

# Business Executives - Volunteer 30 Minutes

*Share your applied professional knowledge for the benefit of students*



**WE TRANSFORM PERSONAL INTERVIEWS INTO TEACHING  
AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

# The Open Source Teaching Project

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**The Purpose:** To provide students with a real-world perspective of both the opportunities and demands for being successful in today's economy.

**The Request:** Volunteer for a 30- to 45- minute onsite interview.

**The Audience:** Students, ranging from the middle school to both 2- and 4-year colleges.

- Share the kind of information you wish you would have heard from executives in your current position as you were making both academic and career decisions.
- *All interviews remain the sole property of the participant and will not be posted on any website of Sage Leadership Partners, Inc., without a review of the final interview edits by the participant and the express written consent of each participant. Sage Leadership Partners, Inc. will professionally edit and digitally archive all captured interviews.*

**The Project:** To provide a local, regional, and national destination for individuals to share real-world applied knowledge for the benefit of students. This destination will be on-demand and online, maximizing the emerging tools of a knowledge-based economy.



*These are the exact interview questions.  
Interviews will last 30 to 45 minutes.  
Only digital audio will be used.*

1. Could you begin by stating your name, your role, and providing a general introduction related to the focus of your work and your business?
2. How long have you been an executive? What type of community do you primarily serve local, regional, national? Where is your “hottest” business market?
3. What kind of education or training (*both formal and informal*) did you undergo on your way to becoming a successful professional? What advice do you have for students who might be interested in your specific field?
4. What do you think are one or two things that students might find surprising about being an executive, things that even surprised you?
5. Could you share with students one particular project you are working on for your business that you are particularly proud of? Why is this project important for your work and the focus of your business?
6. What are the specific qualities and skills that you look for when hiring an employee (whether they are entry level or a managerial)? What advice would you have for students in relationship to focusing on and developing these skills?
7. What are some things you have learned about successfully managing or working with various kinds of people, customers, clients, and/or partnerships? What message do you have for students in relationship to working with people?



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8. What are some specific skills that you use everyday that you feel all students should know are essential to succeeding in the workforce? Could you provide a single specific example of how you used such skills in working on a recent project or with a specific customer?
9. Could you share a particular business success that might not seem like a “big deal” to the outside observer but is indeed a very important “win” for your business?
10. What are some actions that you are currently taking to continue to improve the quality of product, service, marketing, and/or outreach related to your customers?
11. Did you always envision that you would be a business executive? Could you talk about one or two specific events that helped you make this decision?
12. When you look back upon when you were trying to make a career decision, do you have any parting words of advice for students that you wish someone in your position had told you?



The Open Source Teaching Project  
Sign Up Sheet

Yes, I would like to sign up for a 30 to 45 minute on-site interview in support of The Open Source Teaching Project. Feel free to contact me to schedule a time that is most convenient, based on my professional schedule. *Type directly into all of the text fields below.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Date(s) & Time(s) for an Onsite Interview, National  
(3 to 4 weeks advanced notice is preferred)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: [volunteer@opensourceteaching.org](mailto:volunteer@opensourceteaching.org)

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