

# PARTNER PREPARATION GUIDE

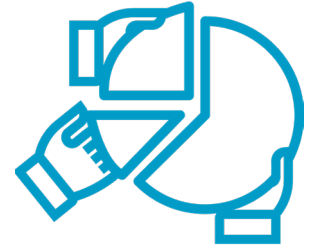
## PARTNER ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

### ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Partner engagement projects are extended learning projects, generally less than 40 hours, that allow students to explore genuine industry and real-world challenges and provide students with an authentic learning experience while being guided by an industry professional.

The industry professional is not required to provide the challenge but could do so if they were interested. They offer support through project mentoring that includes supervising project development and problem solving through intentional feedback and connection.

Partner engagement projects are meant to prepare students for a more in-depth mentored industry project and can happen in or outside the classroom. Industry-sponsored Challenges in [KnoPro](#) [powered by NAF] are examples.



### HOW THIS ACTIVITY IMPACTS STUDENTS

Through NAF's [Outcomes-Driven Work-Based Learning approach](#), students will be able to identify their careers of interest, map a plan to reach their goals, master [Future Ready Skills](#) they need to be successful, and make connections with partners like you who can help them navigate their path forward.

Partner engagement projects typically impact students in the following ways:



ASPIRATIONS  
LIKELY



SKILLS  
HIGHLY LIKELY



CONNECTIONS  
LIKELY

### SAMPLE PROJECT

#### A.I. for Good

The following project was featured as a Challenge on [KnoPro](#) during April-May 2023

Artificial intelligence (A.I.) is everywhere these days, even in places you might not have realized. While there are enormous benefits of A.I., there's also plenty of ethical issues and ways it can be used in harmful ways.

In this Challenge, you'll address the question:

- How can the power of A.I. be used for good? What new products, business ideas, or marketing campaigns could you create to leverage A.I. for a positive impact in the world?

[Winning submission video](#)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NAF STUDENTS!

## BEFORE THE PROJECT

### Ask questions to learn more about the project and the students you will be mentoring

- What are the goals of this project?
- What is the structure and duration of the project?
- Will I be providing students with the real-world problem to solve or are they generating their own?
- What expectations do I need to meet as a mentor for the project?
- How many students will be in the small group I will work with?
- What additional information should I know about the students (e.g., age, demographics, interests)?

### Confirm logistics for project kick-off event

- Date/time/location
- If in-person: Parking instructions, check-in process
- If virtual: Platform being used, log-in link

## DURING THE PROJECT

### Project kick-off event

- Introduce yourself and have the student(s) introduce themselves and share their professional and personal goals
- Establish project goals, expectations, meeting cadence, and other details
- Define and discuss the real-world problem students will be working on, including what the deliverables are (video, presentation, report, etc.)

### Ongoing mentorship

- Provide feedback and guidance to students as they work through potential solutions to the problem
- Emphasize the [Future Ready Skills](#) as part of what they are building through the project
- Connect students with contacts who can give them additional insights into the problem they are working on

### Project wrap-up

- Provide feedback on the final version of deliverables
- Final presentation – if there is already one organized by the academy, plan to attend and if there isn't one, consider organizing a presentation at your organization so students can share their work and solution(s)

## AFTER THE PROJECT

- Complete the WBL Skills Feedback Survey to assess each student's skills (you will receive a link or QR code)
- Reflect on your experience
- Consider additional ways you might want to be involved in the future