



INDIANA CAREER READINESS CONFERENCE

2026 BRIDGING CLASSROOM TO CAREER



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WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL INDIANA CAREER READINESS CONFERENCE

A Message from Inspire Success

Welcome to the second annual Indiana Career Readiness Conference!

We are so glad you are here. It is a joy to welcome back our PCC teachers and Career Coaches, while also welcoming School Counselors, Work-Based Learning educators, Administrators, CTE Leaders, and many others who share a passion for helping students build bright futures.

We hope today leaves you encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas you can put into action right away. Our presenters have generously shared their time and expertise because they believe in the life changing work you do every day, as do we.

We encourage you to explore the PCC Resource Network, created and recently revised to support Indiana's Preparing for College and Careers teachers with ready to use lessons, professional learning, parent engagement resources, student assessments, and more. Whether you are just getting started or have taught PCC for years, the network is here to help you succeed. Find out more at inspiresuccess.org. And while you're there, check out all the ways Inspire Success helps schools and communities create better opportunities for students to succeed in school, careers, and life.

Thank you for investing in students. We are honored to partner with you. Today and every day.

With appreciation,

Aimee Portteus
Executive Director

Learn more about Inspire Success and the PCC Resource Network



CONFERENCE FEEDBACK AND PGPs

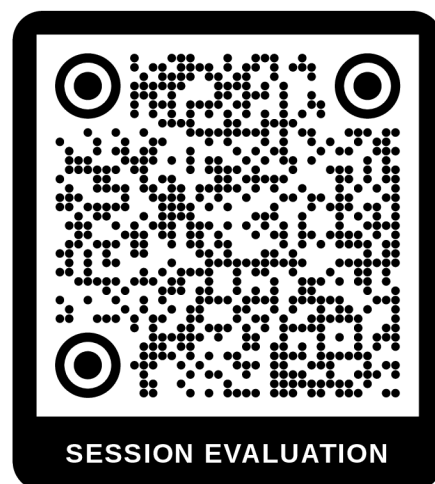
Thank you for joining us at the Indiana Career Readiness Conference! We hope you leave with new ideas, valuable connections, and practical strategies to help students succeed.

Looking to Earn Professional Growth Points (PGPs)? PGPs are available for conference participants. To receive your documentation, simply complete the conference evaluation below.

Even if you are not seeking PGPs, your feedback will help us make next year's conference even better. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation by visiting

<https://inspiresuccess.org/evaluation>

You can also open the evaluation form by scanning the QR code.



