



CELEBRATING  
THE BTE STORY:

25 YEARS,  
25 LESSONS

Bridge to  
Employment  
Johnson & Johnson

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Celebrating the BTE Story: 25 Years, 25 Lessons distills BTE's 25 years of experience into words of wisdom from those who have been there and done the work. Here we share one of those lessons.

## LESSON 17

# Expose Students to a Range of Possible Careers and Reveal the Road to a Role Model

Employment in the healthcare field doesn't necessarily mean being a doctor. Students are often pleasantly surprised at the breadth of professional opportunities within local operating companies; surprised students are engaged students.

As community BTE programs recruit employee volunteers and plan student activities, FHI 360 encourages local partners to consider how they can involve Johnson & Johnson employees with diverse roles in the company and how to convey the variety of healthcare careers to BTE students. Programs give students opportunities to learn about and experience a whole range of professions within healthcare and practice their individual skills in different capacities. Students may be surprised that something they enjoy doing can apply across many different career paths. BTE can help open their minds to the whole universe of potential careers available to them.

Just as students can benefit from learning about the array of healthcare careers available, they have much to gain from hearing about pathways into those careers. Students love to hear from professionals with backgrounds similar to their

own. FHI 360 encourages employee volunteers to tell their own stories about where they came from and how they got to where they are now... especially if the path has not always been smooth. The program lets students know that there is no singular path to success, and that their circumstances and challenges now will contribute to their professional journey.

Sharing their own stories deepens connections between employee volunteers and students. Students look up to and learn from their BTE career coaches and, if the relationship is strong, they will lean on them for help and advice. If it's appropriate within a given community, local partners consider avenues for communication outside of formal BTE gatherings by having students and volunteers share contact information with each other. Strong relationships with BTE career coaches can and do last for years after students graduate from BTE.