



Making Multi-Partner Pathways Work: Connecting High School, College, and Employers Through a Regional Approach

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The Regional Challenge & Response



The Challenge

Disconnected Systems

System Fragmentation: Students encounter disconnected high school, college, and employer systems.

Siloed Offerings: Schools provide random acts of dual credit and lack employer alignment.

Apprenticeship Gap: Work-based learning requires structured multi-partner coordination.



The Regional Response

Coordinated Ecosystem

DVR EFE: Regional convener & administrative alignment

Triton College: Postsecondary instruction & dual credit

Leyden & Area High Schools: Recruitment, counseling, & support

District Employers: Hosting and mentorship of students.



3 Core Questions

Key Session Focus

1. Responsibilities

Who is responsible for what?

2. Progression

How does a student move through?

3. Barriers

How are operational barriers solved?

Genesis of the Regional Model



Campus "Career Center"

No Physical ACC: DVR EFE 030 lacks an Area Career Center building.

Triton Co–Location: Recreated ACC model directly on Triton's campus.

Demand Driven: Student career interests coupled with regional market data.



Equity & Master Schedule

Strategic Slots: Mapped Triton facility window for cohort blocks.

Zero Staffing Friction: Synchronized with college faculty availability.

Meal & Service Access: Preserved home school breakfast and lunch windows.



The Friday WBL Solution

Mon–Thu Classes: Triton dual–credit runs 4 days a week.

Friday DVR WBL: Dedicated employability skills and career readiness prep..

State CCPE Mandate: Embedded requirements to hit 2031 targets.

Student Pathway Progression

STEP 01

Career Exploration

Middle & early high school career awareness

STEP 02

Recruitment & Review

Counselor screening & eligibility review,
SchoolLinks

STEP 03

Career Academy

Triton College instructional coursework

STEP 04

CCPE Alignment

Integrating requirements in Friday coursework

STEP 05

60-Hour WBL

Employer-hosted career development
experience

STEPS 06 & 07

Credential & Transition

Degree credit, continued education,
apprenticeship, or job placement

Specific Regional Pathway Examples



Criminal Justice

Entry Point: High School Junior Year

Instruction: Triton Dual Credit Coursework

Experience: 60-Hour Municipal WBL

Outcome: CCPE & College Credit Transfer



HVAC Systems

Entry Point: Technical Lab Cohort

Instruction: College Technical Labs

Experience: On-the-Job Contractor Hours

Outcome: CCPE, Industry Credentials, Apprenticeship, Direct Entry to Industry



CNA-to-Nursing

Entry Point: Health Sciences Pipeline

Instruction: Certified Nursing Prep

Experience: Hospital & Clinical Rotations

Outcome: CCPE, State CNA Certification & ADN Track

Student Experience & Early Results

100%

Dual Credit Alignment

60 Hrs

Work-Based Learning

2

Industry Credentials



SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

Direct Hire Offer via HVAC Apprenticeship

DVR student completed dual-credit coursework at Triton and fulfilled a 60-hour WBL placement with a regional contractor—resulting in a direct employment and pre-apprenticeship offer upon graduation.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Criminal Justice

\$60,000

Full-time Norridge Dispatcher

Junior Yr

Early Concordia Graduation



Early College Foundation

Completed 4 early college Criminal Justice courses at Triton



Municipal Work-Based Learning

60-hour WBL placement with River Grove Police Department



Team-Based Challenge Engagement

Connected with Norridge Police Department through Friday WBL courses



Accelerated Degree & Employment

Graduated Concordia early; hired full-time as Norridge 911 Dispatcher



Partner Responsibility Matrix

Partner	Primary Responsibilities
EFE (DVR)	Regional convening, CCPE alignment, cross-district administrative support
Community College	Course selection, curriculum development, college credit & credential oversight
High Schools	Student recruitment, academic counseling, master scheduling, family support
Employers	Mentorship, 60-hour WBL placements, pathway entry
Workforce Partners	Supportive service funding

Operational Challenge & Response Guide

Challenge	Regional Response	Key Lesson
Recruitment	Coordinated counselor outreach	Clear family expectations required early
Scheduling	Early master calendar alignment	Planning must precede student enrollment
Transportation	Centralized instruction & adjusted shifts	Transit limits employer site selection
Employer Role	Targeted 60-hour WBL scopes	Manageable initial commitments build trust
Communication	Named contacts & monthly check-ins	Clear ownership prevents delays

Lessons for Regional Replication

Start with Defined Outcomes

Lock in CCPE, credential, and postsecondary transition goals before launching recruitment.

Assign Roles Upfront

Establish partner accountability matrices prior to student onboarding.

Synchronize Calendars Early

Resolve high school, college, and workplace scheduling constraints early.

Support Critical Handoffs

Provide deliberate active guidance during transitions between organizations.

Questions & Discussion

Which dimension of this model—partner roles, pathway alignment, or operational coordination—presents the greatest opportunity in your region?