



High Impact FCS Teaching in Action

with Shawna Wilson, National Teacher of the Year



1. Intro and Welcome – 5 min
2. Capstone Project Overview
3. Interview – 20 min
4. Instructional Best Practices - 20 min
5. Resources – 5 min
6. Be a Teacher Day
7. Q & A – 10 min

2026
**NATIONAL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**



Shawna Wilson, CFCS
Minnesota

Capstone Project Overview

2026
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Interview with Shawna Wilson, CFCS

2026
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What do we want students to do with their learning once they leave our classrooms?



1. Project-Based Learning
2. Student Voice and Choice
3. Experiential Learning
4. Inquiry-Based Learning
5. Community-Connected Learning
6. Reflection as a Learning Tool
7. Authentic/Performance-Based Assessment



What Is It?

A student-centered approach in which learners investigate and respond to an authentic problem, challenge, or question over an extended period of time.

What Research Says?

- PBL improves academic achievement, critical thinking, and student engagement.
- Students demonstrate stronger conceptual understanding and application of knowledge in a PBL environment.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students complete an extended, authentic project in which they created a product for an authentic audience.
- Student learning is organized around a meaningful challenge rather than isolated lessons.

Enter in
the Chat

How have you used PBL in your classroom? How did that look in your program?



CULTURE fest

OUR PURPOSE

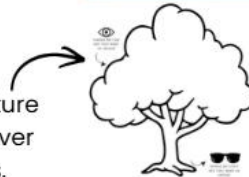
Our goal is to help young learners develop cultural competency from an early age. To support this mission, we organized Culture Fest at Jackson Elementary during the school day. Culture Fest was designed to include interactive experiences such as traditional dance, clothing, music, and arts & crafts so elementary students could explore and celebrate cultures from around the world.



the CULTURE TREE

OUR SUCCESS

The lesson plan "The Culture Tree" was presented to over 600 elementary students.



CultureFest hosted over **600 students & featured over 90 student volunteers from the high school.**



MEALS that MATTER



OUR PURPOSE



Scott County is home to 158,000 residents and, while vibrant and diverse, faces food insecurity. Overall, 6.9% of residents (10,500 people) are affected—but **rates are significantly higher among specific groups: 27% for Black residents and 22% for Latino residents.** The CAP Agency works to address this need, but there is a **growing demand for more culturally specific, familiar, and nutritious food options.**

Meals that Matter was created to help support our local food shelf and provide shelf stable meal kits that better reflect our community. We created 3 meal kits - Bariis Iskukaris (Somali Spiced Rice), Dual Serve Burrito Bowls and SPAM Fried Rice. To ensure language would never be a barrier, each recipe was translated into 3 different languages.

OUR SUCCESS

FCCLA Chapter members and volunteers raised over \$720 dollars, received a \$500 grant from the OtterCares foundation, and collected over 600 donated food items.

We packed over 260 meal kits, feeding over 1,040 people in our community involving over 80 student volunteers.



OUR PARTNERS



BOOKS FOR *little paws*

OUR PURPOSE

Scott County has a growing and diverse population. 18.2% of families make less than \$50,000 a year and over 5% have an income below the poverty line. Not all these families have the means to provide books for their children or have easy access to public libraries.

Upcycling old newspaper stands helps to reduce waste and provide books year round for children in our community.



OUR SUCCESS

 We collected over 825 children's books as part of our book donation drive.

 We painted & installed 7 free little libraries in our community!



CALMING *critters*

OUR PURPOSE

Anxiety and worry is on the rise for all age groups, even with our youngest students. Sometimes that anxiety leads to negative behaviors in the classroom. Our goal for this project was to create a way for kindergarten students to feel calmer in school, overall resulting in more positive behavior.



OUR SUCCESS

 We presented a 3 day lesson plan to students.

