



**Strong School & Business Partnerships**



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# Research Committee Team



**Pete Teitelman, Co-chair**

**Teresa Roig-Torres, Co-chair**

**Mary Jo Byrnes**

**Nick Heckmann**

**Greg Leader**

**Rob Ryan**

# Summary of Project:

Sycamore enjoys a wealth of businesses within our community. These businesses contribute to our schools through its tax payments. However, there exists a potential to develop a meaningful partnership with any number of business that are beneficial to both the business and the district. This would include more than the business contributing financially to the district. It should be what our district and students can contribute to our businesses and visa versa.

1. What models exist in other districts regionally and nationally that showcase exemplary school-/business partnerships?
2. What are the essential components of a mutually productive school/-business partnerships?
3. What steps were taken to develop and plan for these partnerships?

# Research Methodology

- Identified area, state and national school-business partnership examples
- Researched information about developing successful school-business partnerships
- Reviewed information about Sycamore High School internship program
- Developed and conducted survey of business and school partnerships
- Identified major employers in the Sycamore School District

# Area school and business partnerships researched:

## Regional partnership programs researched:

- Mason High School and various businesses, Experiential Learning
- Lakota Local School District and various businesses, Educational Affiliation Agreements (Job shadowing and internships)
- Ethicon and Lakota, Seven Hills and Cincinnati Public Schools, School Outreach Program
- Mason High School and Fifth Third Bank, Comet Savings and Loan
- Business and Education Connectivity Council and Cincinnati Public Schools, Career Fair/Job Shadowing/ Mock Interviewing

## Other Ohio school-business partnerships researched:

- Reynoldsburg City Schools, eSTEM Early College Academy
- Mayfield City Schools, Business Partnerships
- Parma City Schools – CBS Connects

## National school-business partnership researched:

- Los Angeles School System and Northrop Grumman, CyberPatriot Project

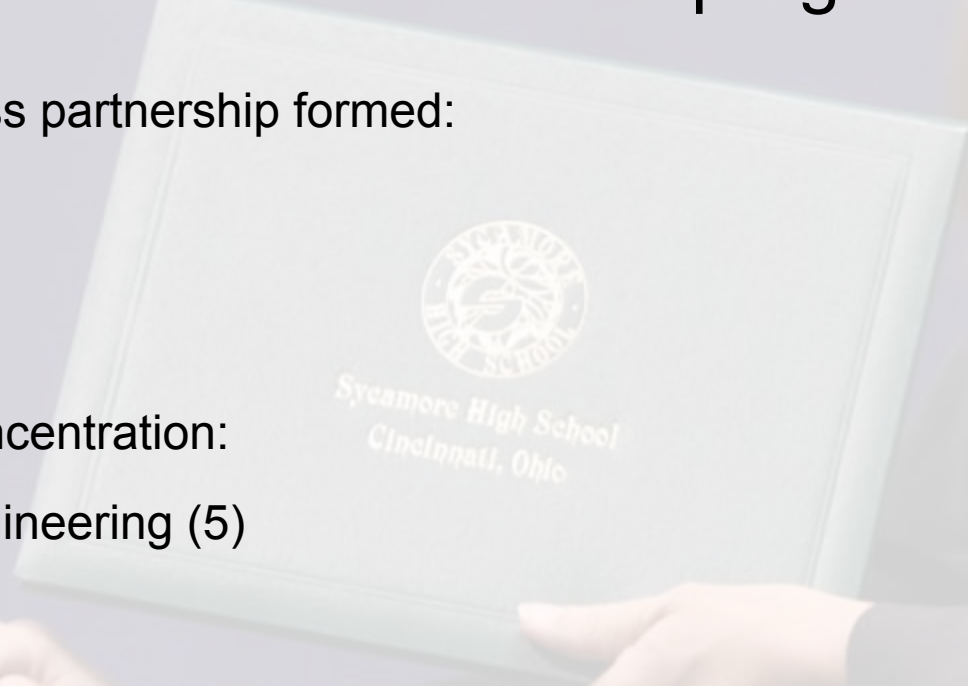
# Review of researched programs:

Year school-business partnership formed:

- 2002: 2
- 2009: 1
- 2010-2015: 6

Program area of concentration:

- Science and Engineering (5)
- Business (2)
- Arts (2)
- Coding (1)
- Physical Therapy (1)



# Survey feedback from researched programs:

Reasons cited for why partnership is productive:

- Helps career exploration and college entrance
- The partnerships bring money for the school
- Opportunity to tap into the intellectual capital of the companies
- Opportunity to attract students to their professions
- Develop skills in the students that are needed by companies
- Opportunities for internships



# Survey feedback from researched programs:

What Steps were taken to develop and plan partnership?

