



GREATER SPRINGFIELD CareerConnectED



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

Welcome!

You're receiving this newsletter because your school is part of a group of schools that won an Ohio Straight A grant in 2014. The grant provides support for innovative programs and activities through the 2018/2019 school year. Everything we're doing aims to help our students graduate well-prepared for success. We hope this newsletter helps you discover opportunities for your student and your family. We invite you to talk to the teachers, counselors, and administrators at your school about college, career, and life preparation. We also encourage you to check the CareerConnectED website, at www.GetCareerConnectED.org for updates on what we are offering.

Frequently Asked Questions

As you may know, students in grades 7-12 in the Clark-Shawnee Local Schools, Global Impact STEM Academy, Springfield-Clark Career Technology Center, and Springfield City School District can take advantage of many college and career readiness activities through the CareerConnectED Consortium. While exciting, we know this is all new and a bit confusing, so we've compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions:

What is CareerConnectED?

CareerConnectED (CCED) is the name that a group of school districts used for our 'Consortium' when we applied for an Ohio Straight A grant to help us work together to improve what we were doing to prepare our students for success in college, career, and life. We're particularly focused on developing success skills and helping students explore computer science and manufacturing. The Consortium is now able to provide more opportunities for students. These opportunities are fully or partially paid for by the grant funds we received.

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Summer Programs:

- Grades 5-8, new computer, robotics, maker, and art themes each week starting in mid-June, continuing through July.
- Grades 9-12, YOUmedia Summer Workshops from 12pm-3pm; YOUmedia drop in times from 3pm-6pm and select evenings.
- Grades 7-12, OnCourse Summer School registration has begun. Signup for Credit Recovery or advancement. Classes begin June 6th.
- More information available soon!

Frequently Asked Questions continued

The CCED Center is at the Dome - is it part of the STEM School there?

The CareerConnectED Center, which is on the north side of the Dome, is the most visible part of what we've added. The CCED Center is owned and operated by Springfield City School District, and it is open to students, parents, and teachers from any of the consortium school districts. CareerConnectED Center is NOT part of the Global Impact STEM Academy, which rents space on the south side of the Dome, and has its own entrance there.

Who can come to the CCED Center?

CCED Center is open to students from Clark-Shawnee, CTC, GISA, and Springfield City School District. We have afterschool spaces just for high school students (YOUmedia) and we have maker spaces (Make: Springfield) for all ages. We also host field trips and workshops arranged by other community groups committed to education. We have conference rooms, a community room, classrooms, and opening soon – a College and Career Readiness Advising Suite.

Are there things for parents to do at CCED?

Yes, we encourage parents to visit CCED – with or without their children. We host some events in the MakerSpace which are designed for parents and students to work on projects together, and we will be hosting occasional Showcase events where YOUmedia teens present their work to parents and community members. Soon, we'll offer college and career activities for students and parents, too.

What does it cost to come to CCED?

Generally, it's FREE! In some cases, we ask our partner schools and organizations to pay for the supplies they use. We may charge modest fees for special events and summer camps. The Straight A grant funds renovated the space and paid for the equipment, software, and start-up supplies. During this first year, Springfield City

School District and a Community Connector Mentoring Grant are funding the operations while we collect data to help us develop our sustainability plans.

How do I find out about what's scheduled at CCED?

Visit our website, www.GetCareerConnectED.org or like our Facebook page, "Greater Springfield CareerConnectED Center." We also have Twitter feeds for you to follow to get updates. Those are @ccedoh and @YOUmediaCCED.

Did the grant pay for things other than the CCED at the Dome?

Yes, every student and teacher in 7th-12th grade in a Consortium school has access to some innovative web-based programs.

- FUSEstudio (FUSEstudio.net) is a series of web-based STEM challenges, developed by Northwestern University. Students can access a subset of FUSE challenges at Consortium middle schools and the full set of 23 challenges are available to all our students at the Dome. Once a student has set up a FUSE account, he or she can log in and work on challenges from any computer with internet access.
- Naviance is a web-based platform that provides students, parents, teachers, and counselors with career interest surveys, learning style surveys, a resume builder, engaging videos about various careers, college search tools, and so much more. All Consortium students can access Naviance from school or home, from any computer or phone with internet access.
- Consortium students also have access to the CampusReady® Survey, personalized report, and advising that we've developed with the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC). All of these items were purchased for each consortium school, for four years, with Straight A grant dollars.



INTEREST-DRIVEN LEARNING



One way to help students develop success skills is to support interest-based activities. Students often collaborate, persist, and apply critical thinking while they tinker or deeply dive into a creative project that aligns with their interests. The CareerConnectED Center provides several such spaces: “Make: Springfield” includes three separate maker spaces, and “YOUmedia Springfield” is our digital learning lab for teens. All spaces encourage students and adults to become creators.