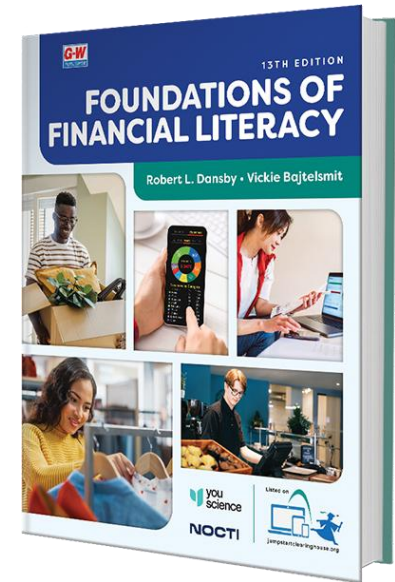
 We made and distributed 23 calming critters to students.



Where Else Can You Find PBL in CTE?

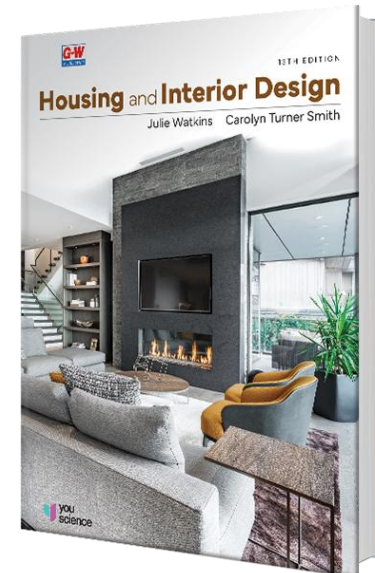
Foundations of Financial Literacy © 2028

- Financial decision-making
- Planning and goal achievement



Housing and Interior Design © 2027

- Design challenges
- Client-based projects



What Is It?

Students have meaningful opportunities to make decisions about their learning, products, processes, and project direction.

What Research Says?

- Student voice is linked to increased engagement, agency, attendance, and achievement.
- Classrooms that actively seek student input report stronger student ownership of learning.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students select project topics, products, or approaches.
- Learners make decisions about how to demonstrate mastery.
- Students contribute ideas that shape project outcomes.

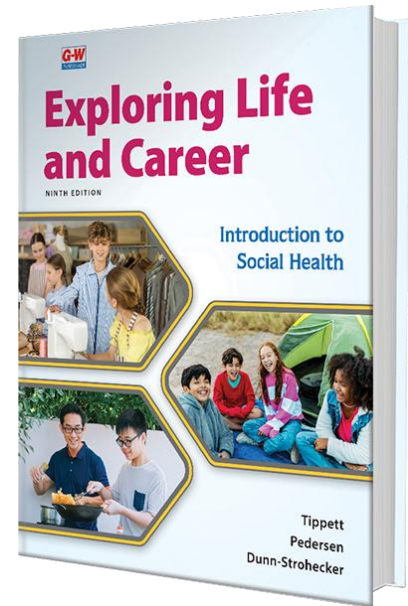


How have you used Student Voice & Choice in your classroom?
How did that look in your program?

Where Else Can You Find Student Voice & Choice in CTE?

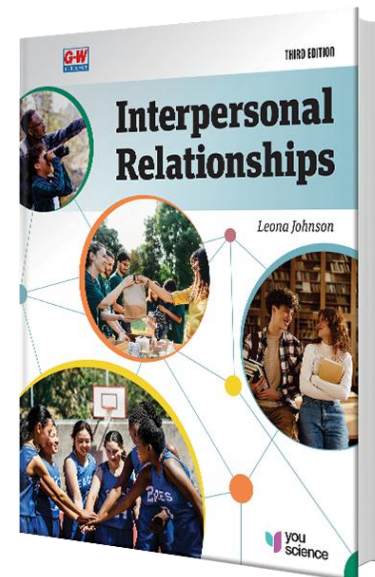
Exploring Life and Career © 2028

- Personal interests, Career pathways
- Individual decision-making



Interpersonal Relationships © 2027

- Personal values
- Individual perspectives



What Is It?

