

Sumter Career and Technology Center Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

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

June 30, 2020 — Sumter Career and Technology Center in Sumter, South Carolina, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. SCTC 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.

SCTC implements [Technology Centers That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for technology centers. The center offers over 30 up-to-date industry certifications in 11 career pathways, including SREB's [Advanced Career Aerospace Engineering](#) program, automotive technology and early childhood education. In 2018-19, 55 students earned at least one industry certification, and four students earned 10 certifications.

SCTC is planning Sumter School District's first gaming and esports club for 2020-21. The gaming club will provide an alternative to traditional high school sports clubs and has a cognitive benefit. SCTC found research indicating esports players score higher than other athletes on the math section of college admissions tests; they also may be more likely to pursue STEM careers.

To promote shared responsibility for improving and learning among teachers and leaders at the center, Sumter provides tailored professional development that includes [SREB's Teaching to Lead](#) training, employability soft skills training and faculty discussions of student and teacher survey data and other qualitative and quantitative data. Time for professional development is embedded in teachers' schedules along with a common period in which teachers can collaborate on lesson plans and standards.

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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