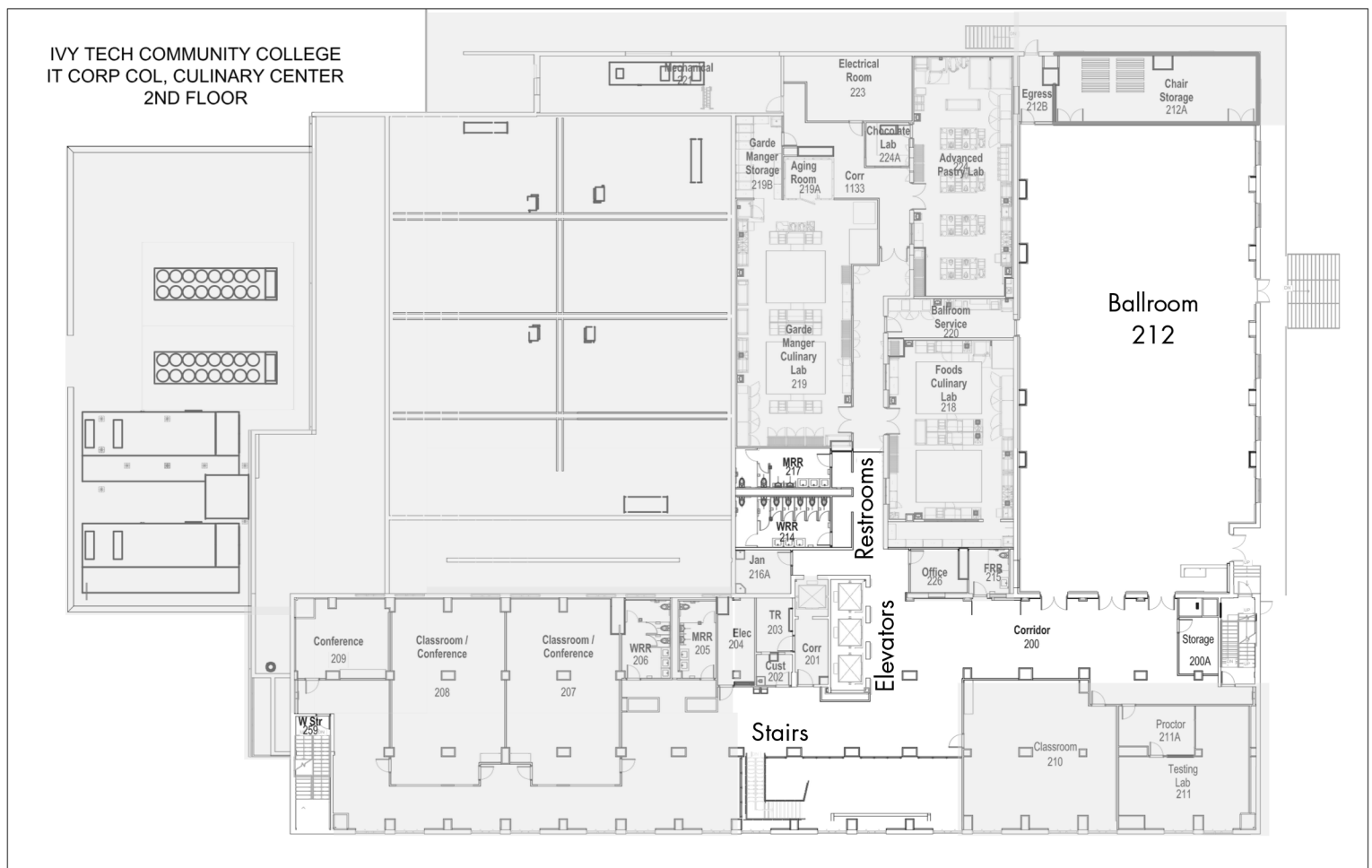
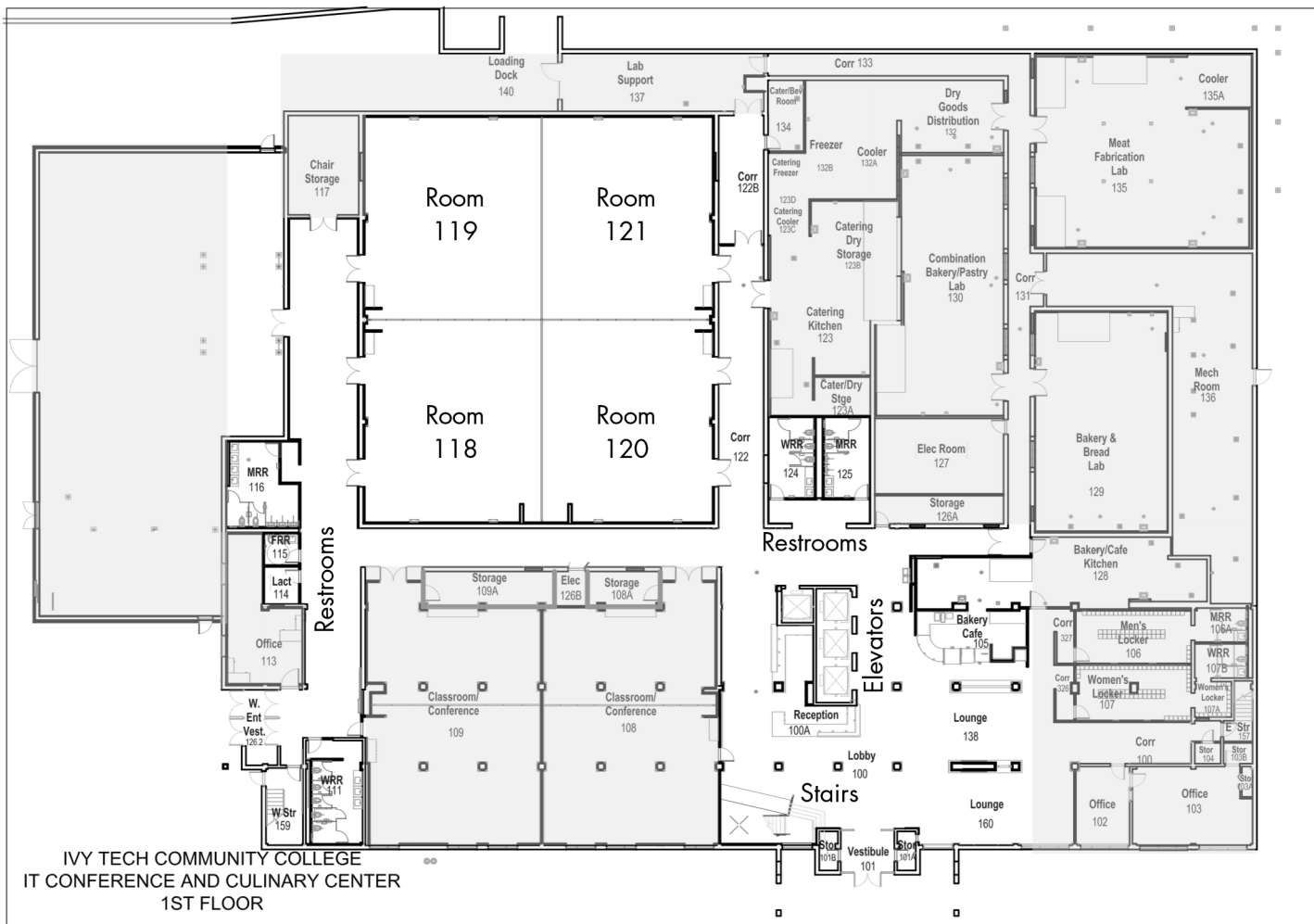
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The Indiana Career Readiness Conference is made possible with support from our sponsors. Be sure to visit with our sponsors today and learn more by visiting their sites.

