

November 10, 2014

Dear District Superintendents and Career Technical Education Directors:

We are excited to have the opportunity to offer grants to high schools and career-tech centers in Ohio to implement Advanced Career Pathways in 2015-2016. Ohio and its partners, the Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools That Work and a consortium of states, have developed several new career-tech programs relevant to the 21st-century workplace.

If you question why you need Advanced Career, do 80 percent of your students say their courses are challenging and exciting? Students in Advanced Career courses do. Another compelling fact is that 85 percent to 90 percent of students in the Advanced Career program say the course assignments are very challenging compared to 35 to 40 percent in traditional high school career-tech programs.

Each four-course Advanced Career pathway curriculum is rich with hands-on projects that stimulate students and help them understand the relationship between theory and application. Advanced Career combines college-ready core academic content with hands-on, project-based assignments—centered on a defined career focus. Students who enroll in the Advanced Career program graduate high school better prepared to start a career or postsecondary study. As an Advanced Career Energy and Power teacher said, "Students have the depth of knowledge to be self-starters when they graduate."

We invite you to spark students' engagement, motivation and learning with Advanced Career pathways.



Eight Advanced Career pathways are ready for fall 2015-2016 implementation:

- Aerospace Engineering;
- Clean Energy Technology;
- Energy and Power;
- Global Logistics;
- Health Informatics;
- Informatics;
- Innovations in Science and Technology; and
- Integrated Production Technologies.

For brochures describing these programs, visit SREB.org/AC. You also may preview project units on Southern Regional Education Board's website. Just use this link to register: http://www.sreb.org/page/1776/preview_advanced_career_materials.html.

Ohio and the Southern Regional Education Board are combining grant funds and providing schools with \$6,500 for the professional development required to teach Advanced Career courses and another \$10,000 to support a portion of the cost for equipment, supplies and consumables. The School Memorandum of Understanding outlines the conditions that schools must meet to be considered to apply (see attachment). If you elect to strengthen your pathway offerings with Advanced Career, please email your letter of interest to CTESuccessstories@education.ohio.gov or call Dan Stacy at (614) 644-6325. Your letter requesting this grant and signed memorandum of understanding are due Dec. 1, 2014.

If you need more information about Southern Regional Education Board's Advanced Career initiative, contact Dan at Dan.Stacy@education.ohio.gov or (614) 644-6325.

Sincerely,

William Bussey
Director
Office of Career-Technical Education
Ohio Department of Education