Learning through direct experience followed by reflection and application.

What Research Says?

- David A. Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory demonstrates that students learn most effectively when they cycle through experience, reflection, conceptualization, and application.
- Experiential learning improves retention, transfer of learning, and workplace readiness.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students learn by performing authentic tasks.
- Learners engage in hands-on application.
- Technical skills are practiced in realistic contexts.

Enter in
the Chat

*How have you used **Experiential Learning** in your classroom?*

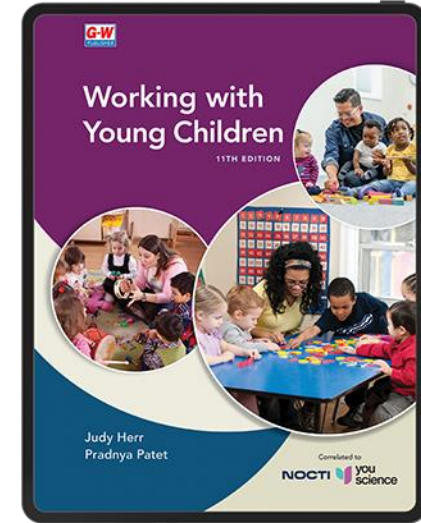
How did that look in your program?



Where Else Can You Find Experiential Learning in CTE?

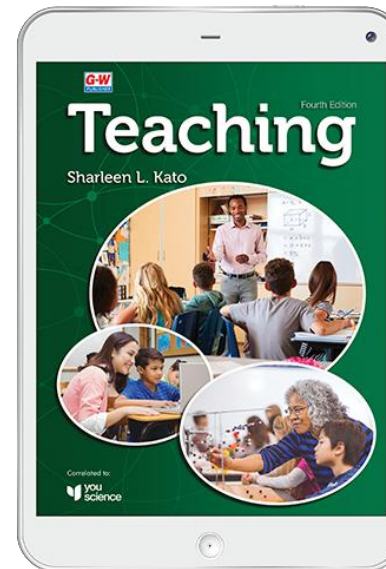
Working with Young Children © 2028

- Observation
- Child-centered learning



Teaching © 2024

- Classroom immersion
- Professional practice



What Is It?

A student-centered approach in which learning begins with questions, investigation, and discovery rather than direct instruction alone.

What Research Says?

- Inquiry-based learning improves critical thinking and deeper conceptual understanding.
- Students become more engaged when they investigate authentic questions and construct their own understanding.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students investigate community issues and identify areas of need.
- Learners gather information, conduct research, and analyze evidence before proposing solutions.
- The project encourages students to seek answers and explore possibilities rather than simply follow prescribed steps.

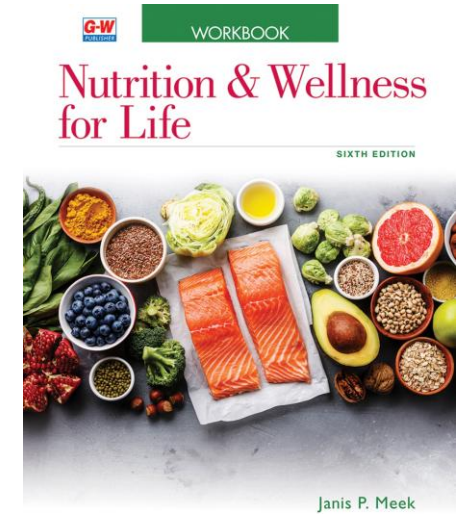


How have you used Inquiry-Based Learning in your classroom?
How did that look in your program?

Where Else Can You Find Inquiry-Based Learning in CTE?