Sponsor	More Information
INCAP: Indiana Career Apprenticeship Pathway	https://indianacap.org/
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The School Care Team	https://www.schoolcareteam.org/
ASVAB Career Exploration Program	https://www.asvabprogram.com/

TIME	ROOM 118	ROOM 119	ROOM 120	ROOM 121	ROOM 212 — ROUNDTABLES
7:30 – 9:30 AM • Continental Breakfast & Vendor Engagement • Ballroom 212					
8:25 – 8:55 AM Precon. Session A	Building a Middle School Career Exploration Program <i>James & Bailey</i>	Agilities in Action <i>McCammon</i>	Bridging School & Industry (P- CAP) <i>Marsh</i>	Supporting HS Students: College Access <i>Zosel</i>	—
9:05 – 9:35 AM Precon. Session B	PCC Lesson Planning <i>Combs</i>	The New Indiana Diploma <i>Osos & Frazer</i>	Sustainable School-Employer Partnerships <i>Meer & Hall</i>	Exploring AHEC <i>Woodward & Foreman</i>	—
9:40 – 10:20 AM • Welcome, Opening Keynote (Paul Ketcham) & Break • Ballroom 212					
10:20 – 11:00 AM Breakout 1	Registered Apprenticeship: A Journey to Success <i>Berger</i>	School-University Partnerships <i>Nellis, Langdon, Seewer, Schlemmer, Savas</i>	Designing High-Quality WBL <i>Clark & Luczka</i>	Career Coaches & Counselors: Collaborating Effectively <i>Frazer & Medina</i>	• RAZ-32: Multi-Sector Collaboration • FFA • INCAP • Live Here, Work Here, Serve Here
11:10 – 11:50 AM Breakout 2	School Care <i>Enzler & Tenney</i>	Career Exploration & Soft Skills (Career Girls) <i>Antonio-Caba</i>	Overview of Work-Based Learning in Indiana <i>Osos</i>	Personality Islands Project <i>Smith</i>	• Virtual Industry Projects (Pathful) • Working Genius • New PCC Resource Network Lesson Plans
11:50 AM – 12:45 PM • Lunch & Exhibitor/Sponsor Time • Ballroom 212					
12:50 – 1:20 PM Breakout 3	Level Up Your Life: Trades & Skills <i>Lewis</i>	From Nervous to Confident: Mock Interviews <i>Teter</i>	Experiencing INCAP Apprenticeships <i>James</i>	Industry Developed Team Challenges <i>Werner</i>	• Career Prep Strategies (ACT) • Career Pathways (Skyepack) • IU Luddy School of Informatics
1:30 – 2:00 PM Breakout 4	Clock In, Stand Out: Work Ethic & Readiness <i>Carney</i>	Transactional to Transformational Coaching <i>McCord & Goldstein</i>	UpSkill Youth Apprenticeship <i>Caudill & Christianson</i>	The Brave Career Path (Courage Keepers) <i>Yeager & Haas</i>	• HOSA • Making Pathways Work • Assessment through Technology
2:10 – 2:40 PM Breakout 5	CTE On the Go <i>Galloway</i>	7th Grade Graduation Plans <i>Vidal</i>	Building Future Healthcare Leaders <i>Berry & Russell</i>	The WBL Toolkit <i>French</i>	• Enlistment & Service Seals • INvestEd • Indiana's New Employability Skills
2:50 – 3:20 PM Breakout 6	ASK: Accessing Self Knowledge <i>Doepker</i>	Career Discovery in Action (Junior Achievement) <i>Wright & Taylor</i>	Beyond the Bus: WBL Inside the Classroom <i>Wettrick</i>	Modular Future <i>Vertrees</i>	• Overview of New PCC Resource Network Tools

