



Our Impact

2020-2021



NEW for 2021

Keeping career-connected learning front and center, ReadyCT, in partnership with CONNSTEP, CBIA, and others, took the lead on the [Manufacturing Skills for CT](#) effort, a two-year project to understand which K-12 manufacturing pathway models are most effective, and why; in spring 2022, a website will launch to define and share best practices.



Collaboration Impact

ReadyCT facilitated student participation in the Early College Advanced Manufacturing Program (ECAMP) at Goodwin University, which allowed students the chance to earn up to 21 college credits! Result? Exposure to high-growth, high-demand manufacturing careers *and* enough college credits to help defer the cost of higher education!



Advancing Computer Science (CS)

Update: ReadyCT provided SCRIPT training to four public school districts to support the design of K-12 CS learning pathways.

Update: The 2019-20 ECEP work resulted in [this state CS course catalog](#), allowing Connecticut to track where it is advancing CS education.



Policy Update

The 2021 Connecticut legislative session was an anomalous yet productive one. Lawmakers were engaged and eager for results despite the ongoing disruptions caused by COVID-19.



ReadyCT collaborated across sectors in favor of policies that advance academic excellence and career-connected learning for Connecticut's public school students, including:

RIGHT TO READ: A broad set of early literacy instruction provisions was included in the Governor's budget implementer bill requiring that all districts use evidence-based curriculum grounded in phonics and phonemic awareness. A \$26M budget (over two years) will establish, among other things, a Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success to oversee curriculum choices and provide dedicated coaching at the district level.

EDUCATION + WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Provisions of this exciting legislation will: establish the Office of Workforce Strategy for better education-workforce alignment; support the design of a statewide plan to improve education, training, and placement in high-growth/high-demand industries; require school districts to increase family involvement in student success planning; improve FAFSA completion rates; and give students a range of ways to earn a spot in advanced course enrollment (no longer just academic entry!).

These laws include much more. ReadyCT is available to speak on these and other policies, including what ReadyCT continues to advance, i.e., study and investment in remote learning, a statewide microcredentialing program, and expanding work-based learning programs for students.



Connecting the Classroom to the World of Work

Career Pathways

ReadyCT continued to support career-themed learning pathways at:

- Hartford Public High School
- Weaver High School
- Pathways High School

while also working with NAF to demonstrate to businesses the impact of this learning model on workforce development!

EVENT: In April 21, Partnering for Success brought nearly 100 business people and educators together to review career-themed instruction; [this video](#) was presented to attendees to demonstrate the range and richness of students' experiences.

ReadyCT produced [this video](#) to encourage employers to host high school interns as part of an overall talent acquisition strategy.

Last year, despite COVID-19 challenges, nearly 1,250 students participated in work readiness learning; over 250 of those students experienced a high-quality paid internship!

Building Tomorrow's Workforce

In partnership with the CT Science Center, this pilot educator externship program matched teams from 10 school districts with STEM-focused employers. By doing so, businesses were able to help educators understand what competencies students need to be successful in the workplace.

Two-thirds of employers completing a program survey indicated they were "highly likely" to recommend hosting externs to colleagues/associates!

Employers indicated that these skills were "essential" to workplace success:

- Communication
- Understanding statistics
- Work ethic
- Eagerness to learn
- Time management & organization
- Problem solving
- Math & Microsoft Excel

Student 5.0: A Career Launch Program

To date, nearly 700 students – Class of '20 and Class of '21 graduates – have applied to this postsecondary support program! Working with a peer mentor, each participant explored 10 Essential Elements to align their short- and long-term goals with learning options.

10 Essential Elements:

- Personal Values Statement
- Career Inventory/Assessment
- Resume/Cover Letter
- LinkedIn Profile/Personal Brand
- Professional Interview Skills
- Professional Network Connections
- Personal Budget/Financial Literacy
- Time Management
- Resilience Training
- Resource Mapping