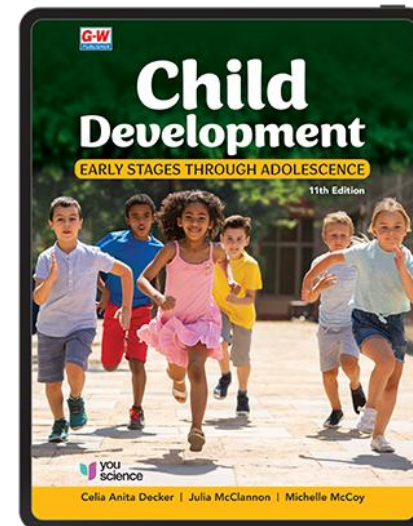
Nutrition and Wellness for Life © 2023

- Health research
- Wellness decision making



Child Development © 2028

- Observation and analysis
- Investigating developmental factors



What Is It?

An instructional approach that connects classroom learning to real people, organizations, businesses, and community issues.

What Research Says?

- Community-connected learning increases student engagement and relevance.
- Partnerships with community stakeholders help students develop career awareness, civic responsibility, and professional skills.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students collaborate with community members and stakeholders.
- Learning experiences are grounded in authentic local needs and challenges.
- Community partners serve as resources, mentors, and authentic audiences for student work.



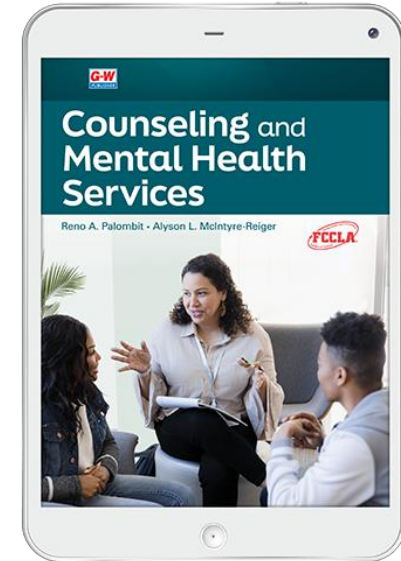
Enter in
the Chat

How have you used Community-Connected Learning in your classroom? How did that look in your program?

Where Else Can You Find Community-Connected Learning in CTE?

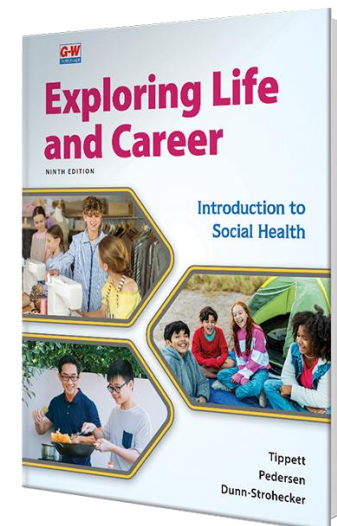
Counseling and Mental Health Services © 2026

- Community resources
- Human services pathways



Exploring Life and Career © 2028

- Community engagement
- Career networking



What Is It?

A process in which students intentionally examine their experiences, learning, growth, and future goals to deepen understanding.

What Research Says?

- Reflection promotes metacognition and helps students transfer learning to new situations.
- Students who regularly reflect demonstrate stronger self-awareness, goal-setting, and long-term learning outcomes.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students reflect on personal growth throughout the capstone process.
- Reflection helps learners connect experiences to leadership, service, and career development.
- Students evaluate both the impact of their projects and their own growth as learners.

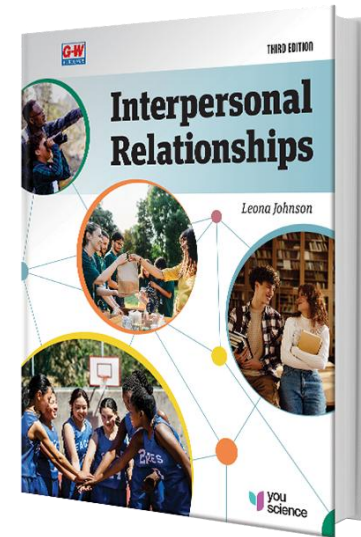


How have you used Reflection as a Learning Tool in your classroom? How did that look in your program?

