



# news

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341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ebony Pugh (412) 475-1523

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## **City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Public Schools Announce Pathways to Prosperity Partnership**

*Prepare to Prosper Initiative to Provide Work-Based Learning Opportunities and Paid Employment to Career and Technical Education Students*

PITTSBURGH, September 9, 2022 – Prepare to Prosper, a new partnership between the City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Public Schools, will provide work-based learning opportunities and paid employment to students in the District’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Announced this morning as part of Mayor Gainey’s Pathways to Prosperity initiative, the City of Pittsburgh directly or through its partner network will provide entry-level, career ladder jobs to eligible CTE students. In addition, CTE students will receive short-term paid internships during the District’s Winter and Spring Breaks, co-operative education placements, and summer and part-time employment.

“Prepare to Prosper is a true demonstration of the power of partnership and what can happen when we, the adults, work together to put students first,” said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D. “We are grateful to Mayor Ed Gainey and the City of Pittsburgh for its investment in our students through real-life work experiences and ultimately ensuring their economic livelihood through full-time career-ladder employment.”

Within the next two years through the Prepare to Prosper partnership, in addition to paid work experiences, CTE students will participate in well-rounded experiences such as the CTE-City of Pittsburgh Career Expo, Hire Learning employability event, field trips, and job shadowing within City departments. Through event support, work-based learning and paid work, CTE students will graduate “work ready” as they transition to post-secondary education or into well-paying jobs.

"Without our youth, there is no future," said Mayor Ed Gainey. "Our job as leaders is to make sure that you have an opportunity and path forward into a career where you can live a safe and thriving life for yourself and your family. This new partnership between the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and business leaders from virtually every sector of our economy is the start of creating new pathways to prosperity for students in Pittsburgh."

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According to CTE Executive Director Angela Mike, “CTE needs its partners to prosper. We need partners committed to providing tangible outcomes for our students, as we work to prepare them for essential careers with family sustaining wages. This expanded partnership with the City of Pittsburgh is an important component of our Division’s upward trajectory and our long-standing mission to help address critical workforce shortages in our region.”

To commemorate the new partnership, approved by the Pittsburgh Public Schools Board of School Directors last month, CTE partners joined current students for a celebratory event at the City-County Building.

The event included remarks by Board First-Vice President Devon Taliaferro, as well as key collaborators Partner4Work’s CEO Robert Cherry and Argo AI Founder and CEO Brian Salesky. CTE Executive Director Angela Mike summed up the day well, “We are grateful to the multiple industry partners who have stepped up to provide work-based learning opportunities and employment for the graduates of CTE. Today, we celebrate the expansion of our partnership with the City of Pittsburgh that will ensure there are no dead ends for the students at Pittsburgh Public Schools – only opportunities.”

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