

Mid-America Technology Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

Center honored for establishing systems that support a culture of continuous improvement

June 30, 2020 — Mid-America Technology Center in Wayne, Oklahoma, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board for [the second year in a row](#). Mid-America 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.

Mid-America Technology Center implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. In 2019, Mid-America implemented real-life work-based education that prepares students for successful careers in their chosen pathways in 100% of its programs.

Students are embedded in companies and organizations within the center, where they complete six hours of real-life, work-based education per semester. Students gain hands-on experience, learn new technical skills, solve real-world problems and collaborate with industry professionals, all while being supervised by a real employer.

Each of Mid-America's 30 full-time programs of study has an industry-specific advisory board that provides guidance on work-based education, internships and student job opportunities. The board works with instructors who place students in appropriate work-based education opportunities.

Education-industry relationships are mutually beneficial. Mid-America students gain real-life experience, and industry partners have an opportunity to influence the future of their industry's professionals. Students also have opportunities to complete on-the-job interviews.

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.

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