- 8 partnerships surveyed were initiated by school/school district
- 1 was initiated with a local chamber of commerce
- 1 was initiated by Air Force Association

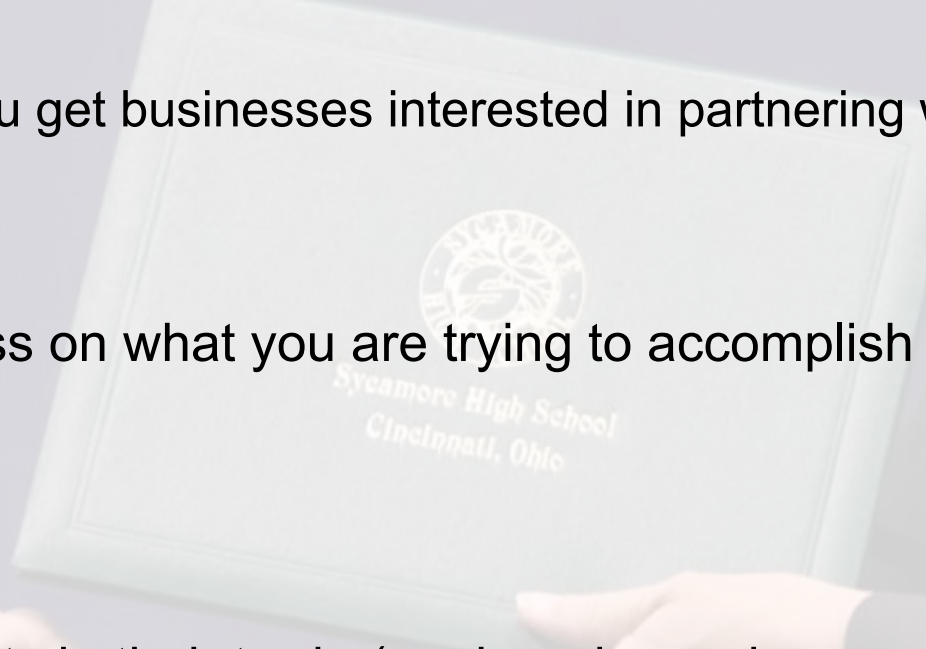
Strategies/recommendations for developing a new program:

- Networking with parents in district connected to target businesses
- Contacting companies and developing relationships with them.
- Meet with senior leadership of businesses
- Understand that it may take years to initiate a strong program

# Survey feedback from researched programs:

How did you/do you get businesses interested in partnering with your district?

