

Hueytown High School Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

School honored for its commitment to continuous improvement and career pathways

June 30, 2020 — Hueytown High School in Hueytown, Alabama, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. The school 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.

HHS implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools. In 2016, HHS evaluated its staff and program offerings and realized that while many students were motivated to go to college, the school needed to do a better job of helping them become college ready.

Through a collaborative effort with multiple stakeholders, including the Jefferson County School System's director of career and technical education, and with support from SREB, Hueytown High School made changes to expand its in-demand CTE offerings from three career pathway programs in 2016 to eight in 2019. The school's new pathway programs are automotive technology, health science, hospitality and tourism, engineering, cosmetology, advertising and design, Microsoft Academy and law.

As early as the middle grades, HHS advises students and their families about career program offerings and helps them develop individualized learning plans. Partnerships with postsecondary community colleges, business and industry, and advisory councils provide valuable guidance to ensure CTE pathways meet industry standards and increase credential-earning opportunities. The number of credentials earned by students has increased from 12 to 162.

Hueytown High School employs a school improvement plan that involves school and community partnerships, reviews of achievement data, professional development and professional learning communities for faculty and staff, and common planning days. The school also uses the Alabama Continuous Improvement Plan to collect, organize and carry out school improvement initiatives.

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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