

## Choffin Career & Technical Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

*Tech center honored for establishing a culture of continuous improvement*

June 30, 2020 — Choffin Career & Technical Center in Youngstown, Ohio, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Education Board. Choffin Career Center will be honored on July 6, 2021, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

Choffin Career Center implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. In the 2017 school year, new school administrators accepted the challenge to turn around the struggling center in three years. They targeted three goals: Ensure students graduate on time, earn industry credentials and are prepared for careers and college.

Widespread behavioral issues impeded student success, prompting the center to first focus on getting discipline under control. Administrators reimaged in-school suspensions with an intervention-based approach called Career & College Readiness Intervention. The focus was on empowering students to make good choices, providing social support and teaching employability skills.

In addition, administrators established high expectations, raised standards and held every teacher accountable to support student success. They also connected students to workplace opportunities.

After several months, students started passing end-of-course assessments and achieving credentials. In Year 1 of the journey, Choffin earned a B on the state report card. Student industry credential attainment went from 0% to 87%. The center's student success coaches created a graduation plan for each student and that paid off, too. The graduation rate rose in Year 1 from 86% to 97%.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at [sreb.org](http://sreb.org).*

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