**Welcome Address (3/3) | Breakfast Banquet**

On behalf of Lake Shore High School, we want to welcome you. My name is Tasha Candela, and as you all know from our site visits, and our phone and email conversations, I am the coordinator of this program. Thank you so much for driving to Lake Shore and perhaps missing a few hours of work to support this event.

## Our Career Field Experience internship program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to pursue career goals and experience authentic occupational situations.

The average person spends 90,000 hours at work over their lifetime. You give students the opportunity to test-drive their knowledge and skills. Deidre Supanich knew she enjoyed the kitchen, but never had the opportunity to learn with chefs and restaurant owners until she was given the chance to use her cooking and baking passions at Vintage House and Celina’s Polish Kitchen.

An internship gives you a personal ambassador that would be glad to help you when you need it. For Tristian Kerchkof and Matt Koch at Kimastle, Tim Mainhardt has been a huge asset. He has invited them into company meetings, shared his knowledge, and made them feel like home, since day one.

An internship can strengthen a resume.  Lauren Malicsi’s internship at Beaumont has enabled her to work directly with patients in the Cardiac Rehab unit. Through increased confidence and practice, Lauren is now comfortable taking blood pressure.

It can be the experience of a lifetime. Kay Sumner, intern at Metro Times, wrote real articles for the magazine and had them published live. Kay’s enthusiasm for showing me her authentic work gave her a purpose and the confidence to press forward when she suffered the occasional writer’s block.

You have made your interns feel that their contributions are of great value and encourage them to continue pursuing their dreams. You have sacrificed countless personal work hours to train and mentor teenagers. You have supported them with positive praise and future job opportunities.

This program seen a lot of growth every year. It begin as pilot three years ago with 3 businesses. Last year, I had 14 businesses participate. And this year? 27. I have had lot of fond memories from this program, but my favorite was when Jonathan Tomlian received his ID Badge and bathroom key. He dangled them in my face and said, Look what I have! He was so excited in his new professional role. The intense excitement for working with you and your businesses was evident through student reflective blog entries and conversations in my office. They love you.

Today we honor you with a custom paper plate award and certificate of appreciation. Thank you for your endless support.

Please draw your attention to this slide deck. Within each slide, you will be given a glimpse of where students have been placed throughout the community. **A special thank you goes to Paige and Sara for creating this presentation.**

**Students, when your slide appears on the screen, I would like you to stand up and share a memorable moment or accomplished goal with everyone.**

For example, working for the administration at Lake Shore High School has been a blessing because I was given the freedom to create Career Field Experience. Without their support, this cafeteria would be empty this morning.

**READ SLIDES (Student Praise)**

**GIVEAWAYS (Drawing from LS Car Decals. Stickers on the back = winners)**

Thank you for giving life changing experiences to 37 students. From reading their reflective blogs on a weekly basis and having ongoing discussions with them, I am certain they are forever grateful for you. **GATHER FOR PICTURE**