



## Grades 9-14 Career Pathways Initiative

The *Grades 9-14 Career Pathways Initiative* brings together high schools and community colleges to create industry-specific career pathways that better align education, training, and employment opportunities for young people. The career pathway model links and integrates high school and postsecondary curricula with industry-recognized skills, knowledge and certification. The Initiative is informed by work being conducted within the Pathways to Prosperity Network, an initiative of Jobs for the Future and the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

## Health Science Career Pathway Goals (2014-2016)

The healthcare sector in western Massachusetts is the region's largest industry with anticipated growth in many occupations that require post-secondary credentials and an Associate's Degree. Holyoke Community College (HCC) and Chicopee Comprehensive High School (CCHS) will pilot a 9-14 health sciences career pathway with 15 rising 10<sup>th</sup> graders beginning in the Fall 2014. The pilot goals include:

- **Career Exploration** Chicopee Comprehensive will provide students with two semesters of comprehensive career exploration in the health sciences.
- **Summer STEM Academy** Rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will attend HCC's STEM academy to strengthen math and science skills and knowledge
- **College Preparation** Comp students will take the Acuplacer College Placement Test in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to determine strengths and areas for improvement. College counselors will work with students to ensure success in college.
- **Hands-On Experience** HCC will open its new simulation lab to CCHS students to learn new skills.
- **Industry Recognized Credentials** CCHS students will earn industry recognized credentials prior to graduation. Those in the clinical track will earn their direct care worker certificate and can become certified nursing assistant.
- **College Credits** CCHS students will graduate from Chicopee Comprehensive High school with 12 college credits. This is a value of \$2,388 to parents and students.
- **Acceptance to Holyoke Community College** Comp students will be accepted at HCC and gain easier access to premier programs such as radiology and nursing

## The Partnership and Employer Engagement

The Healthcare Workforce Partnership of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to building a skilled workforce to deliver quality patient care. Employers, education, workforce development work together to address critical nursing and allied health workforce issues to ensure our communities have the qualified, diverse healthcare workforce it needs.

The partnership's **Allied Health Committee** will provide guidance to the HCC/CCHS health sciences pilot team. Additional employers and interested secondary schools will be invited to join the Allied Health Committee. The committee will meet three times per year and the REB will facilitate the meetings. The partnership may seek public and private funds to support career pathway development in the health sciences.

*The Partnership is an initiative of the Regional Employment Board of Hampden Co. Inc.*

## Partners

### Post-Secondary Education

- American International College
- College of Our Lady of the Elms
- Greenfield Community College
- Holyoke Community College
- Springfield College
- Springfield Technical Community College
- Westfield State University
- Western New England University
- University of Massachusetts Amherst

### Secondary Education

- Chicopee Comprehensive HS
- Putnam Vocational HS\*
- Baystate Academy\*

### Employers

- Baystate Health
- Berkshire Health Systems
- Caring Health Center
- Commonwealth Care Alliance
- Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Genesis/Heritage Hall
- Health South\*
- Holyoke & Chicopee Health Centers
- Holyoke Medical Center
- Loomis Communities
- Noble Hospital
- Sisters of Providence Health System

### Workforce Development

- CareerPoint
- Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board
- Franklin Hampshire County Career Centers
- FutureWorks
- Regional Employment Board of Hampden County



For additional information visit  
[www.westernmasshealthcareers.org](http://www.westernmasshealthcareers.org)