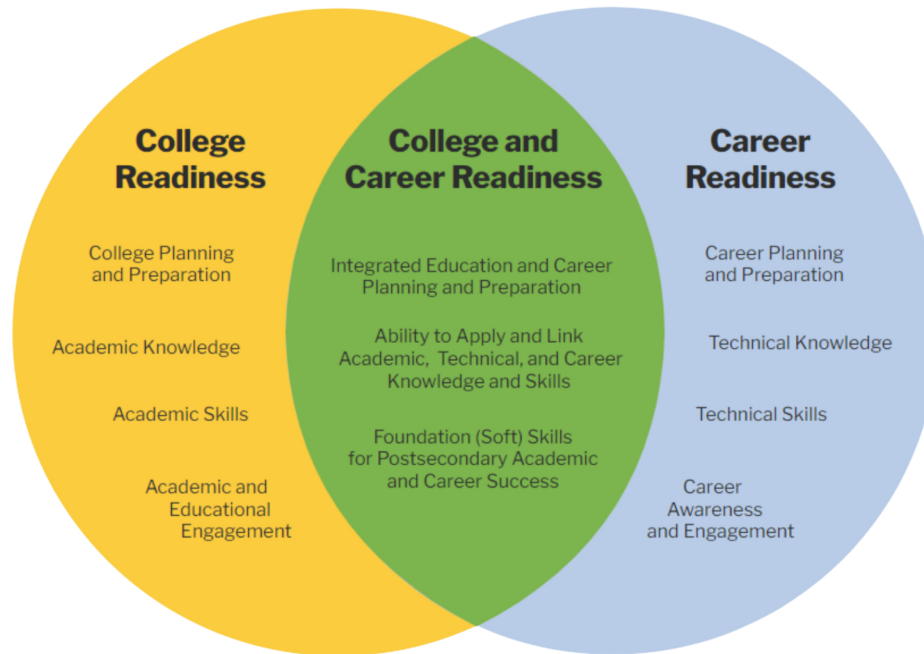


Building Connections

PREPARING FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

January 2026



Welcome

AI AND APPRENTICESHIPS

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the “Building Connections” newsletter for the 2025-2026 school year!

This monthly resource provides career and college readiness materials for Catholic school leaders, students, educators, and families. This edition's spotlight is on AI and experienceships.

A big thank you goes to Hamilton County ESC, LEAD Training, and UC Health for their assistance with this issue!



Mari Thomas, Ph.D.
**High School Programs
Career Pathways**

Contact Us

513.515.7690 | mthomas@cisekids.org

Building Connections

PREPARING FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

January 2026



For Students

AI PROMPTATHON
JANUARY 27, 2026 - 8:30 AM TO 1:00 PM - HCESC

HCESC is hosting an AI Promptathon, where participants use AI tools alongside essential human skills—problem-solving, collaboration, and design thinking—to create real solutions.

Why Attend?

- **Collaborate Across Roles:** Engage in meaningful teamwork where students, educators, and administrators come together to tackle real-world challenges using AI.
- **Learn Practical AI Skills:** Gain hands-on experience building an AI tool that can be applied to your school, classroom, or administrative processes.
- **Real-World Impact:** Develop AI solutions that address real issues faced by schools and communities, making the experience relevant and applicable to everyday life.
- **Professional Development:** For educators and administrators, this event provides an excellent opportunity to expand your understanding of AI and bring new ideas into your professional practice.
- **Future-Proof Your Skills:** Prepare yourself for the evolving world and gain valuable insights into using AI for practical applications across education and beyond.
- **Networking Opportunity:** Build connections with peers, experts, and leaders in education who share an interest in innovation.
- **Creative & Critical Thinking:** Sharpen your problem-solving and innovation skills through collaboration, brainstorming, and real-time project creation.
- **Get Inspired:** Leave with fresh ideas on how to integrate AI.

Who can participate:

Teams of 3 to 5. All teams **MUST** include one adult, but may include high school students, educators, administrators, or any combination.

Location:

Hamilton County ESC
Conference Center
11083 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Cost per team:

\$199 total for
a team of 5 people

Must include at least 1 adult
from a participating school

Only the Team Captain (adult)
should/needs to register

Credits Available:

(6) Contact Hours

Lunch: Included!

For more information:

Arline.Pique@hcesc.org

Gather your team and sign up today!

Brought to you by the HCESC Technology Assistance Group



Register for Session ID 44574 at www.hcesc.org/pd

Contact Us

513.515.7690 | mthomas@cisekids.org

Building Connections

PREPARING FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

January 2026



For Educators

THE US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP: HONORING 250 YEARS OF INGENUITY AND WORKFORCE EVOLUTION

Registered Apprenticeship is now a top national priority, and LEAD Training is leading the charge right here in Greater Cincinnati. Through strategic partnerships with schools and industry leaders, LEAD equips the next generation with the integrity and expertise to make a lasting impact on our workforce.

You are invited to the next Catholic Business Advisory Council to learn more about these initiatives and their special collaboration with the CPD.

- **When:** February 3, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
- **Where:** Cincinnati Police Academy (800 Evans St, Cincinnati, OH 45204)
- **Guest Speaker:** Riley O'Grady, Founder of LEAD Training



For Community

UC Health Lunch and Learn: A Day in the Life of a Surgical Technologist

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Time: 11:00 – 12:00 PM

Agenda

- 11:00 – Welcome & Introductions
- 11:05 – 11:30 – Guest Speaker: Libby Jackson - Systems Periop Clinical Manager Operations
 - Sharing Skills and qualities of a surgical Tech and insights into life in the OR
- 11:30 – 11:45 – Staff Panel
 - Discussion on duties, skills, and challenges
- 11:45-11:55 – Interactive Q&A
- 11:55 Wrap-Up & Resources

Virtual Lunch and Learn [session link](#).

Contact Us

513.515.7690 | mthomas@cisekids.org