

# Thank You

My third grade students at Willow School in Pekin participated in a project called "Kids Who Create Careers". We began with an online interest survey. This guided my students to careers in whatever area they are strongest in, such as word smart, number smart, nature smart, or people smart, to name a few. They went wild with this part! We were able to purchase nonfiction materials to explore modern careers that fell into each type of learner. Then we dug into the research by coming up with essential questions for our careers. They used many sources to answer these important questions. We considered pros/cons as we went along. Students learned to make great use of technology to research as well as to display their learning. We each made display boards to show and share our learning. Above all, this project gave them the power to dream and dream big! I'm hoping it goes far beyond the amazing and successful fair we put on today, that ALL 300 of Willow's students attended. I ask my students to reflect on the big learning from their career unit and one bright child responded that it's never too early to begin thinking about your future so that you can become the best you can be at it! Another said that he walked away with the idea that "I can be ANYTHING I want to be." I'd say they "got it"!

Thank you, IRTA for making this project possible! I can't wait to do it again next year!

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Career Fair