



**Career Exploration  
program**





Conference style event for High School Sophomores

Industry partners share:

- Career paths
- Job roles
- Education and skills needed for success

Students attend:

- Presentations
- Hands-on sessions
- Career fair.

## EVENT SUMMARY



# EXPO by the #'s

The idea of organizing a career exploration conference received strong support from various campus departments, the local community, and nearby high schools. By hosting a thriving one-day career conference for 200 high school students, we collaborated with 30+ local businesses and organizations. Students had the opportunity to explore four career paths of interest, and we gathered valuable data to enhance our programs for future students. The outcome exceeded our expectations, and we are already putting plans for the next Expo in place... looking forward to 2025!

8.4% Overall event rating from students, businesses and presenters

24 Pathway Presenters:  
• Local Professionals  
• Montana Western faculty

204 High School Student Registrants

10 Breakout Session Career pathways  
• Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources  
• Architecture & Construction  
• Arts, A/V Technology & Communication  
• Business, Management, & Administration  
• Education & Training  
• Health Science  
• Human Services  
• Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security  
• Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics  
• Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics

3 Local high schools attended: Beaverhead County High School, Twin Bridges High School and Sheridan High School.

4 Fair Booths from Industry and Montana Western departments

### Funding Summary

\$2,000  
Carl D Perkins  
Grant

\$2,600  
Montana Western  
School of Outreach  
Funds

\$2,700  
Local Business  
Sponsors

*A huge thank you to our local sponsors, school counselors, teachers, administrators, business professionals, and representatives from community and campus organizations. The event was a remarkable success in large part due to your support!*

### FUTURE NOW EXPO COORDINATORS

406-683-7308 | bethanie.wharton@umwestern.edu  
406-683-7304 | ryann.gibson@umwestern.edu



## Expo By the #s

- Began in February 2024
- Served over 400 high school sophomores in the past 3 years
- First year: 3 high schools attended, this year we had 6 high schools participate
- We are excited to bring the mobile lab to next year's Expo





## Mobile lab career exploration equipment

The current lab hosts career exploration equipment from partners:

- Z Space laptops with 3D view
- Farm Beats coding by Cody Joy
- CareerView XR VR headsets
- PITSCO – robotics, drone
- Cyber Montana



# Panelists

- Sarah Gibson, Dillon Middle School Teacher
- Rebecca Jones, Barrett Hospital Foundation Director
- Kurt Steadman, UMW Business Faculty
- Lilla Guiberson, Beaverhead County High School Student