

## **NEWS & VIEWS**

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.

### PASSIONATE ABOUT PROJECT-BASED LEARNING



### STUDENTS LEARN BY DOING!

Project-based learning excites and engages students far more than sitting in front of a computer. From student-driven enterprises to role-playing activities, everyone can implement project-based learning in their classroom with a little creativity.

We were honored to have Lyn Perry from Roanoke, Alabama join us as our September Webinar Wednesday guest speaker. Lyn is a passionate educator with 27 years of experience working with students with special needs. Her goal is to pass along her knowledge and share her personal experience with educators. Lyn shared her tips and tricks for reigniting the passion in your students with project-based learning.





listen to the discussion on...

## Webinar Wednesday!



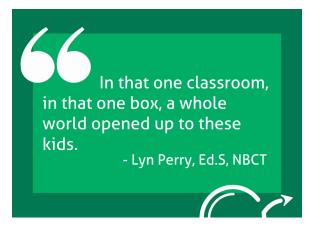
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### PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IS ACCESSIBLE

Rather than learning in isolation, it is better for students with special needs to be in the classroom with their peers. Project-based learning provides the context that students with special needs require to learn and grow. It is the bridge allowing them to become more integrated in the classroom. Project-based learning creates:

- Connection Allows for integrated classroom settings
- Context Gives meaning to new concepts
- Community Prevents isolated learning

### HANDS-ON CAREER EXPLORATION



The moment Lyn heard about Project Discovery's hands-on career kits, she wanted to implement the program in her classroom. She was awarded a grant that gave her the resources she needed to purchase her first Project Discovery career kit. Lyn loved having curriculum with differentiated instruction and academic standards built in. It was easy for the teachers to implement and ensure all learners' needs were met.

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Project-based learning gives your students opportunities to find value and purpose in school. When given fun opportunities to engage, students who sat in the background for years suddenly find their voice. Here are some ideas:

- Coordinate small field trips to teach life skills in context (e.g., grocery store, post office)
- Assign roles to students (e.g., cafeteria helper, junior librarian)

Invite community volunteers to teach a skill (e.g. baking, sewing)





### STUDENT ENTERPRISE

Starting a student enterprise that students with special needs can take pride in and run is an excellent way to engage them. Get creative when coming up with a student enterprise for your school – the possibilities are endless! Incentivizing the enterprise can motivate students to work even harder to achieve individual goals. Students that aren't interested in school suddenly come alive and look forward to learning.

# STUDENT ENTERPRISE SPOTLIGHT - HANDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROANOKE, ALABAMA THE TIGER BEAN

Lyn started "The Tiger Bean" coffee cart, a play on the school's mascot. Every Friday, students with special needs managed and ran the cart. She wrote letters to ask for money, materials, donations, and used the talent of teachers and staff to help build support around the initiative.







### TAKING IT TO THE GEN-ED CLASSROOM

Empower students with special needs to teach their peers new skills in the general education classroom setting. These types of opportunities will boost students' confidence, reinforce the skills they have already mastered, and promote integrated classroom time. Confidence doesn't come from a worksheet or watching a video. Confidence comes from doing!





## FIND SOLUTIONS FOR PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IN YOUR DISTRICT!

Have a minute? Watch our one-minute video about Project Discovery and what we offer!



### WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

The 2nd annual Gary Bates Memorial Award will be presented to an educator who has used Education Associates' Project Discovery or Achieve Life Skills program to make a significant, positive impact in students' lives and in the community. **Applications are due by October 1, 2022.** 

### ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE:







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## JOB READY, LIFE READY

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