

Pickens County Career & Technology Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

Center honored for ensuring students receive support to graduate college and career ready

June 30, 2020 — Pickens County Career & Technology Center in Liberty, South Carolina, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. Pickens County CTC 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.

Pickens County CTC implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. The center offers nearly two dozen CTE programs of study and collaborates with business and industry partners to learn how to best prepare students for the workforce through relevant instruction and hands-on learning.

Pickens County CTC engages students through its work-based learning program, which offers a sequence of workplace experiences that align with students' career interests and allow them to apply what they learn in the classroom in a real-world business environment. Dozens of industry partners have employed Pickens County CTC students in work-based learning opportunities like internships and apprenticeships.

In 2018-19, 110 students at Pickens County CTC completed work-based learning experiences. Students are encouraged to hone their public speaking skills by sharing their experiences at meetings of the center's advisory board, the local school board and other organizations. Student successes are also celebrated on social media and at Youth Apprenticeship Signing Days.

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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