Full session descriptions are available in the program pages that follow.



PROGRAM

PRECONFERENCE

7:30-9:30 am
Ballroom 212

Continental Breakfast & Vendor Engagement

Enjoy coffee, tea, orange juice, and light breakfast items throughout the morning!

8:25 - 8:55 am

SESSION A

ROOM 118

How To Build A Career Exploration Program At Your Middle School

Connor James, Indy Chamber; Dr. Bret Bailey, Hamilton Heights Middle School

Discover a practical framework for building a schoolwide middle school career exploration program that moves beyond career days, connecting classroom learning with meaningful industry experiences.

ROOM 119

Agilities in Action: Connecting Students' Strengths & Interests to Careers

Amanda McCammon, The DeBruce Foundation

Explore The DeBruce Foundation's free career readiness resources and the Agilities framework. Gain practical strategies, lesson plans, and digital tools to help K-12 students identify strengths, explore careers, and build transferable skills.

ROOM 120

Bridging School & Industry: Transforming Pathways for Disengaged Students through Work-Based Learning

Brooke Marsh, CELL

Learn how Indiana's P-CAP model connects disengaged high school students with industry partners through embedded work based learning, creating local workforce ecosystems that improve graduation, career readiness, and postsecondary success.

ROOM 121

Supporting High School Students Through College Access & Opportunities to Succeed in College

Ligia Zosel, Indiana Latino Institute

Gain practical strategies and resources to help students explore postsecondary options, navigate college applications, and understand financial aid, equipping them for a successful transition beyond high school.

9:05 - 9:35 am

SESSION B

ROOM 118

PCC Lesson Planning

Annette Combs, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

Learn practical strategies for designing engaging PCC lessons that support Indiana's career readiness goals while keeping students actively involved in career exploration.

ROOM 119

The New Indiana Diploma

Linsay Osos, Indiana Commission for Higher Ed; Rebekah Frazer, Indiana Department of Education

Get the latest updates on Indiana's new diploma requirements and Honors Seals from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and Indiana Department of Education, including implementation guidance, resources, and answers to common questions.

ROOM 120

Best Practices for Building Sustainable School-Employer Partnerships

Anna Meer, Will Hall, Institute for Workforce Excellence at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Learn practical strategies to engage more employers, reduce outreach fatigue, and build lasting school-business partnerships that create meaningful career connected learning opportunities for students.

ROOM 121

Exploring AHEC: Expanding Health Career Pathways Beyond College Degrees

Gina Woodward, Central Indiana AHEC; Armetris Foreman, Franciscan Health

Discover how Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) support health career pathways through educator resources, student experiences, and partnerships that introduce diverse healthcare careers, including high demand options beyond a four year degree.

