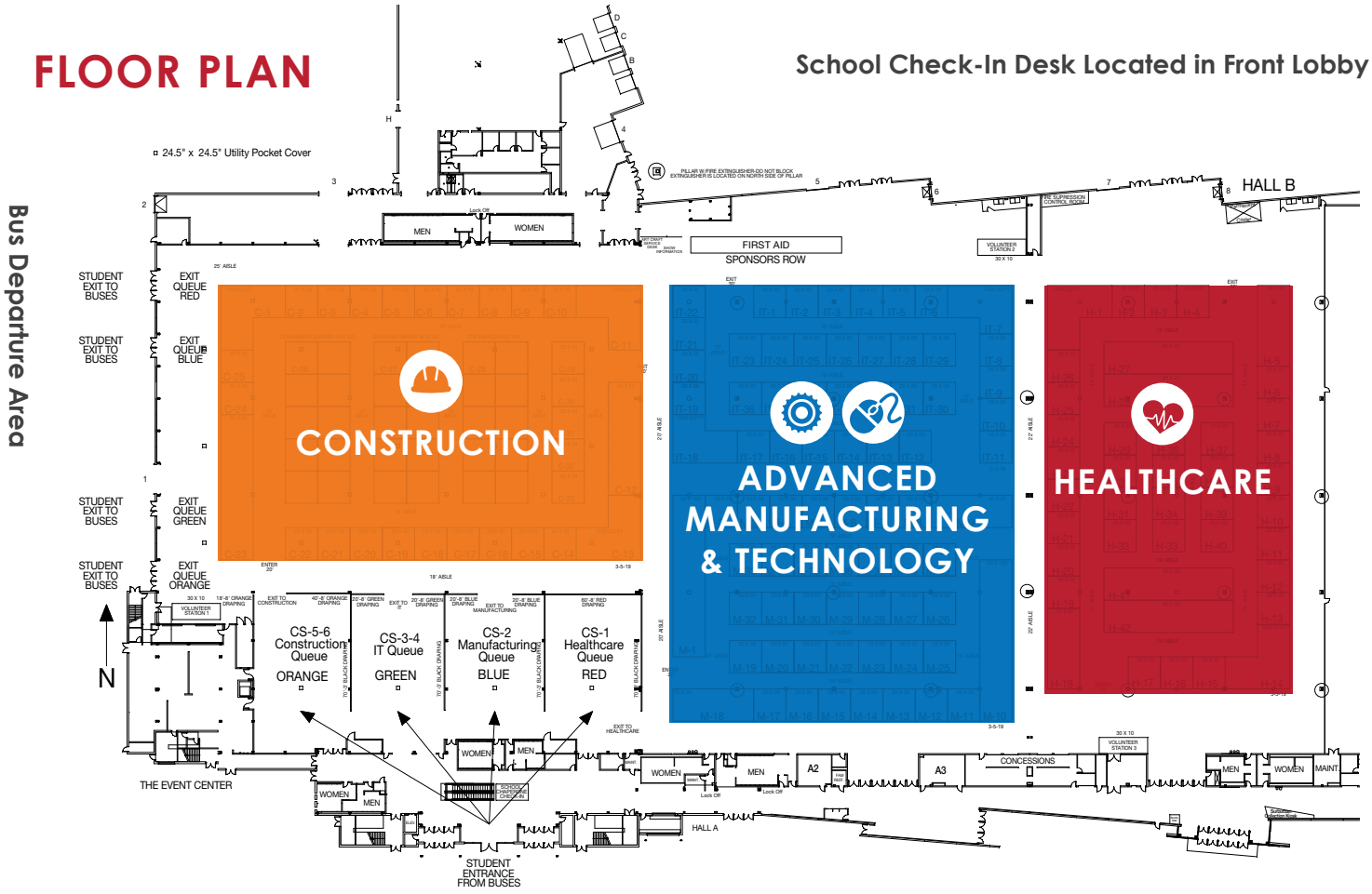
Students are welcome to use their personal cell phones to take pictures and shoot video at the event. For liability reasons, students should not bring 35mm DLSR or similar equipment on the field trip, unless they receive prior approval from the event organizers.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Bad weather will not cancel the event, although we recognize school bus transportation may not be available if a school district cancels classes that day.