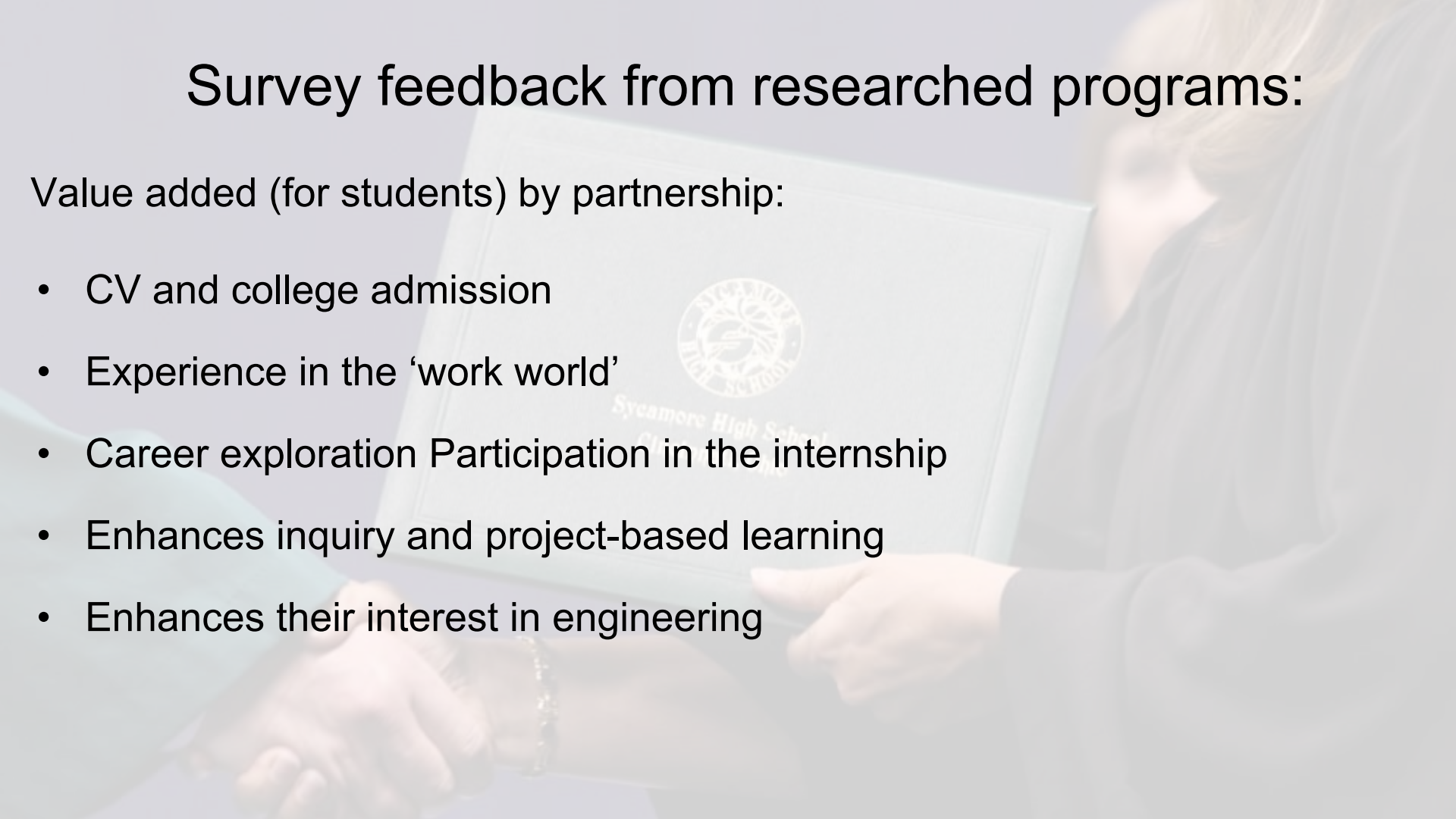
- Networking
- Selling business on what you are trying to accomplish
- Time
- Persistence
- Interest students in their trade (engineering, cyber security)



# Survey feedback from researched programs:

Value added (for students) by partnership:

- CV and college admission
- Experience in the 'work world'
- Career exploration Participation in the internship
- Enhances inquiry and project-based learning
- Enhances their interest in engineering



# Survey feedback from researched programs:

Based on your experience to date, what would you do differently or modify?

- Work more with teachers in the development of partnerships/engage them
- More of a penalty if students back out before the internship begins
- Select mentor with an interest in subject matter
- Have had most success when working with persons from businesses who are at senior leadership level (e.g., Vice President or above), not middle management.

# Takeaways from The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships, A How-To Guide for School and Business Partnerships

## Preliminary Steps in Establishing a Partnership:

- Understand your core values in developing program and how it aligns with the goals of the district
- Define short and long-range goals of partnership, including expected outcomes
- Identify potential partners and the value of a prospective partnership
- Draft a partnership proposal and submit it to your potential partner
- Construct detailed internal and external communications plans, and communicate regularly about intended and actual outcomes of all activities
- Establish a formal (and written) management structure with specific individuals assigned to manage partnerships to ensure accountability, provide quality control and monitor alignment with partnership goals
- Provide training for all involved parties
- Secure explicit support and concurrence for the partnership throughout the school and business – at the highest levels - not just with an individual within the organization
- Ensure that partners are recognized for their contribution

# Recommendations

Determine what elements will be incorporated into the program based on the district mission and needs

- Field(s) - technology, science, arts, business, health care, engineering, etc.
- Expansion of internship program
- Job shadowing/mentoring/tours and lunch orientations
- Determine opportunities for different grade levels (alignment with Aviator Flight Plan)
- Identify opportunities to include students with disabilities
- Develop a document similar to the Educational Affiliation Agreement used by Lakota Schools for new and existing partnerships

# Recommendations

Identify local businesses with whom district would like to partner:

Explore opportunities with larger employers in district:

Top ten (by number of employees) are:

Kroger

TriHealth

Vantiv (formerly Fifth Third Processing Solutions)

Ethicon

UC Blue Ash

Ohio National Financial Services

Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable)

RDI Marketing

Allegian

Wornick Foods

\* Kroger Technology Center in Blue Ash is very interested in talking with Sycamore about a program for Sycamore High School students who are interested in technology

Evaluate roster of Sycamore business connections through alumni and parents of current students

Deepen partnerships with employers currently providing internships to Sycamore High School students

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A faded, light-colored illustration of four DC superheroes: Superman on the left, Wonder Woman in the center, Robin to her right, and Batman on the far right. They are all standing and looking forward.

