

# *Glassboro Education Foundation, Inc.*

Send the completed application to the attention of:

Craig Stephenson  
Beach Administration Building  
Joseph L. Bowe Blvd  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

## **A. General Information**

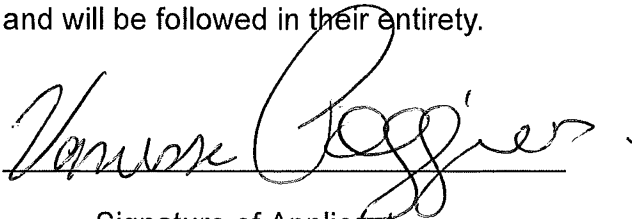
Applicant(s): Vanessa Poggioli, Allison Deschler  
School: Thomas E. Bowe Middle School  
Principal: Lauren Kerr  
Grade Level or Subject: Grade 8  
Phone: (school) 856-652-2700 x8190  
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E-mail(s): [vpoggioli@gpsd.us](mailto:vpoggioli@gpsd.us), [adeschler@gpsd.us](mailto:adeschler@gpsd.us)

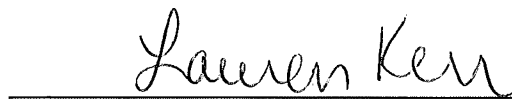
## **B. Statement of Assurances:**

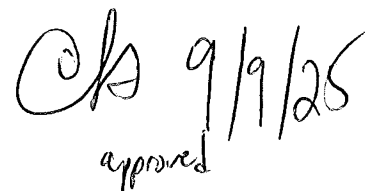
The applicant hereby assures the Glassboro Education Foundation that:

1. The applicant(s) meet(s) the eligibility criteria.
2. The activities and services for which the grant is sought will be implemented as written.
3. Any monies not expended within the school year shall revert back to the Glassboro Education Foundation, unless permission to carry it into the next school year is granted.
4. All publicity releases regarding a funded project will acknowledge the Glassboro Education Foundation and/or a particular mini-grant sponsor as the funding agency.
5. The grant recipient(s) will submit a final report summarizing the project's evaluation results.
6. The Board of Education authorizes the filing of this application.

We do hereby certify that all of the facts, figures and representations made in this application are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and that the assurances as stated above are understood and will be followed in their entirety.

  
Signature of Applicant

  
Signature of Principal

  
approved

Please note: from this page on, please **do not include your name or your school** in any of your descriptions as all applications are coded to prevent bias.

### C. Project Title and Description

Title of Project: Bulldog Ready: Intro to the Workforce

Subject Area(s): Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills

Approximate Number of Students Participating: 50

Project Starting Date: 10/1/25      Project Completion Date: 3/1/25

**Need: Describe the problem or deficiencies that exist which require the improvements described.**

Many of our students shrug when we ask what they want to be when they grow up. We have had many conversations to try to understand what barriers may be keeping our students from developing a long-range plan. From these discussions, we have noticed that a large number of 8th graders are unsure where their strengths lie, do not see how their unique talents can be used in a professional setting, or have a goal in mind without a plan. We know how much potential our students have and want to help them see it in themselves before they decide what to be involved with in high school and pursue their first jobs. This program will help students envision their future and develop the skills and knowledge they need to pursue it.

**Strategy: Briefly describe your plan to alleviate the need/problem.**

This program builds on the 8th grade Career Speaker Series, which will be in its third year this year. In the fall, we will spend 10 weeks guiding 50 students through a ten week course focused on career and soft skill readiness. As part of the program, students will take the Clifton StrengthsExplorer, which helps them identify 3 areas of strength. As teachers, we had the opportunity to take the adult version of the assessment and feel strongly that students would benefit from understanding their "top 3" and how it can apply both as a student and in the working world. Students will create resumes and practice interview skills. These lessons will support the kinds of activities and learning that are already happening in Business and AVID.

**Attachments:**

- Full Program Proposal "Bulldog Ready: An Intro to the Working World"

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YN4BO4vro0jSwzWyNzUG2Xhb48crw8HE\\_Bk1xICWPPM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YN4BO4vro0jSwzWyNzUG2Xhb48crw8HE_Bk1xICWPPM/edit?usp=sharing)

- Clifton StrengthsExplorer Sample Report

[https://www.strengths-explorer.com/file/246956/SE\\_Top3\\_SampleReport.pdf](https://www.strengths-explorer.com/file/246956/SE_Top3_SampleReport.pdf)

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D. Objectives, Activities and Evaluation Techniques (This page may be duplicated if necessary)

