

Partners in Education is the organization that connects education to the needs of business through:



Collierville Partners in Education (PIE) is a 501(c)(3) that was formed in 2016 under the auspices of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce with the goal of raising funds for a new state-of-the-art Collierville High School. PIE successfully raised about \$2 million dollars for the school district but decided not to stop there.

Today, PIE is an independent organization made up of local business leaders who aim to support Collierville youth and the school system in helping to ensure that students graduate prepared for college or a career. PIE partnerships help enhance a student's educational experience by providing field trips, mentorship, speakers, internships, and access to hands-on experiences in high demand sectors.

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE WITH PIE

- Join the Board
- Participate in a committee
- Join the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council
- Support PIE efforts through funding

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Field trips
- Mentorship
- Class speakers
- Internships
- Access to hands-on experiences
- Industry-specific projects or camps
- Teacher externships
- Sponsorships



Having access to the titans of local business and industry has benefited our district in numerous ways. Through dialogue and shared purpose, we have leveraged these relationships to better understand the needs of our local workforce. PIE has helped us shape the curriculum and provide the tools so our students can develop the expertise needed to succeed after they leave high school.

Dr. Gary Lilly  
*Superintendent, Collierville Schools*

## WHY PIE MATTERS

We bring like-minded business and community leaders together to focus on and address local workforce development needs by partnering with Collierville Schools in a symbiotic relationship that benefits the school district, students, businesses, and the community at large.

- Amplify your efforts to develop and source homegrown, local talent
- Reinforce your organizational capacity to engage with schools create awareness of your business and career opportunities
- Provide your feedback on Collierville Schools' offerings and curriculum, making certain that the skills taught align with local needs in your industry

PIE endeavors to fill in the gaps of an already-strong school system with a multi-pronged approach. We partner with local businesses and their leaders to answer their workforce needs and create student experience beyond school walls in the form of mentorships, internships, career educations, and entrenchment.



2020 PIE Chair Don Kitchens prepares to film an auto industry video for the Virtual Career Fair

Providing the best possible education to our kids must go beyond district budgets and beyond the classroom. Recent reports show that most students aren't exposed to higher education and career paths (and how to navigate them) until it's too late. Simply put, many students just are not ready for what's next when they graduate. That reality is negatively affecting their ultimate career and post-secondary education success. This challenge begets another one—businesses don't have access to the qualified workforce they need. We're here to change that on a local level.

All of this will ready the runway and provide students with a smooth transition after high school. Whatever their path, Collierville Students will be armed with skills, knowledge, and experience that



West Collierville Middle School student Ana Cruz discusses her board on careers in entomology



I engage with PIE because our goal is to assist with workforce development by connecting the needs of business with opportunities for Collierville students. This benefits the Town of Collierville long term by helping to attract businesses with the quality and talent of the workforce educated at CHS.

Dave Rhylander  
Board Chair, 2021