02-08	**Start a *Lunch and Learns* at Your School**

Nepris *Lunch and Learns*

The Virtual Workplace Experience II course offers students the opportunity to engage with industry professionals via the Nepris platform to learn about the world of work, first-hand. Nepris sessions are intended to pique student interest and inspire them to learn more about the topic presented.

One way schools across Louisiana have been successful with engaging students in career readiness is through the power of *Lunch and Learns* sessions. *Lunch and Learns* enable a small group of students to gather together with a counselor, teacher, or media specialist to learn directly from an industry professional about a topic of interest.

As a matter of fact, *Lunch and Learns* mirror standard industry practices. Many companies offer their employees *Lunch and Learns* as professional development opportunities for their employees.

Here are some steps to think through when implementing your own *Lunch and Learns* program:

1. Gain support from your principal.

2. Plan in advance. Nepris industry chats are offered on an ongoing basis, and, with proper planning, session requests can be a great tool for these activities.

3. Tailor topics for different audiences. Not every student wants to pursue the same career!

4. Communicate the schedule in advance. A lunchroom calendar with sign-up is a great idea! And don't forget to send class passes/notes as a reminder.

5. Select a quiet location that supports student learning and eating.

Benefits of a *Lunch and Learns* Program include:
- A *Lunch and Learns* program provides students with an interesting alternative to a typical lunch break.
- These events will grow in popularity, especially if the topics are student-driven and self-selected.

The Bottom Line

Lunch and Learns programs offer a fun method for extending learning, inspiring students to consider high-demand careers they may have never dreamed possible.