**WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (WBLE) DEVELOPMENT (1009X):** Once the student has completed the series of Workplace Readiness Training, Intandem staff will work with the students to help them learn about the variety of work opportunities to assist them with their career paths in an integrated employment environment. Intandem staff will assist in engaging the students in exploring the community job opportunities through job shadowing, informational and mentoring experiences. These experiences may be in the school setting or in the communities of both Cattaraugus and Niagara counties. These opportunities may be provided throughout the year to include evenings and weekends with the availability of staff as needed.

The following activities and topics may be explored with students to provide them with the best educational experience for their future employment opportunities:

* ***Workplace tours/field trips***- Our job developer will work on securing a specific date and time to visit a job site. We will provide students with transportation to businesses of interest to offer the student more detailed information on the type of work and general everyday activity.
* ***Job shadowing***- For students who show an interest in learning more about a specific job, our job developer will arrange for a student(s) to closely observe and follow an employee at a desired job site. Intandem staff will accompany the student(s) and provide them with guidance on asking questions, taking notes and making sure it is a productive learning experience.
* ***Informational interviews***- Intandem staff may match the student up with a person working in the career/business of interest. Prior to attending the interview, Intandem staff will work with the student(s) to come up with a list of questions to help the student gain knowledge about the business to include, the number of employees, skills needed for the job, opportunity for growth etc.
* ***Paid or non-paid internships*** – We will have learned a lot about the student’s interests and abilities through the Workplace Readiness Training. For students interested in learning more about a job through hands on experiences, our job developer will work closely with each student to match them to the job opportunity within their interests and abilities. This opportunity may be a paid or non-paid experience but will help the student develop their skills in the chosen profession. Intandem staff will assist the student with learning about the length of the experience, number of weekly hours and transportation needs to help make this a successful placement. Paid internships will be paid at no less than minimum wage.
* ***Volunteering*** – Intandem staff may suggest this option to individuals who are not ready for a paid experience but want to learn and enhance the basic skills of communication, time

management, problem solving and leadership. Staff will work with matching the student to a volunteer opportunity within their interests and abilities.

 At the conclusion of any of these activities, we will work with the student on finding a suitable placement based on their interests, location, transportation needs, abilities and natural supports. It is important to identify the areas that will be the best match for the student as well as the potential jobs to be a suitable match.