

Nicholas County Career and Technical Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

Center honored for ensuring each student has access to high-quality career pathways

June 30, 2020 — Nicholas County Career and Technical Center in Craigsville, West Virginia, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board for [the second year in a row](#). NCCTC 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.

NCCTC implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. After several years of declining enrollments, in 2017-18, NCCTC successfully put in place strategies to increase awareness of its high-quality career and technical education programs and overcome misperceptions about the value of CTE.

After meeting a 2018-19 goal to market its programs to more students, NCCTC increased its enrollment by 44% and set new targets for the next two years. For 2019-20, NCCTC focused on increasing awareness of its CTE programs among teachers, counselors and principals. The center also created a STEM Academy to provide a rigorous and exciting hands-on experience for eighth graders. Enrollment at NCCTC increased an additional 44% over the previous year. The focus for 2021-22 is to increase exposure among area business and industry partners.

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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