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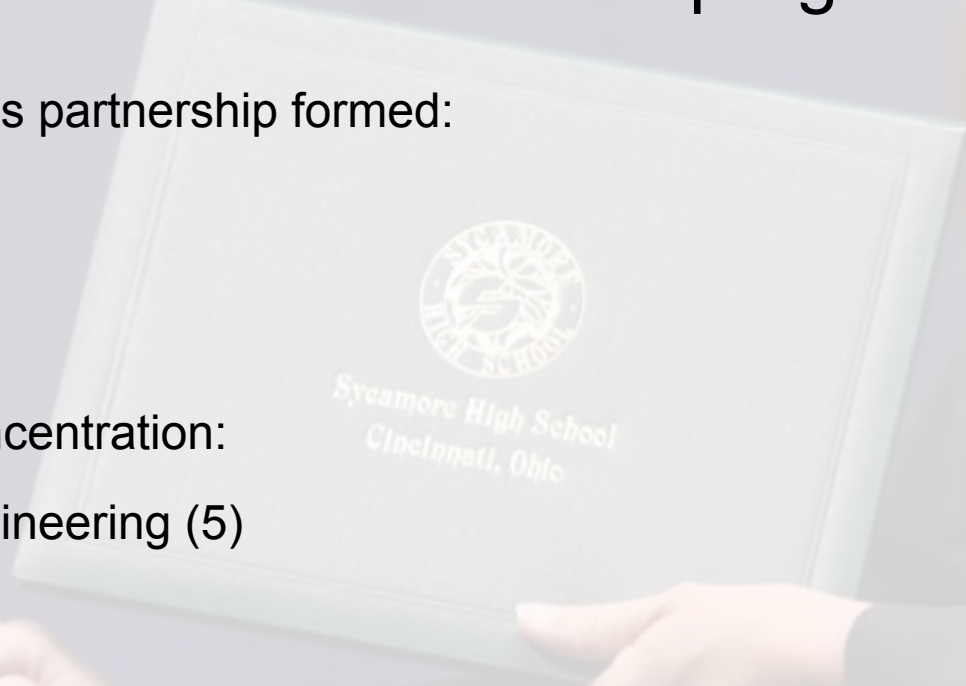
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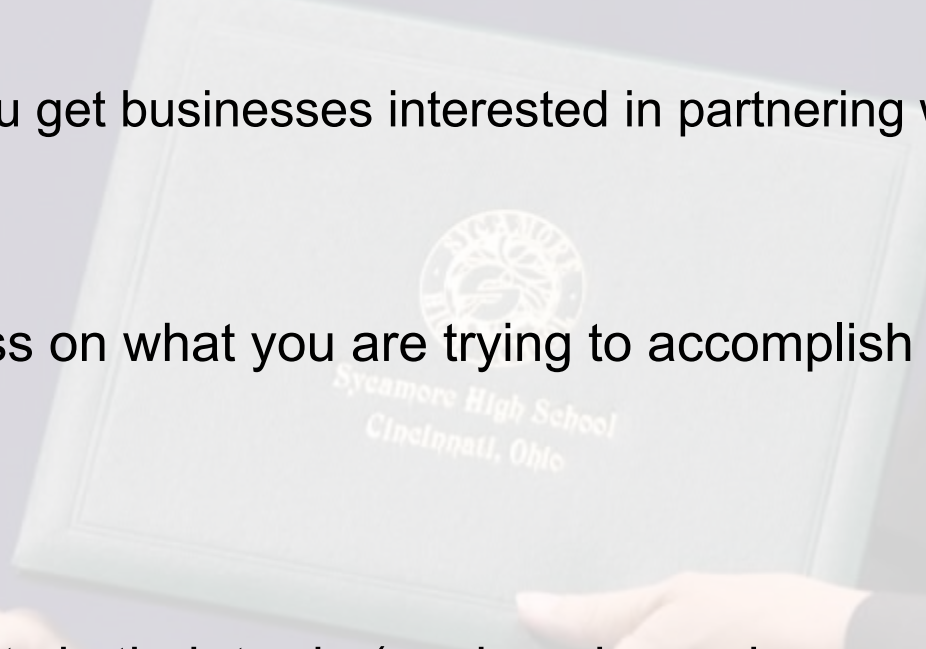