Objectives	Program Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Completion Date	Evaluation Techniques
<p>Our goal is to help students prepare to enter the workforce and pursue intentional activities in high school by gaining a clearer understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) local industries and job roles</li> <li>2) their personal strengths</li> <li>3) the logistics of obtaining a job including resumes, interviews, and online applications</li> <li>4) the interpersonal skills needed to be successful in the working world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 10 week career-focused training during study skills</li> <li>2) Students take Clifton StrengthsExplorer assessment and use results to develop a resume and elevator pitch</li> <li>3) Student participation in mock interviews</li> <li>4) Spring career speaker series</li> </ul>	<p>February 20th, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Student resumes created by January 2026</li> <li>2) Student survey in early February 2026</li> </ul>

# Glassboro Education Foundation Grant Application

### E. Itemized Budget

Materials/Equipment		Services		Evaluation Techniques	
<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
		Clifton StrengthsExplorer \$9.99 x 50 students			
		<b><u>Sub-total: \$499.50</u></b>		<b><u>Sub-total:</u></b>	
				<b><u>Grand Total \$499.50</u></b>	

## **Bulldog Ready: An Intro to the Working World**

Thomas E. Bowe Middle School - Vanessa Poggioli & Allison Deschler

**Background:** In 2023, we began a Lunchtime Career Speaker Series to help 8th grade students envision their future. Since then we have had over 30 community members from a variety of backgrounds share their journeys with our students.

**Goal:** In addition to inspiring students about future possibilities, we want to ensure that they have the disposition, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to enter the world of work. Students will be applying to their first jobs and choosing what to be involved in when they move on to Glassboro High School and we want to help them develop confidence and passion with this initiative. Many of these ideas were driven by participation in the South Jersey Summer Institute for Educators, which connects a cohort of educators with business leaders for three weeks of intensive tours and panel discussions in the five counties of Southern New Jersey. We hope to support the related work that is done in the Business elective, AVID, and at the high school.

### **Format:**

- 10 week fall program for two classes of 20 students, taking place during lunch/study skills from October through January. Students must apply by October 1st.
- Spring Career Speaker series, open to all 8th graders who sign up for individual sessions in advance.

### **Possible Partnerships**

Summer Institute for Educators (Slides will be edited for an 8th grade audience)

Clifton Explorer \$9.99 per student (Applying for a Glassboro Education Foundation grant)

William G. Rorher School of Business at Rowan University (reached out to partner with Entrepreneurship students for mock interviews)

### **Curriculum**

#### **Week 1:**

Identify jobs you know in our district

Look at jobs you may have missed

Given a job, use the internet to find what kind of experience is needed

What does a real job application look like?

#### **Week 2:**

What are all the jobs needed to bring a can of soup to market?

What are some roles you might be interested in? What are you not interested in?

Reflect on the type of workday you might like to have.

#### **Week 3:**

What is your professional brand?

Does how you show up and what you post match that brand?

First impressions are often in writing. What is a cover letter vs resume?

#### **Week 4:**

Resumes have to match the job and change over time.

Look at the same person's resume from middle school through career changes.

Brainstorm what skills and experience might go on your own resume.

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Week 5:

- Resume writing workshop
- AI is your assistant, not your replacement

Week 6:

- Resume editing workshop
- What do you bring to the table that is unique?
- Clifton Strengths Explorer

Week 7:

- Finalize resumes
- Describing my strengths and aspirations
- Elevator pitches

Week 8:

- Interview Skills
- Interview attire, use of technology, and speaking professionally
- Shaking hands, eye contact, and other body language skills

Week 9:

- Mock Interviews

Week 10: Time Permitting: Growth vs Fixed Mindset, Clifton Explorer, Informational Interviews, Internships, Resourcefulness, AI in the Workplace, Career Ladders, What are Benefits

## **Bulldog Ready Program Timeline**

### **August**

Create program outline for board approval

### **September**

Create student application, curriculum, and flyer for parents/students

Work on partnership with Rowan School of Business

Submit Glassboro Education Foundation Grant proposal

BTS Night: Hand out flyers to 8th grade students (Math)

Sept 15th: Talk about the program in Math 8 and Algebra classes and give out application, send video to parents/guardians

### **October**

Oct. 1st Applications due

Oct. 15 Students and families are notified (25 participants)

Oct. 22 First of 10 sessions during Study Skills (every Wednesday)

### **November through January**

Program continues for 10 weeks

## **3rd Annual 8th Grade Career Speaker Series**

### **December:**

- Create Sign Up Genius calendar for Speaker Series
- Invite speakers for the speaker series

## **Bulldog Ready: An Intro to the Working World**

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- Identify Speaker Series reps for each 8th grade homeroom and Thank You writers
- Create Google form or physical sign up sheet for students

### **January**

- Give out & collect speaker series permission slips
- Prepare thank you cards for speakers
- Invite additional speakers to invite

### **February Through May**

- Speaker series continues