

THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE

All across America tens of thousands of companies are involved in public-private partnerships with local schools. Dissatisfied with the knowledge and skills of young people entering the workforce, employers are trying to fix the problem at its source—the classroom.

Companies have been spending millions in the workplace annually, not for on-the-job technical training, but for remedial efforts to bring basic literacy skills to a level where new employees will be *capable* of job-specific training. Now, they are shifting some of those dollars to the schools themselves to underwrite teacher training, curriculum improvements, computers and other classroom learning tools.

And they're giving of themselves as well. Thousands of employees help out in the schools as volunteers—tutoring kids, assisting teachers, designing and running after-school programs that enrich the lives as well as the minds of our children.

They're finding out it works, And they're finding out it's not enough.

I met recently in Los Angeles with a business executive working with high school kids. Through the school partnership of a large bank. He told me about their success in improving Math and literacy skills through after-school and weekend programs that led to job Opportunities at the bank for the majority of their students.

But there was a problem.

The kids really could do the work. But they didn't always show up for work, And when they did, often they were late. They didn't cooperate well with others. They lacked a strong work ethic and a sense of accountability. Some were just not honest or reliable.

The kids taught the business executive a lesson—one that he knew, but had forgotten:

success in the workplace is not just a matter of skill, it's a matter of other companies and thousands of teachers and students too

Next year, we'll be helping that executive prepare kids for success by teaching them about ethics in the American workplace. And we'll be helping hundreds of other companies and thousands of teachers and students, too.

If you're a teacher or principal or serving as a volunteer in partnership with a local school, and you want to help kids develop the character for success, write us at the Ethics Resource Center or Call us at 1-800-777-1285.