

The Game of
Real
LIFE

Presentation History

The Valdosta Area *Game of Real Life* program is a workforce development presentation given by volunteer business and industry leaders to high school students. The GORL presentation addresses the importance of academic decisions and achievement and good work ethics as a foundation for job readiness and long-term career success.

Several years ago, the *Game of Real Life* presentation originated out of discussions from a Valdosta Area Economic summit through the Valdosta/Lowndes Chamber of Commerce regarding workforce development and more specifically, the academic preparedness and work ethics of area job applicants. Local employers asked Valdosta Technical College to develop a presentation for area tenth graders using real local employment statistics and hiring data. Through the support and funding resources of the Valdosta Area Tech Prep/School-to-Work grant programs, local employers, and Valdosta Technical College, the program was born. Volunteer area business professionals have now successfully presented the *Game of Real Life* to over 11,725 high school students in six counties and seven school systems the past seven years including Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, and Valdosta.

Overall feedback from students and educators concerning the *Game of Real Life* presentation content has been extremely positive and this is all largely due to the excellent support and participation from area business and industry volunteers. Valdosta Technical College has pledged to continue to support and offer the presentation to other areas of Georgia and provide training or any technical assistance required to guarantee the successful implementation of this workforce development opportunity.

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