9:40 - 9:45 am WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

9:40 - 9:45 am
Ballroom 212

Welcome & Announcements

Aimee Portteus, Inspire Success

9:45 - 10:05 am
Ballroom 212

Video Welcome

Dr. Katie Jenner (via video)

Opening Keynote

Paul Ketcham, Assistant Secretary of Education for Indiana

10:05 - 10:20 am Take a few minutes to refresh your coffee, visit our sponsors/exhibitors, and get to your next session.

MORNING BREAKOUTS

10:20 - 11:00 am BREAKOUT BLOCK 1

ROOM 118

Registered Apprenticeship: A Journey to Success

Claire Berger, Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Explore registered apprenticeship opportunities with the Central Midwest Carpenters, including available career pathways, eligibility requirements, the application process, and benefits for students pursuing skilled trades careers.

ROOM 119

Effective Practices in School-University Partnerships for College and Career Readiness

Leah Nellis, Indiana University; Amanda Langdon, Indiana University Southeast; Meredith Seewer, Highland Hills Middle School; Cheryl Schlemmer, Indiana University Kokomo; Monica Savas, Southwood Jr/Sr High

Explore proven strategies for building sustainable school and higher education partnerships that strengthen career exploration and college readiness through classroom activities, campus experiences, and long term student engagement.

ROOM 120

Designing High Quality WBL with Indiana's Training Plan

Nioka Clark, Destiny Luczka, Ascend Indiana

Learn how to use Indiana's Department of Education endorsed Work Based Learning Training Plan and Companion Guide to design high quality, competency aligned experiences that strengthen employer partnerships and student skill development.

ROOM 121

How Career Coaches and School Counselors Can Effectively Collaborate

Rebekah Frazer, Jose Medina, Indiana Department of Education

Learn practical strategies for building effective partnerships between School Counselors and Career Coaches that align services, strengthen career readiness, and provide seamless, student centered support from middle school through graduation.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

RAZ-32: A Model for Multi Sector Collaboration to Activate Indiana's New Diploma

Neal Adams, Randolph Central School Corporation; Rolland Abraham, Randolph Eastern School Corporation

Join a collaborative discussion on building cross sector partnerships that support Indiana's New Diploma through work based learning, community collaboration, and innovative approaches to recognizing student learning and career readiness.

FFA

Duane Huge, Cassie Perrin, Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Connect with colleagues to explore how FFA programs develop student leadership, career readiness, and agricultural career pathways while supporting success in school, work, and life.

Indiana Career Apprenticeship Pathway (INCAP)

Rico Francis, Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

Learn about the Indiana Career Apprenticeship Pathway (INCAP), the new education and training pathway to prepare students for in-demand careers. Participating students will split their time between the workplace and the classroom, spending multiple full days a week on the job.

Live Here, Work Here, Serve Here

Brandon Seabolt & Ryann Laky, Indiana National Guard

Explore how Indiana Army National Guard opportunities help students prepare for careers, education, leadership, and lifelong success through military service.

11:10 - 11:50 am BREAKOUT BLOCK 2

ROOM 118

School Care

Rebekah Enzler, Shannon Tenney, School Care

Learn how School Care provides practical tools, resources, and partnerships that strengthen student support, increase engagement, and enhance college and career readiness.

ROOM 119

Career Exploration and Soft Skills Development

Verna Liza Antonio-Caba, Career Girls

Explore a proven, no cost program that helps girls ages 9–17 build career awareness, confidence, and essential skills through engaging career connected lessons, role models, and hands-on activities.

ROOM 120

An Overview of Work-Based Learning in Indiana

Linsay Osos, Indiana Commission for Higher Ed

Get the latest guidance from Indiana's CTE leaders on work based learning and the new diploma, including practical resources, implementation strategies, and examples for meeting state WBL requirements.

ROOM 121

Personality Islands Project

Quentin Smith, Rossville Consolidated School District

Discover the Personality Islands Project, an engaging PCC self exploration activity that combines values, strengths, interests, and personality into a memorable classroom experience inspired by *Inside Out*.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

Work-Based Learning Without Leaving the Building: Virtual Industry Projects for Every Indiana Student

Stephanie Lynch, Pathful, Inc.

Learn how Pathful's virtual Industry Led Projects can help schools meet Indiana's work based learning requirements through scalable, employer connected experiences that are accessible, trackable, and available to every student.

