



PRESS RELEASE

Portage Lakes | Career Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portage Lakes Career Center Awarded State Funding to Launch & Renovate CTE Programs in Dental, Phlebotomy, and Welding

GREEN, OH - Portage Lakes Career Center today announced it has been awarded new state funding that will allow the school to introduce and expand Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in dental assisting, phlebotomy, and welding. The \$6,536,703 award, included in the recent state operating budget, along with an additional \$1,983,454 investment from the school district, will enable the career center to construct a new 16,280 square foot Dental Assisting program, launch a high school phlebotomy program, and renovate and expand its welding training lab.

"We are thrilled to have secured this state funding, which will have an enormously positive impact on our students, school, and local workforce," said Kim Redmond, Superintendent. "PLCC is committed to delivering high-quality, relevant education that aligns with the needs of our region and equips our students with the skills to excel in the workforce. The recent allocation of funding from the Career Technical Construction & Equipment grant has opened new doors of opportunity for our institution and the communities we serve."

The comprehensive Dental Assisting program will help meet increasing local workforce needs for skilled assistants and dental professionals. The phlebotomy program will train students to properly draw blood as phlebotomists play a vital role in healthcare. Additionally, a state-of-the-art renovation and expansion of our welding lab, is designed to not only increase our enrollment capacity but also to provide the updated training & equipment needed to meet the ever-evolving demands of our local workforce. With these new enhancements, our welding program will be at the forefront of equipping students with the skills and knowledge required for success in the competitive job market.

PLCC has been collaborating closely with architectural firm, FDM Architects, Inc., and construction company, Shook Construction, to prepare for the upcoming building projects. After months of planning and preparation, the district expects to break ground on the new school facilities as early as February 2024.

"Career and technical education helps build pipelines to high-skill, high-demand careers," continued Redmond. "We're proud this funding will allow us to equip more students with real-world skills that lead to fulfilling careers right here in northeastern Ohio. On behalf of our students, faculty and local employers, we extend our deep gratitude to Governor DeWine and the state legislature for investing in CTE and workforce readiness."

The career center looks forward to the immense academic and economic benefits these expanded programs will bring by preparing youth and adult learners with in-demand skills that meet critical workforce needs. The new funding represents an investment in the future of both students and local communities.

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