

Career & Transfer Center Presents

# Career Skills Challenge

End of Year Recap & Showcase

# 56

**Total Participants**

# 100%

**Would recommend the Career Skills Challenge to a Peer**

### **Student Feedback Highlights:**

*“Putting life skills into a game format allows for practical application of those skills in a way that solidifies the memory of such.”*

*“It was fun to work with someone I didn’t know”*

*“I practiced phone calls, I have a lot of difficulty with them and I realized that scripting phone calls before I make them is very helpful to me as an autistic person.”*

# Career Skills Challenge #1



## Zombie Apocalypse Challenge

**Tues. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> | 1-2:30pm  
@ Student Union**

You have officially been appointed to the Zombie Apocalypse Survival Council-- can your team survive... and THRIVE? This isn't just a game—it's a crash course in leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork under pressure.

## Example Scenario:

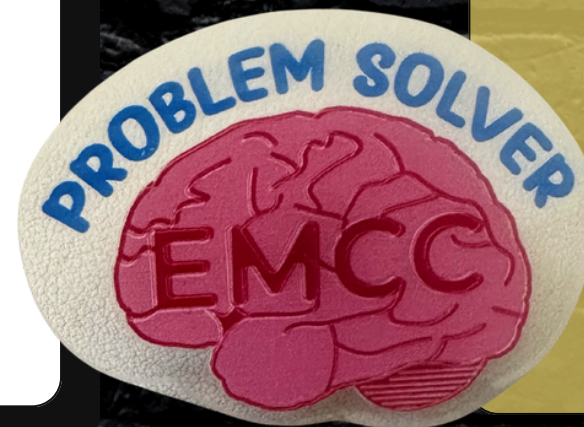
**Shelter & Logistics Crisis:** Your current shelter is unsafe — there are cracks in the walls and a threat of intruders.

**You must decide:** Do you stay and reinforce it, relocate, or split the group into smaller safe zones?

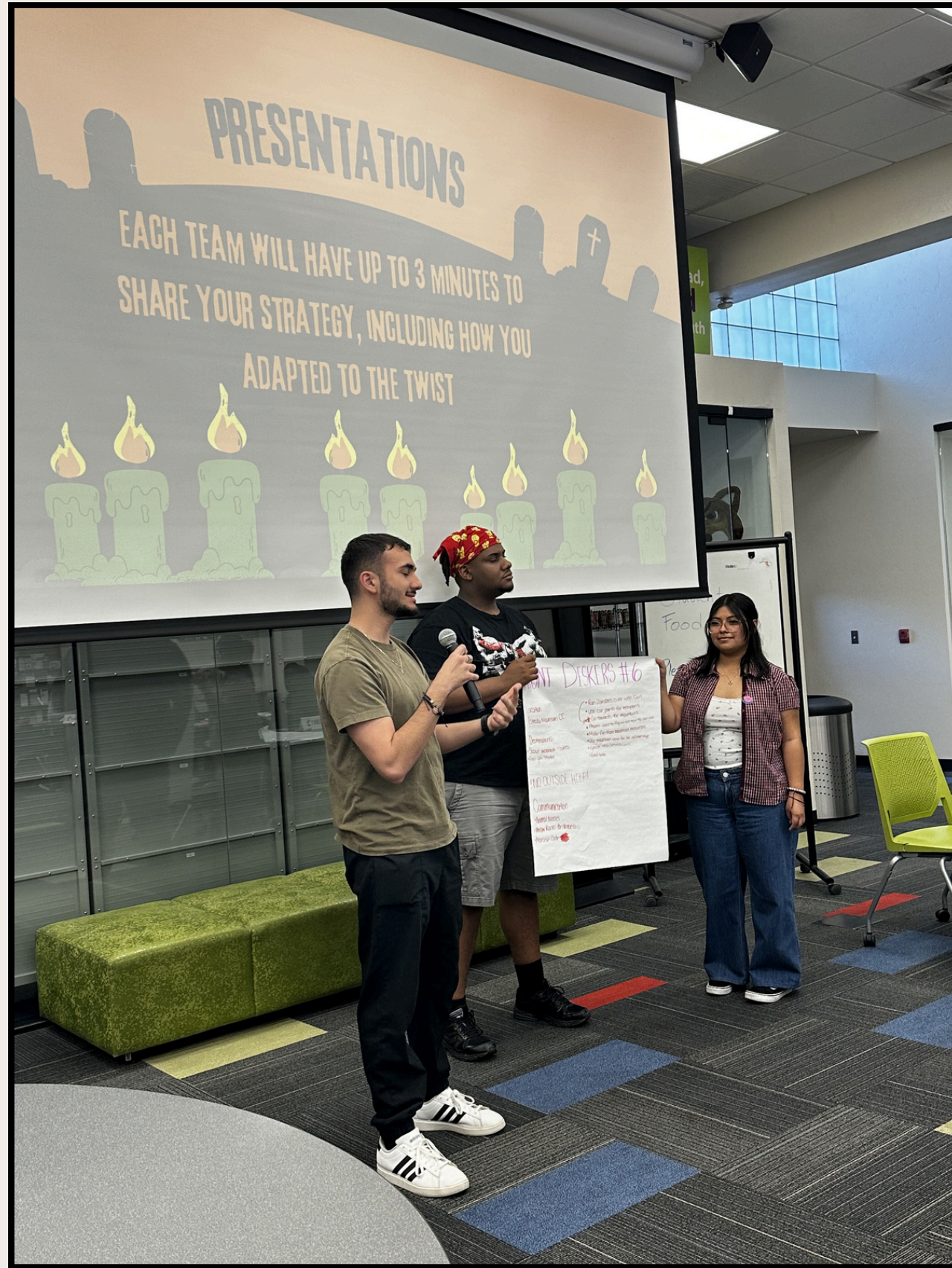
### Mid Challenge Twist:

A fire breaks out in part of the shelter, forcing an evacuation decision.

**At the same time, a sudden storm is making travel extremely dangerous if you choose to relocate.**



**Prize pin made in the Makerspace**



**Pictured: Team Presentations**

## Career Skills Challenge #2



### **The Office Escape Room** **Thurs. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> | 1-2:30pm** **@ Student Union**

Welcome to your first day on the job... you're locked in. Only teamwork, clear communication, and quick thinking will get you out. It's part escape room, part workplace training—100% fun.

### Tasks:

1. **Team JigSaw Puzzle**
2. **Write a Professional Email**
3. **Follow Up Phone Call with Client**
4. **Budgeting and Excel Spreadsheet Data Entry**
5. **Solve a Word Scramble Puzzle**
6. **Draw a picture without a team member seeing it-- using communication only**
7. **Final Clue Word Scramble**



**Prize pin made in the Makerspace**



**Pictured: Team working professional phone etiquette**



**Pictured: Participants at second challenge**



**Pictured: Team working on sending a professional email**

## Career Skills Challenge #3



### Campus Chaos Busters Mon. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> | 1-2:30pm @ Student Union

You and your team will pitch creative solutions to outrageous (but maybe not that unrealistic) campus problems to a panel of “sharks.” Think fast, present with confidence, and sell your idea like a pro.

### Example Scenario:

**The Event That Only Exists on Instagram  
Chaos Scenario:**

A major campus event has 600 likes, 300 story reposts... and 11 people in attendance.

**Underlying Issue:**

Engagement vs. awareness gap / marketing strategy effectiveness

**Team Pitch Instructions:**

**Creative Hook**

**Explain the deeper issue.**

- **Two Solutions:**
  - **Bold/Creative Version** (dream big)
  - **Realistic Pilot Version** (what could actually happen)
- **AND include:**
  - **Who benefits?**
  - **What stakeholders are involved?**
  - **What barriers might exist?**
  - **How would success be measured?**



**Prize pin made in the Makerspace**

## Pictured: Example Student Worksheet



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Welcome to *Campus Chaos Busters* — where you are now officially hired to fix the most outrageous problems on campus. The catch? You'll pitch your solution to a panel of Sharks who may invest in your idea... or tear it apart.

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### Part 1: The Hook

Describe the exaggerated crisis dramatically. If this chaos continued for a semester, what would happen?

### Part 2: Decode the Real Student Issues

What real student experience issue is underneath this scenario (ex: Is your scenario really a campus space issue or a mental health challenge?) Why does this issue matter for student success? Who is most impacted by this?

### Part 3: Your Pitch

Combine all your experiences as a student to draft creative solutions to the problem above!

<b>The Bold Solution</b> Yes, this can totally be unrealistic! If budget and policy weren't barriers, what solution would you build?	
<b>The Realistic Solution</b> Okay, let's make it realistic now... What is a small-scale version that could realistically be tested or piloted? What's the timeline? Who would lead it? What does it involve?	

### Part 4: Stakeholder Mapping

Who must be involved on campus in order to make this happen? Who might resist this idea and why? How do you earn their buy-in?

- Facilities
- IT
- Student Life
- Marketing
- Faculty
- Student Services (Advisement, Career Services, etc)
- Finance
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 5: Measuring Success

How would you know this worked? What data would you need to collect?