YOUmedia Springfield

On our third floor, YOUmedia Springfield welcomes high school students after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturdays from noon to 4:00 PM. Approximately 5,000 square feet under the historic stained glass dome offer YOUmedia teens a tremendous range of equipment and expert mentors. YOUmedia has two audio recording studios, gaming systems, electronics, 3-D printers, vinyl cutters, sewing and embroidery machines, cameras, video equipment, and many computers with a wide range of creative software to support students’ interests.



On the first floor of the CCED Center we’ve just opened our welding lab and a wood shop. These specialized maker spaces will support students as they learn to use more complex tools and techniques. The welding lab includes equipment suited to TIG, MIG, and stick welding. Welding booths have exhaust hoods and are lighted. Welding tables and helmets are available. The woodshop offers a table saw, jointer, bandsaw, miter saw, drill press, thickness planer, and turning lathe. Personal safety items are available. Both the welding lab and the woodshop are available by appointment only and an authorized CCED mentor or supervisor must be present during use. A safety check must be completed before use. Users are required to complete a liability release. Finally, we’re in the process of equipping a bicycle and small engine repair shop. We hope these will be open when summer begins!

Make: Springfield

Also on the third floor of CCED Center, Make: Springfield is well equipped with modular electronics, a laser engraver, CNC Router, a 3-D printer and computers equipped with the Adobe Creative Cloud and software to support all 23 of the FUSE Challenges. This maker space is suitable for a wide range of ages and activities. We’ve hosted field trips and parent-student computer science exploration, and now we’re open to students in grades 5-8 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, each month with a different theme. February was devoted to Lego® Mindstorm Robot building, March was devoted to FUSE Challenges, and we’re building Rube Goldberg devices and even Hoverboards in the coming months!



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING



When we sought the Straight A grant, our goals included working together to improve teaching and learning, and to make learning matter. One way to do this is to bring more real world problem solving into our classrooms. Problem-Based and Project-Based Learning (PBL) are teaching strategies that do this, and the Straight A grant funded some training to help all the consortium schools incorporate PBL. In addition to making learning more engaging, PBL builds success skills for college, career, and life. In the 21st century workplace and in college, success requires more than basic knowledge and skills. Through PBL, students learn how to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively. To date, there are 106 teachers in the consortium trained to complete PBL in their classrooms. Ongoing PBL support is available to teachers every Tuesday afternoon at the Dome.

Internships

Some high school juniors and seniors began preparing for summer jobs in January through the Greater Springfield CareerConnectED Internship Program. Students hope to be selected for a paid summer internship position, but students learn much about the world even as they participate in the application process.

Applications were distributed at participating high schools in December, but applying is only the first step. Students will earn certifications in WorkKeys, Customer Service, and OSHA-10. They also had the opportunity to participate in a day-long event that had them perfecting a resume and practicing their interview skills with area business leaders and other high school students. This all happens before students interview with participating area businesses in May.

We have gained the support of more than 20 businesses which will offer at least 40 positions this summer. These companies select a mentor for each intern and put a great deal of care into determining what will make a meaningful summer experience. Check out the website for additional information or view the 2015 summer internship video at www.youtube.com/scsdoh. Next fall, interested students should speak with their high school's internship liaison. Currently CTC, GISA, Shawnee, Springfield High, Greenon, and Southeastern are participating.



Mentor Program

Thanks to a Community Connectors grant from the Ohio Department of Education, CCED has partnered with the Nehemiah Foundation to recruit, train and fund mentors to work in YOUmedia. Our mentors have a vast array of abilities - everything from computer programming and engineering to sewing and screen printing. Their job is to inspire the kids to try something new, facilitate exploration and be a guide, teacher, and a resource for students to pursue their interests and passions. Our mentors also create experiences for students to practice non-academic skills like collaboration, persistence and tenacity. These skills are vital for success in school and at work.

FUSE

FUSE was developed by Northwestern University and is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) experience that lets students take charge of their own learning. It is available at consortium middle schools and the Dome. FUSE offers students 23 challenges, which are set up similar to progressing through a gaming system; students can “level up” as they progress through the challenges that interest them. Students direct their own progress, developing problem solving skills and getting help from their peers, with adults only providing supplies or occasional support. Visit Fusestudio.net to watch short videos and learn more.

Each school has their own unique way to incorporate FUSE into their schedule. Students have gained invaluable real-world skills like persistence, collaboration, and problem solving through interest-driven exploration. Challenges like Dream House, an architectural challenge, are very popular with many of our students. Students get to pick and download their dream location, as well as the type of structure before they use a computer-aided design (CAD) program to build their home, and customize the interior and the exterior meeting the challenge guidelines. Other challenges include designing ringtones, creating clothing that lights up, as well as printing 3D keychains and mini cars. Many of the challenges require no external materials other than free online software.



