

Mid-America Technology Center Wins Pacesetter Award

Technology center honored for establishing systems and processes that support a culture of continuous improvement and high expectations

July 10, 2019 — Mid-America Technology Center in Wayne, Oklahoma, is the winner of a 2019 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. MATC was honored at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference on July 10 in Baltimore, Maryland.

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 or careers, and credential attainment.

Using strategies learned at previous summer conferences and SREB's Technology Centers That Work school improvement framework, MATC faculty pinpointed areas for improvement. Low attendance was identified as an opportunity for growth. MATC found that teachers who taught new content every day had higher attendance. Classes were held with uninterrupted teaching time that was free of competing activities. Faculty built stronger relationships with parents, leading to a decrease in absenteeism.

To successfully combat low retention between first- and second-year enrollment, Mid-America enrolled students in classes based on their career interests instead of on a first-come, first-served basis. The center added new processes for academic probation, special education and soft skills development, and adopted new career pathways.

The Making School Work Conference brings together educators from schools that are implementing the instructional strategies of SREB's school improvement programs. These schools have increased their focus on quality career and technical education by redesigning assignments around projects that integrate academic and technical knowledge and skills.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve public education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org.

SREB media contact: Beth.Day@SREB.org, (404)879-5544 or (770) 315-2041