

Northland Career Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

Center honored for engaging students through quality, standards-based instruction

June 30, 2020 — Northland Career Center in Platte City, Missouri, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board for the [third year in a row](#). Northland 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.

Northland Career Center implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. NCC offers simulated workplace practices in all of its career pathway programs. Real-world workplace experiences for students include developing resumes and portfolios, participating in mock interviews, clocking in and out, learning 5S work environment expectations, working in teams, taking leadership roles and dressing appropriately for their program field.

NCC prepares students for success through engaging, relevant instruction and by providing meaningful internships and work-based learning experiences. In the past eight years, the center has increased its related placement of graduates from 55% to 68%; increased enrollment by 72%, from 249 to 428 students; and increased pass rates on technical skills assessments from 52% to 86%. In 2018-19, 151 students earned industry-recognized credentials and 81 seniors graduated with college credit.

NCC has also reconfigured its approach to professional development, allowing teachers to choose two of their areas for development and help select additional topics for learning through surveys. This approach has yielded big dividends on staff satisfaction surveys. More NCC instructors are now collaborating on cross-program lessons, projects and field trips that provide relevant, engaging instruction.

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.

SREB media contact: Alan.Richard@SREB.org, (404) 879-5528.