Working Genius

Shannon Mount, Inspire Success

Discover the Working Genius model and learn how understanding natural strengths can improve teamwork, engagement, and student success.

Exploring the New PCC Resource Network Lesson Plans

Matt Fleck, Inspire Success

Get an inside look at the newly added lesson plans included with the PCC Resource Network membership. Matt will walk through the new resources, highlight key features and implementation tips, and demonstrate how the lessons can be used to support high-quality instruction in Indiana's Preparing for College and Careers course.

11:50 - 12:45 pm LUNCH AND EXHIBITOR / SPONSOR TIME

Ballroom 212

AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS

12:50 - 1:20 pm BREAKOUT BLOCK 3

ROOM 118

Level Up Your Life: Trades, Skills, and Your Next Move

Theresa Lewis, George Washington High School

Discover how The Indiana Plan connects students to high demand skilled trades while providing practical strategies for teaching career readiness skills and expanding awareness of rewarding postsecondary pathways beyond traditional college.

ROOM 119

From Nervous to Confident: The Mock Interview Experience

Aubrei Teter, Central 9 Career Center

Learn how to organize a successful mock interview event that builds student confidence, engages community partners, and provides meaningful career preparation using proven schedules, materials, and practical tips.

BREAKOUT BLOCK 3 SESSIONS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ROOM 120

Experiencing INCAP Apprenticeships: A Hands-On Event for 9th and 10th Graders

Connor James, Indy Chamber

This session will introduce school leaders to the LENS INCAP Apprenticeship Showcase. Attendees will learn important details about what the event will look and feel like for students. As well as how they can engage with industry professionals and take steps toward pursuing paid apprenticeship opportunities.

ROOM 121

Industry Developed Team Challenges

Amy Werner, The Academy at LCSC PCAP Program

Learn how to implement Industry Developed Team Challenges that engage students in solving authentic business problems through meaningful partnerships, real world projects, and collaborative learning experiences.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

Proven Strategies for Career Preparation and Success

Tina Gridiron, ACT's Center for Impact and Learning

Explore proven community strategies for building learner centered career pathways, aligning education and workforce partners, and using a free toolkit to strengthen local college and career success initiatives.

Career Pathways by Skyepack

Kimba Rund, Skyepack

Join an interactive discussion on strengthening college and career readiness through career coaching, career exploration, work based learning, and classroom ready resources that support Indiana's graduation requirements and local career pathways.

IU Luddy School of Informatics

Connect with representatives from Indiana University's Luddy School to explore computing, informatics, and technology pathways that prepare students for high-demand careers.

ROOM 118

Clock In, Stand Out: Building Work Ethic & Readiness Skills that Employers Actually Want

Dr. Cicé Carney, Portage High School

Learn practical strategies for teaching work readiness skills, professional habits, and growth mindset using classroom lessons aligned to Indiana PCC competencies.

ROOM 119

From Transactional to Transformational: Elevate Your Career Coaching with Indiana University's Coaching Conversations

Emily McCord and Kate Goldstein, Indiana University

Discover how to shift career coaching interactions from transactional checkpoints to empowering compass checks by leveraging the art of asking powerful questions. Get a taste of Indiana University's Coaching Conversations approach and free, ready-to-use resources to foster student motivation, ownership and accountability.

ROOM 120

UpSkill Youth Apprenticeship

Heather Barron Caudill and Renae Christianson, Regional Opportunity Initiatives (ROI)

Learn how youth apprenticeships connect students with paid work experiences, college coursework, industry credentials, and long term career opportunities through strong community partnerships.

ROOM 121

The Brave Career Path: Piloting the Courage Keepers Model for Middle School Success & Beyond

John Yeager, Yeager Leadership Group, and Sean Haas, Urey Middle School

Discover how the Courage Keepers model blends social emotional learning with career readiness to prepare middle school students for future success.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

HOSA

Connect with HOSA representatives to learn how student leadership experiences, competitive events, and healthcare career exploration support college and career readiness.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES - CONTINUED

Making Pathways Work: Clear Tracking, Real Readiness, and Less Stress

Robbie Grimes, Education Advanced Inc.

Learn how districts simplify graduation tracking while connecting diploma requirements, career readiness, and work based learning into one streamlined system.

