

# **INNOVATION GENERATION**

InnovationGenerationOhio.com

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Innovation Generation**

### **WHAT IS THE INNOVATION GENERATION INITIATIVE?**

Innovation Generation is affiliated with the national Pathways to Prosperity Network, supported by the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Jobs for the Future. It consists of six sustainable high-impact projects that establish career pathways into four of the region's most vital industry sectors: advanced manufacturing/robotics, business logistics, health care and information technology. Working together, k-12, higher education and business will help students earn the credentials needed to fill some of central Ohio's fastest-growing jobs and expand their postsecondary options.

### **WHY IS THIS INITIATIVE NEEDED?**

Ohio will need nearly twice as many adults with postsecondary credentials to meet workforce demands by 2020. According to Complete College America, 59 percent of Ohio jobs will require a college degree or industry-recognized certification; currently 36 percent of Ohio adults have one.

### **WHOSE AGENDA IS THIS?**

Central Ohio school districts, colleges, businesses and community organizations have made a collective commitment to the Central Ohio Compact, which aims to reach the Lumina Foundation's goal of 60 percent of adults with postsecondary degrees or certifications by 2025. In support of the Compact, participating organizations have initiated Ohio's involvement in Innovation Generation, a network established in nine states to assemble high school, college and work-based experiences so that students graduate with economically viable career credentials as well as a head start on postsecondary studies. Additionally, Gov. John Kasich has made innovative education initiatives a priority by establishing the Straight A Fund.

### **WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?**

Ohio's membership in the Pathways to Prosperity Network and its early activities have been supported by the Office of the Governor, Ohio Board of Regents, The Columbus Partnership, Columbus State Community College, Reynoldsburg City Schools and 14 partner school districts. One of the Pathways to Prosperity Network's partners, Jobs for the Future, is also supporting this effort, as are a number of individual businesses. Additionally, the Educational Services Center of Central Ohio is helping to coordinate and facilitate efforts among the partners, while Battelle for Kids is providing the measurement support.

### **WHAT ARE THE GOALS FOR INNOVATION GENERATION?**

The initiative will demonstrate programs resulting in increased high school completion, reduced college remediation rates, accelerated postsecondary credential attainment by participating students, productive work-based learning experiences for participating students and employers, and program sustainability.

### WHICH SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE PARTICIPATING?

Most school districts within central Ohio are participating in Innovation Generation, though not all programs are available in all districts. Participating districts include:

- Canal Winchester Local Schools
- Columbus City Schools
- Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools
- Grandview Heights City Schools
- Hilliard City Schools
- Licking Heights Local Schools
- Marysville Exempted Village Schools
- New Albany-Plain Local Schools
- Olentangy Local Schools
- Pickerington Local Schools
- Reynoldsburg City Schools
- South-Western City Schools
- Upper Arlington City Schools
- Westerville City Schools
- Whitehall City Schools

Additionally, Eastland-Fairfield, Tolles and Ohio Hi-Point career centers are part of the consortium.

### WHICH STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

The target population is the 22,249 high school students in the consortium who may want to enter the workforce directly after high school and those who see this as another possibility for expanding their postsecondary options. In some cases, middle school students will participate in related curricula as a precursor to entering programs offered at the high school level. Innovation Generation consists of six demonstration programs in four industries and is intended to serve at least 1,350 students.

### CAN MY COMMUNITY (CHARTER) SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATE?

Charter school students should check with their assigned district high school to determine if they are eligible to participate.

### CAN MY HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATE?

Home school students should check with their assigned district high school to determine if they are eligible to participate.

### AS A PARENT AND TAXPAYER, WHAT'S THIS GOING TO COST ME?

There is no charge for a student to enroll in the program.\* The work is financed by a \$14.4 million award from the Ohio Department of Education's Straight A Fund grant, which was established by Gov. Kasich in 2013. All expenses for development of the programs will come from the grant. Under our terms, all programs must be sustainable without additional funding after the grant money is spent. Because the entire cost of the initiative will be borne by the Straight A Fund grant, it will not impact the tax base of local school districts.

