



## **WHAT IS A WORKPLACE CHALLENGE?**

A Workplace Challenge is a career preparation activity where small groups of students are engaged in solving a problem or a challenge issued by an employer in consultation with a career pathways teacher. The structure of the challenge is based upon effective project-based learning approaches, enhanced by a focus on the targeted career pathway and an authentic problem or issue faced by an employer partner. The students are engaged in career-focused, project-based learning and work as a team over time to identify possible solutions. They then create and deliver a presentation on their solution to the employer.

## **Telepresence is a Great Way to Employ a Workplace Challenge.**

Over the last decade, as high-speed Internet has become more accessible, videoconferencing technology has grown more sophisticated and easier to operate. School districts are finding an increasing number of innovative ways to bring students together virtually for meaningful interactions, and project-based learning. Whether for one-time field trips or more extensive long-term collaboration.

Here is a recent example of how Telepresence brought NASA to Granada High School: Computer Science teacher, Miguel Baez arranged for three of his classes to talk with NASA engineers at three different NASA locations throughout the day on Friday, February 24, 2017.

Students learned what the engineers' work was like, and gained insight into how to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students learned the variety of STEM skills that are crucial to NASA's mission, and they learned how their own education could prepare them for work in engineering fields. The online conversations were shared with students at several other schools throughout the country, and are available on YouTube for future viewers.

Learning from NASA engineers extends education outside of the classroom. Mr. Baez said, "this project has allowed us to reach audiences and mentors that were difficult to reach before. Telepresence starts to bridge those gaps and give the students a special skill to communicate through an interface that is different from modes of communication they usually interact with, such as social media, messaging, and even in-person communication." The engineers then went from school to school to answer some of the questions that the students had.

## **I am still interested, how can I learn more?**

Contact Lisa McNaney at [lmcnaney@tvrop.org](mailto:lmcnaney@tvrop.org) for more information. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you. Thank you for being our partner.