

BASICS / Rotary Career Fair

BASICS / Rotary Career Fair provides all Blair County 10th graders a first-hand opportunity to learn about careers of interest and enables employers to showcase the great opportunities available in Blair County. A collaborative effort by Rotarians, the Blair Chamber of Commerce, school districts and local employers, the annual Career Fair opens the students’ eyes to what careers are possible and what preparation is required to be successful. The first Career Fair was held in 20XX at the Jaffa Mosque, but with attendance growing every year, in 20XX it moved to the Blair County Convention Center to accommodate more students and employers.



Preparations begin early in the year with Rotarians, Chamber members and local schools meeting together to determine the logistics and details of that year’s Career Fair. Meanwhile, the 10th grade students choose four career fields of interest. Rotarians then work to identify and secure representatives from each field based on the demand from the students. And finally the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center gathers all of the student information and develops a Career Fair schedule for each student.

On the day of the Fair, students are scheduled in small groups to learn about each of their four career fields of interest from a representative of that career field. Career representatives discuss what a typical day is like in that career field; the skills, education, training and experience needed; what employers are looking for in a prospective new employee; and what opportunities are available within Blair County. Students have the chance to ask questions and begin exploring which careers might be right for them. Many students who attend the BASICS / Rotary Career Fair in 10th grade go on to learn more about a potential career during their Junior year by participating in the BASICS Career Shadowing program.