

# High School Career Pathways Initiative

*High School Career Pathways Initiative promote multiple pathways to success and offers new and exciting possibilities for students at all levels. As these Initiative are implemented students will have the opportunity to earn college level credits or a certificate at partner schools in areas such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare and computer science, all growing sectors in our economy.*



The High School Career Pathways Initiative promotes multiple pathways to success by offering new and exciting possibilities for students. Through *Career Pathways*, additional program offerings will serve to meet the needs of a diverse student body in our schools.

The first goal is to establish a learning center for students with special educational needs. By creating a personalized learning plan for students, we can utilize traditional and blended learning to provide a customized, adaptive and responsive educational program. This will allow students to participate in traditional classes when appropriate and supplement learning with web based or software programs.

Additionally, we created distance learning classrooms so that diocesan high schools can collaborate and offer additional courses across the diocese. This ensures greater utilization of resources and allows our high schools to offer advanced classes to 8th graders.

A pilot program for Kolbe Cathedral High School students was launched in January 2018. Sponsored by an anonymous donor, 11 students participated in an Advanced Manufacturing certificate program at Housatonic Community College. Five of five seniors participating enrolled after graduation.

In development with one of our partner universities, high school students can attend college level courses in computer science, one of the fastest growing career fields in the area. During junior and senior years, students will take courses such as web design, coding, data management, and other similar courses as part of a program that would grant them college credit in computer science.

Another high need field is healthcare. The Office of School Superintendent is currently working to confirm and launch a pilot program, where upon completion, participants will receive college level credit and certification as a nurse's assistant. The outcomes we anticipate from this pilot program include the following:

- broadened opportunities with augmented programs
- more focused engagement by students with enhanced hands on experience
- a clear and well defined path to a reliable vocation in rapidly growing sectors
- improved earnings potential

With the expansion of this program to other schools and in other specialties, not only will students graduate and immediately be employable, but they will have the foundation for more advanced degrees in the field. These types of programs will allow our schools to be more competitive and, more importantly, provide practical experience and training for future careers.