FLOOR PLAN

School Check-In Desk Located in Front Lobby



Inside the Event

INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

Students will not be standing idle at this event. The hands-on nature invites participation. Exhibitors are highlighting career opportunities through engaging, interactive activities.

ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE

Working professionals, excited to meet your students, have volunteered their time for this event. They love their jobs and want to share information on the skills and education needed to succeed.

ASK QUESTIONS

One of the best ways to learn about a job is to ask questions. The working professionals expect them from your students and are anxious to share their stories. Please remind your students to be respectful.

QUESTIONS TO ASK EMPLOYERS

No matter where your students are in their career quests, this is their opportunity to talk to working professionals. They are encouraged to ask questions about their career path, decisions to pursue such a job and what it takes to succeed.

As a starting point, below is a list of questions they may want to consider:

- What skills and education are required for your current position?
- What do you like most about your job? Least?
- When did you decide to pursue a career in this field?
- What other jobs did you consider?
- Describe a typical day on the job. What are your hours/days of work?
- What personal qualities or abilities are important to being successful in this job?
- Do you work alone or on a team most often?
- What can cause stress on this job?
- What is your perception of the job outlook for this career field?
- What are some of the surprises you have had in this job?
- Were you employed in another profession before taking this job? If so, why did you change professions?
- What kind of training do companies like yours provide incoming employees? What skills are you expected to have beforehand?
- What advice would you give someone considering the same career?



ROTATING THROUGH THE CAREER QUADRANTS

Your students will be spending 37 minutes in each career sector, with a few minutes in between to gather and move to the next one. Loud music will be played overhead, signaling it is time to move to the next sector with event volunteers. After the last sector, the students will be led to the exit area where their bus will be waiting.

SPEND TIME WISELY

Students are required to visit all three career sectors, so they most likely will not have the time to visit every exhibitor. We strongly suggest your students review the list of occupations in this guide and note which ones they do not want to miss.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you and your students to share your experiences at the event with friends, family and others via social media, using #MiCareerQuestSE. Our social media contact information is on the back page.

MEDIA

Local media will be covering MiCareerQuest Southeast. If a news reporter or photographer approaches you or your students, we encourage you to talk to them about the event and your impressions.

Please note, news media do not need a student's approval to be included in photographs or video footage used to cover a large, high-profile event such as this.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Everyone's safety is a top priority at MiCareerQuest Southeast. In the unlikely event of an emergency, law enforcement, security team and event volunteers will quickly direct all participants on what to do.

FIRST AID

A first aid area is located at the back of the venue. If students or chaperones need any first-aid services, they are encouraged to visit the booth.



Wrapping Up the Visit

EXIT

Once a session ends, students will be directed to the MiCareerQuest Southeast exit area, located on the west end of the building. Several large doors will be open to the parking lot where buses will be staged. Students and chaperones should leave the building immediately. Based on your group's lanyard sticker, volunteer staff will direct everyone to the aisle where your district's buses are parked.

POST-EVENT STUDENT SURVEYS

Students will be asked to complete a brief online survey within 24 hours after the event. A QR code to access the survey is on the back of the lanyards. Students who include an email address will be entered into a drawing for a $50 gift card.

POST-EVENT CHAPERONE SURVEYS

A more comprehensive post-event survey will be provided through a QR code located on the back of each chaperone's lanyard. Like the student feedback, chaperone input is very important to making the event better each year.

STUDENT CHOICE AWARDS

Students will be asked to identify their favorite hands-on exhibit in each sector when completing the post-event survey. The winners will be acknowledged later this year via social media and have bragging rights until the 2027 event!





Check List

BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE EVENT:

- ✓ If there is a significant change in the number of students attending the event, please email Brooklyn Frontiera at FrontieraB@OaklandCountyMI.gov
- ✓ Coordinate bus transportation to arrive at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace 15-20 minutes before the start of your session, if possible.
- ✓ Review the expectations for student behavior and provide an overview of the event with the students.
- ✓ Distribute lanyards and name tags to all students and staff members prior to getting on your bus, if possible.
- ✓ Review the exit plan from the event with students.