Where Else Can You Find Reflection as a Learning Tool in CTE?

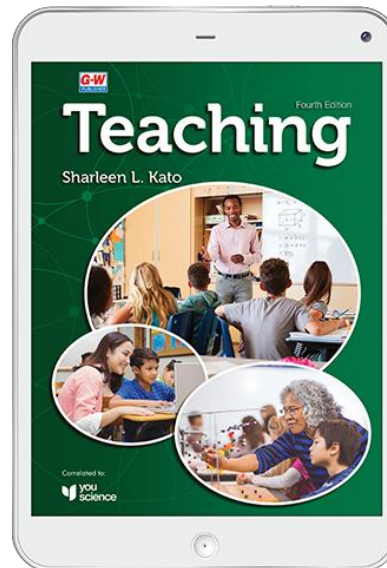
Interpersonal Relationships © 2027

- Self-concept - "How do I see and understand myself?"
- Personal growth



Teaching © 2024

- Professional reflection



What Is It?

An assessment approach that measures learning through meaningful tasks, performances, products, or demonstrations rather than relying solely on traditional tests.

What Research Says?

- Performance-based assessments provide a more accurate measure of real-world skills and application of knowledge.
- Authentic assessment increases student ownership and allows learners to demonstrate learning in multiple ways.

Where It Appears in Shawna's Capstone Project

- Students create authentic products and solutions for real audiences.
- Assessment focuses on demonstrated learning, project outcomes, collaboration, and impact.
- Students present their work to stakeholders and receive feedback from authentic audiences.

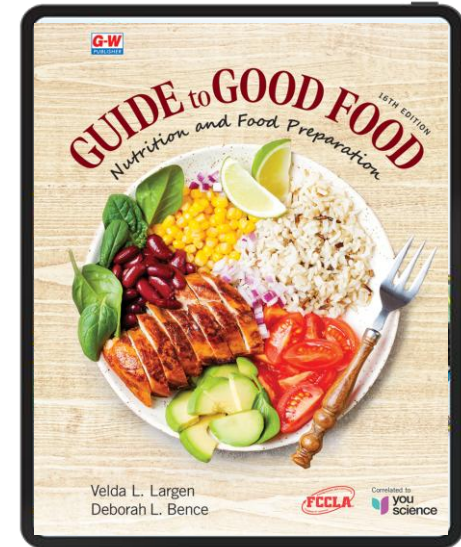


How have you used Authentic or Performance-Based Assessments in your classroom? How did that look in your program?

Where Else Can You Find Authentic/Performance-Based Assessment in CTE?

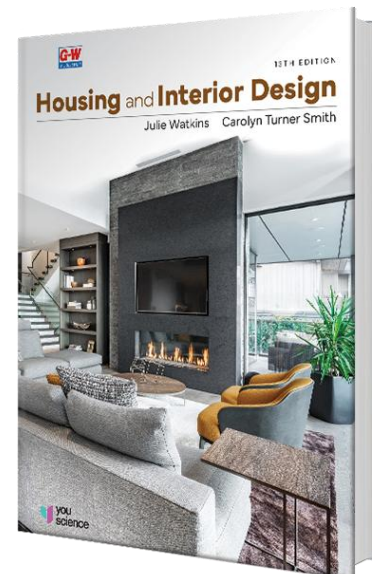
Guide to Good Food © 2025

- Food preparation demonstrations
- Performance tasks



Housing and Interior Design © 2027

- Design presentations
- Portfolio work





**Tune in to the
National Be A Teacher Day™
celebration live from the
National Press Club in
Washington, D.C., on
October 8 at 10:00 AM ET
on the
[FCCLA YouTube channel.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)**



Q & A

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