Assessment through Technology: Making Middle School PCC Count

Rachel Martin, Greenwood Middle School

Explore a digital portfolio system that helps middle school students document career readiness learning, technology skills, and career exploration activities.

2:10 - 2:40 pm BREAKOUT BLOCK 5

ROOM 118

CTE On the Go

Chyna Galloway, West Central CTE

Discover a hands on career exploration model that helps students explore CTE programs through interest surveys, interactive activities, and rotating learning stations.

ROOM 119

7th Grade Graduation Plans and Indiana's New Accountability Model

Sam Vidal, CIESC/Keep Indiana Learning

Learn how meaningful seventh grade graduation planning supports Indiana's new accountability model, student engagement, diploma readiness, and long term postsecondary success.

ROOM 120

Building Future Healthcare Leaders: The IU Health High School Fellowship

Jenny Berry, Indianapolis Public Schools; Andrea Russell, Mosaic Center

Explore a healthcare pathway that combines dual credit, work based learning, industry credentials, and paid internships to prepare students for healthcare careers.

ROOM 121

The WBL Toolkit: Designing Diverse Career Experiences for Every Student

Jody French, Perry Central Jr./Sr. High School

Learn practical strategies for designing, managing, and evaluating high quality work based learning experiences that meet Indiana diploma requirements.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

New Indiana Diploma: Enlistment and Service Seals

Ryann Laky, Indiana National Guard

Learn how schools can support students pursuing Indiana's Enlistment and Service Seals through free resources, guidance, and state aligned best practices.

INvestEd

Susan Mayberry, INvestEd

Learn how INvestEd helps students and families navigate financial aid, college affordability, and postsecondary planning through free resources and expert support.

Indiana's New Employability Skills

Ben Carter, Inspire Success

Explore Indiana's updated employability skills framework and practical strategies for integrating these essential competencies into classroom instruction and career readiness.

2:50 - 3:20 pm BREAKOUT BLOCK 6

ROOM 118

ASK: Accessing Self Knowledge

Steven Doepker, Consulting Services

Discover a free college and career planning framework that helps students build self awareness, set goals, and create evolving career plans beginning in middle school.

ROOM 119

Career Discovery in Action: Engaging Students Through Meetings, Partnership, and Junior Achievement Programming

Emma Wright and Samantha Taylor, Junior Achievement of Central Indiana

Learn how Career Discovery Meetings and Junior Achievement programs connect students with mentors, community partners, and meaningful career readiness experiences.

BREAKOUT BLOCK 6 SESSIONS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ROOM 120

Beyond the Bus: Reimagining Work Based Learning Inside the Classroom

Don Wettrick, STARTedUP Foundation

Explore an innovative classroom based work based learning model that embeds entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, and authentic projects into existing courses.

ROOM 121

Modular Future

Shawna Vertrees, Step Ahead Academy

Learn how a modular career planning system helps middle school students connect personal goals with future high school and career pathways.

ROOM 212: ROUNDTABLES

Overview of New Tools in the PCC Resource Network

Amy Seigle, Inspire Success

Get a first look at the newest resources, tools, and instructional supports available through the PCC Resource Network.

CONTINUE THE LEARNING ALL YEAR LONG

The **PCC Resource Network** is your one stop resource for teaching Indiana's **Preparing for College and Careers** course with confidence.

For **just \$195 per school per year**, every PCC teacher at your school receives unlimited access to a growing collection of practical, classroom ready resources, including:

- **25 new, standards aligned PCC lesson plans** with engaging activities, worksheets, and Indiana specific resources
- **Parent engagement activities** that strengthen school and family partnerships
- A **Pre and Post College and Career Readiness Check** to measure student growth
- A **Student Assessment Question Bank** to make quizzes and assessments easier to create
- **Professional learning modules** and implementation support for PCC teachers
- **Workforce Wednesday** career exploration videos
- A statewide **PCC Teacher Network** for sharing ideas, asking questions, and learning from fellow educators
- Additional tools and resources added throughout the year

Whether you are new to PCC or a seasoned teacher, the PCC Resource Network is designed to save you time, strengthen instruction, and help more students prepare for successful futures.

Learn more or join today by scanning the QR code or visiting
inspiresuccess.org/initiatives/pcc/





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