AT THE EVENT:

- ✓ Instruct the bus driver(s) to follow the directions provided by the parking lot volunteers.
- ✓ Exchange cell phone numbers with the bus driver(s) to facilitate communications during departure.
- ✓ Be sure all students are wearing their lanyards; the color determines which career quadrant they start in.
- ✓ Students should visit each sector as a group.
- ✓ Look for event volunteers if you need assistance.
- ✓ Use social media to share the experience at MiCareerQuest Southeast with friends, family and others.

Occupations to be Showcased *(subject to change)*

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY

Additive Manufacturing Technician
AI Engineer
Application Engineer
Augmented Reality Welder
Auto Mechanic
Automation Engineer
Automotive Service Technician
Autonomous Vehicle Test Operator
Aviation Maintenance Technician
Battery Engineer
Biomedical Engineer
Chemist
Cloud Technician
Coder
Computer Gamer
Computer Programmer
Controls Engineer
Cyber Security Technician
Data Analyst
Data Analyst
Data Science Engineer
Data Science Technician
Diesel Mechanic
Diesel Service Technician
Electric Vehicle Technician
Electrical Engineer
Electronic Game Programmer
EMT
Fiber Optic Technician
Maintenance Technician
Manufacturing Assembly Worker
Marine Salesperson
Marine Technician
Material Handler
Mechanical Engineer
Mechanical Engineer
Metrologist Technician
Mobility Industry Worker
Plant Technician
Production Operator
Robot Programmer
Robotics Technician
Secretary of State DOS Aide
Systems Engineer
Water Technician
Web Designer
Welder

CONSTRUCTION

Architectural Engineer
Brick Layer
Carpenter
Civil Engineer
Commercial Roofer
Concrete Manager
Construction Manager
Construction Safety Worker
Crane Operator
Crane Technician
Drinking Water Systems Maintenance Mechanic
Electrician
Fabricator
Field Operations Worker
Flooring Installation Technician
Floorlayer
Foreman
Gas Technician
Glazier
Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Heavy Equipment Operator
HVAC Technician
Land Surveyor
Mechanic
Millwright
Outside Electrical Construction Worker
Park Maintenance Aide
Plumber
Project Manager
Ready Mix Truck Driver
Renewable Energy Worker
Rigger/Millwright
Road Maintenance Operator
Skilled Maintenance Superintendent
Transportation Maintenance Worker
Transportation Engineer
Transportation Technician
Underground Lineman
Underground Utility Locator
Water & Sewer Maintenance Worker

HEALTH SCIENCES

Biomedical Engineering Technologist
Certified Nursing Assistant
Certified Professional and Personal Development Trainer
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
Circulating Operating Room Nurse
Civil Engineer
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Emergency Medical Technician
Environmental Health and Safety Professional
Environmental Scientist
Epidemiologist
Exercise Physiologist
Firefighter
Histotechnician
Histotechnologist
Hydrologist
Lab Technician
Medical Assistant
Medical Doctor
Medical Laboratory Assistant
Medical Laboratory Scientist
Medical Laboratory Technician
MRI Technologist
Nurse
Nutrition Scientist
Nutritionist/Dietitian
Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapist Assistant
Operating Room Nurse
Orthotist Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Phlebotomist
Physical Therapist
Physical Therapist Assistant
Physicians Assistant
Police Officer
Prosthetist Assistant
Public Health Professional
Radiologic Technologist
Radiology Technician
Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
Sonographer
Speech Therapist
Stormwater Management Professional
Surgical Technologist
Trauma Prevention Nurse
Ultrasound Technician
Veterinary Technician
Wastewater Treatment Operator
Water Treatment Operator

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OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE®

Oakland Schools

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

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WITH STRATEGIC PARTNER gayanga co.

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For more information:
OaklandCountyMI.gov/ MiCareerQuestSE

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Questions? Email:
MiCareerQuestSE@OaklandCountyMI.gov