OnCourse Virtual Learning

OnCourse, Springfield City School District’s virtual learning program, offers students options for high quality instruction in a blended, online environment featuring the support of in-person instructional time with teachers and tutors. Course offerings include all content areas for Kindergarten - 12th grade, featuring advanced online courses for enrichment, credit recovery opportunities to help get back on track to graduation, as

well as a broad range of elective courses for middle and high school students allowing for exploration of their individual interests. Students can participate in district activities, clubs and sports, as well as the YOUmedia and MakerSpace events described in this newsletter.

Monica Fee, OnCourse Coordinator
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Hispanic Outreach Program

The Hispanic Outreach Program is committed to serve as a liaison between the Springfield City School District and the Hispanic families in the community. We are dedicated to assisting the district personnel, reporting Hispanic families’ concerns, providing feedback in regards to strategies that can improve issues based on students’ needs, suggesting classroom strategies that can help teachers engage the English Language Learners in their class, and working closely with different community organizations that involve the Hispanic students, families, and community. Overall, The Hispanic Outreach Program is the central contact for Hispanic students and families and assists with anything that involves the students’ academic success and well being.

Lourdes Narváez Soto, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator
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NAVIANCE/College & Career Readiness Activities

The College and Career Readiness Program is a growing part of the CareerConnectED Center. Consortium students in grades 6-12 use Naviance, a web-based college and career platform that provides a variety of tools for academic, career and college planning. Students and families can access online resources, communicate with school staff and work on college and career readiness activities. Our 8th graders use Naviance to take a career survey, build a favorite careers list, and visit businesses at the "All About Me Career Fair" that match their interests. High school students use Naviance's tools to learn about themselves, explore careers and colleges, create goals and develop the skills and knowledge to be successful after graduation. One popular feature of Naviance is its link to the Common Application for seniors who are applying to college. Applications, teacher recommendations, transcripts and other college application materials are uploaded and then sent electronically. Soon, the College and Career Readiness program Suite on the first floor of the CCED Center will be hosting career and college workshops on topics ranging from resume writing and interview skills, to picking the perfect college and creating a personal presence online.



SPECIAL EVENTS



The CCED Center has hosted a week of Hour of Code activities in December. Hour of Code participants learned to write computer code to create fun challenges and games. Our Girls in STEM Event in March featured hands on experiences and a chance to meet local women who are working in STEM careers. We're gearing up for a wide range of Summer Camps to be announced soon!

Watch the website and social media for upcoming Special Events!

LOOK INSIDE



See What Else is Inside CCED

During the past year, major renovations have transformed the inside of the former South High School. With more than \$13 million from sources including the Straight A grant, the Springfield City School District, the Ohio Capital Funds, and donors including the Springfield Foundation, Turner Foundation, and others, the building has been transformed into the Springfield Center of Innovation: The Dome. The Dome is home to several different tenants and programs.



The CareerConnectED Center, on the north side of the building, includes several distinct spaces. The third floor has already been very busy as educators and community groups with ties to education and workforce development use the bright, new meeting rooms daily. Construction is now completed on our newest spaces for CCED students and families, such as: College and Career Advising Center, Community Room, Welding Lab, Woodshop, and Scene Shop.

On the second floor of the north side of the building, Clark State Community College has recently opened a food science and safety classroom and lab. This new program complements GISA's food and bioscience focus, offering courses toward certifications and a two-year degree.



High school students from all four CCED districts drop in to YOUmedia Springfield afterschool.



The south side of the building is home to the Global Impact STEM Academy, now serving 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students from 13 different school districts - and expanding next year to add 12th grade. GISA's curriculum focuses on mastery of the core subjects through agricultural bioscience problem-based learning.





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COMING SOON

Auditorium Updates

The John Legend Theater (JLT) is a \$2.5 million dollar renovation to the existing auditorium, lobby, and Clifton Ave. entrance located at The Springfield Center of Innovation: The Dome, formerly Springfield South High School. The theater will hold an estimated 700 people and was funded by a lead donation of \$500,000 from Oscar, Golden Globe, and Grammy winning artist John Legend, who is a graduate of Springfield City School District. Many other donors have joined this effort, including Speedway, Security National Bank, the Turner Foundation, the Springfield Foundation, and generous individuals. The Springfield City School District Board of Education is matching these donations and providing additional funding to complete the project.

The JLT will serve the SCSD and the greater community at large. Springfield City School District conducted community focus groups to guide creation of a versatile space to meet the performance needs of various groups. Currently, the project is finishing up the design phase and has recently moved into construction with a tentative target opening date of early September 2016. During most of 2016/2017 only the 400 seats on the first floor will be available, as GISA's renovation efforts on the second floor will likely block access to



the balcony. By the fall of 2017 we expect to restore full access to the balcony, with nearly 300 more seats.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation please contact:

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