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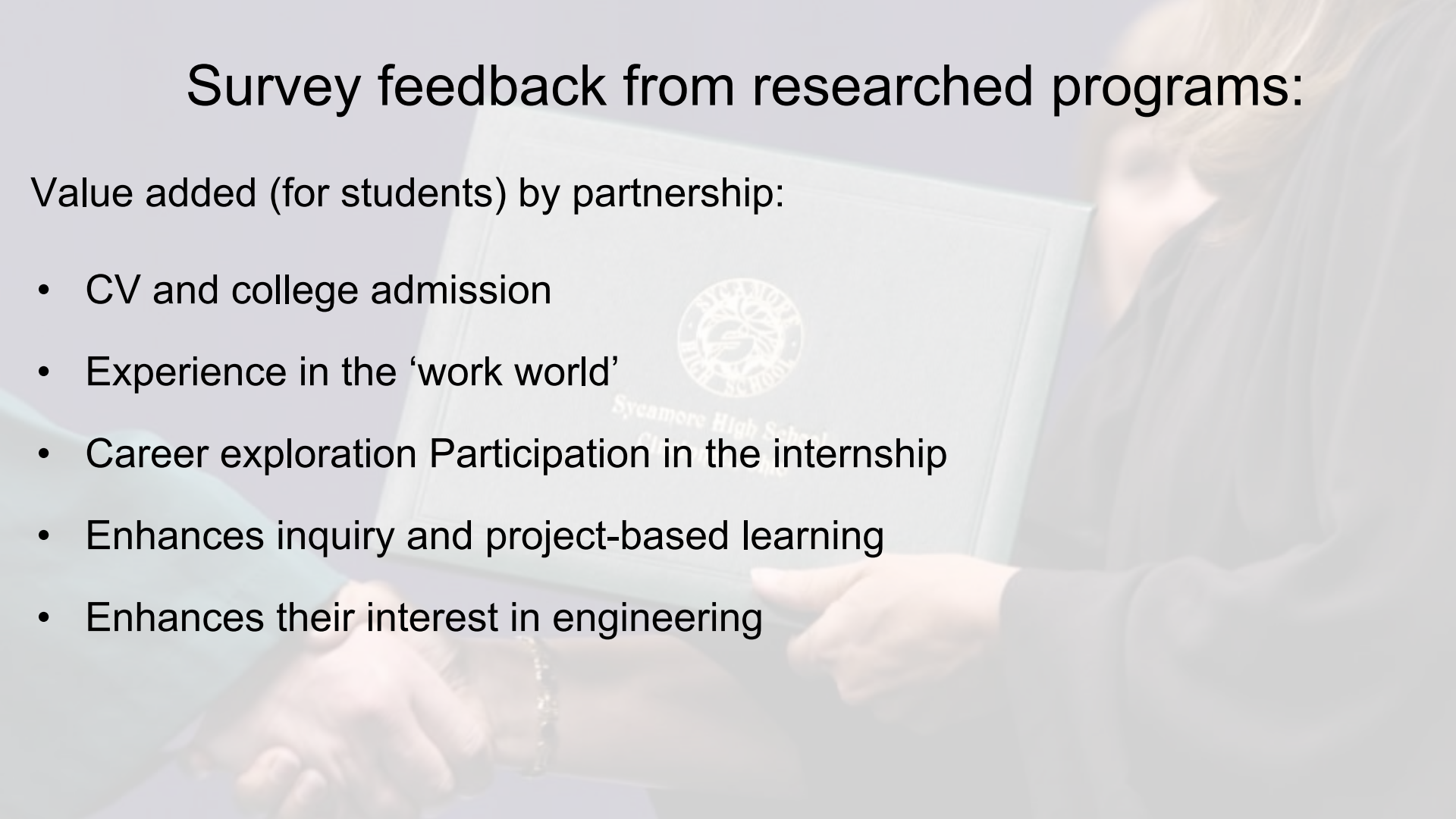
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