*\*Nominal fees for lab work, software and other materials for some course work may apply.*

### WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM BEGIN AND END?

The Ohio Department of Education awarded the grant in December 2013, and since then partners have been developing key components of the individual programs, creating additional partnerships and putting strategic plans into place. Beginning in the spring of 2014, students were able to enroll in Innovation Generation programs that will start with the fall 2014 school term. Each individual pathways program is envisioned as a demonstration that can be replicated statewide in the future.

### WHAT ARE THE BIG CHALLENGES?

There are several challenges. One is overcoming the long-prevailing myth that career technical training limits students' opportunities for finding fulfilling, stable and well-paying jobs. Another is educating parents about today's new economy jobs, which have changed drastically from those that existed a generation ago and now require highly skilled problem-solvers. Additionally, we must also overcome doubt that may exist among some potential partners about whether our strategies will lead to success for students and for the Ohio economy.

### **HOW WILL THESE CHALLENGES BE OVERCOME?**

To shift perceptions among students, families, educators and community stakeholders, this initiative includes comprehensive engagement and training for leaders in each of those groups to deliver accurate and persuasive information. The consortium will develop common career outreach materials to provide consistent information to students and families from middle school through career. Participating high schools will adapt and implement Columbus State Community College's workforce development curriculum to prepare students for work-based learning experiences.

School counselors, college advisers and other educators will receive training, brokering work-based learning activities, and Innovation Generation strategies for recruitment and support of students. Professional support will be provided to convene and mobilize businesses; define work-based learning opportunities including school-based activities, shadowing and internships; and create a framework for capturing the knowledge and skills students acquire for a competency-based approach to credit attainment.

### **HOW CAN MY STUDENT SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE SIX INNOVATION GENERATION PROGRAMS?**

Enrollment is occurring now. Students should discuss their options with a teacher or school counselor in participating school districts. Not all options are available at all schools.

### **HOW WILL INNOVATION GENERATION FIT IN WITH EXISTING CAREER TECH AND EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAMS?**

Innovation Generation will complement and expand existing career technical and early college programs. The primary purpose of this work is to accelerate student attainment of economically viable credentials and to model programs that can be replicated for continued acceleration of attainment.

### **HOW WILL THIS FIT WITH A STUDENT'S OTHER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE WORK?**

The curricula chosen for each pathways program will complement non-pathways course work and will meet state content requirements.

### **WILL THIS PROGRAM HELP A STUDENT WHO MAY NOT WISH TO PURSUE A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE IMMEDIATELY, BUT WHO WANTS TO KEEP HIS OR HER OPTIONS OPEN?**

This initiative combines industry-specific learning with college course work leading to marketable industry certificates, as well as progress toward an associate degree. For students who want to complete an associate degree, or pursue a four-year degree at a later time, Innovation Generation will provide a significant head start.

### **WHY SHOULD MY STUDENT, WHO IS AN HONOR STUDENT AND FOCUSED ON COLLEGE, PARTICIPATE IN THIS INITIATIVE?**

All six of these programs give students a head start on college by providing opportunities to earn college credits while in high school. They also present an opportunity to explore new technologies and career options that students may not have considered. By enrolling in an Innovation Generation program, students will benefit from both classroom assignments and hands-on workplace experiences. These programs challenge students to think critically, solve problems, work in teams and acquire the professional "soft skills" they will need to succeed in whatever profession they pursue.

### **MY STUDENT ALREADY HAS PLANS TO GO TO WORK AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT'S THE ADVANTAGE FOR HIM/HER?**

For students who want to begin a career right after high school, Innovation Generation provides an opportunity to explore a number of pathways into the workforce. Students will pick up the skills and credentials they need to be employable in a number of fast-growing industry sectors while also earning college credit. If your student decides not to pursue a four-year degree immediately after high school, he/she has earned valuable knowledge that will help your student in his/her career. If he/she does decide to get a four-year degree, he/she will leave high school with a big head start.

## HOW CAN I BE SURE TEACHERS ARE PREPARED FOR INNOVATION GENERATION, SINCE IT IS A NEW PROGRAM?

Teachers involved in this initiative already have state certification in many of the areas of study that Innovation Generation curricula cover. Where training is needed, the Straight A Fund grant provides money to prepare teachers for specific programs, including STEM curriculum training from the nationally recognized Project Lead The Way. You can be sure that when the program begins, our teachers will be prepared, enthusiastic and effective.

