

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Experience at C-TEC

C-TEC's Career Development System provides educational services to 10 public school districts in Licking County. The goal of the program is to help Licking County students, parents, and educators learn about career pathways, career clusters, and educational and career options. Developing skills in decision making and goal setting, plus work habits and attitudes is a focus. These skills are developed through **career awareness, exploration, and preparation** activities including classroom integration activities.

Career Development is based on the belief that opportunities should be made available to all students from the early years in their family life, through their education and training, into the world of work, and on to retirement.

In addition, Career Development provides students with support and assistance in establishing academic and career goals plus educational plans through the Individual Academic and Career Plan (IACP). This includes initiating an IACP document by students prior to the ninth grade with opportunities to review, validate, and revise the document annually in grades 9-12 as part of the process. C-TEC provides students with a computerized career planning system so students can update and validate their IACP away from school.



**Recently, Licking County 8th graders spent the day at C-TEC to begin learning about the career/technical education opportunities available to them when they become juniors and seniors in high school.**

**While attending the 8th Grade Experience day, students and chaperones gain an understanding of career clusters and career pathways that align with career and technical education opportunities. A discussion of eligibility requirements for each program is highlighted along with a presentation by students about the many opportunities to get involved at C-TEC in youth organizations, apprenticeships, and work experiences. Credentials and college credits for each program are also shared. A speaker begins the day followed by a rotation of touring the career/technical programs, participating in hands-on activities, then watching a video which highlights tips for success.**

**Students are given the task to reflect on their experience in their Individual Academic and Career Plan (IACP) in the Ohio Career Information System (OCIS) once they return to school.**

**This experience supports the Career Development Key Topic: Career/Technical Orientation.**

Contact Beth Bronkar, Career Development Coordinator at [bbronkar@c-tec.edu](mailto:bbronkar@c-tec.edu) for more details.