## THIS IS A NEW PROGRAM. HOW CAN I BE CONFIDENT THAT THE DISTRICT IS PREPARED TO LAUNCH THIS PROGRAM AND THAT IT WILL BE AROUND IN THE FUTURE?

We are committed to making our program a model that can be replicated around the state. Our program has been meticulously planned at the district level with assistance and oversight from the Ohio Department of Education and a collaboration of partners that includes the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, Columbus State Community College, Jobs for the Future, the Pathways to Prosperity Network, area employers and regional career-technical centers. One of the core requirements for any Straight A Fund grant is that it is sustainable beyond the first year. We are accomplishing that by using our funds for such things as training, curricula, materials and infrastructure that will not require further investment once in place.

## WHAT ARE THE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS WITHIN THE INNOVATION GENERATION INITIATIVE?

Six unique programs have been organized under the Innovation Generation umbrella. These include:

- **Academy MD**

Hilliard City Schools, in collaboration with Tolles Career & Technical Center, Columbus State Community College, LabCorp and numerous industry partners, have designed a financially sustainable two-year high school pathway to meet the job demands in the central Ohio health sector. Students will earn college credit through our partnership with Columbus State Community College and stackable certificates in Medical Administrative Assistant Certified MAA, Clinical Medical Assistant Certified CMA, Electronic Health Records Specialist Certified EHRS, Phlebotomy Technician and EKG Technician certifications. These industry credentials will lead to employment in the region's health sector.

- **Business/Logistics Pathway**

The Business/Logistics Pathway will partner with three school districts, Columbus State Community College and industry partners in an effort to better prepare students for work in the fields of business and logistics. This pathway will allow students to earn a certificate in electronic marketing, while also amassing 31 semester hours through dual enrollment or postsecondary educational options with Columbus State Community College. Students completing the Business/Logistics Pathway will earn an industry certification that makes them marketable in the world of business and logistics. Students can also earn college credit to complete a two-year degree in marketing or supply chain management, with one additional year of course work, and be on pace to complete a four-year degree in only three years of post-high school education.

- **Health Career Pathway**

This pathway will be a collaborative initiative with nine school districts, Columbus State Community College and numerous industry partners. There are 12 listed certificates in the Health Career pathway, along with the required Columbus State Community College credit hours needed to obtain each certificate. Each partnering district will have the opportunity to customize its program, including which certifications will be offered for students. The program includes advanced distance learning labs that will be capable of providing a variety of virtual instructional delivery models. Students participating in this pathway will earn marketable industry certification(s), as well as progression toward an associate and/or bachelor's degree.

- **Health Information Management Technology**

This program will provide students with a path that leads to a Medical Coding Certificate as well as the option of continuing studies at the postsecondary level to obtain an associate degree in Health Information Management Technology. Students will be able to participate in dual enrollment options and work on obtaining Microsoft credentials at the high school level.

- **IT@UA**

IT@UA (Information Technology@UA) is a classroom/work site cooperative with Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights and Hilliard city schools that promotes the development of information technology and academic competencies needed for career and college success. Program components will focus on enhancing student knowledge and skills that lead to sustainable career pathways in IT fields, including user and customer support; networks, telecommunications, wireless and mobility; risk management, security and information assurance; databases and applications; and digital media and visualization. At the same time, the program establishes pathway competencies that hone specific occupational knowledge and skills and lead to IT credentials such as Cisco certification, Mac repair certification and programming/gaming.

- **MIT Mobile Fab Labs**

The Next Generation of Innovators Network is a collaborative of 10 school districts focused on preparing students for careers in advanced (computer-assisted) manufacturing. The program provides nine MIT Mobile Fab Labs (fabrication labs) geographically located to maximize student impact. The program will demonstrate how to embed fabrication technologies in education while simultaneously forming an entrepreneurship center for economic development and job training. Each of the nine MIT Mobile Fab Labs will be available to students at their home schools, eliminating the need for transportation, while advanced distance collaboration will encourage inter-district collaboration. The MIT Mobile Fab Lab hubs facilitate network expansion to connect schools and others with partners in advanced manufacturing, thereby strengthening local economies. Strategies include new curriculum, internships and mentorships.

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