

CAREER LAUNCH CHICAGO: Creating Pathways to Economic Opportunity through Youth Apprenticeship

Career Launch Chicago (CLC), a joint initiative of Chicago Public Schools and City Colleges of Chicago, is building youth apprenticeship pathways in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology. In collaboration with Chicago Apprentice Network employers and other partners, CLC will expand the program into more high schools and more industry pathways across Chicago over time.



Led by **Chicago Public Schools** and **City Colleges of Chicago**, CLC's core partners include:

- **Office of the Mayor - City of Chicago**
- **Apprenticeship2020**
- **Chicago Apprentice Network**

CLC is working to establish and expand equitable youth apprenticeships as part of a broader effort to increase quality work-based learning opportunities for Chicago residents, made possible by financial support from local and national foundations that comprise Apprenticeship 2020. With strong leadership from Chicago Public Schools and City Colleges of Chicago, firm backing from the Mayor's Office, and enthusiastic industry partners, CLC has developed a sequenced curriculum that incorporates paid work-based learning, up to 15 credits of postsecondary coursework, and in-demand credentials into its youth apprenticeship programs.

The city has identified 14 schools to pilot the program and will begin enrolling students in spring 2021. The inaugural class is anticipated to have 50 participants.

Through PAYA, CLC will expand into new industries and more schools as the benefits of youth apprenticeship become more well-known. To do so, CLC's strategy will prioritize:

- **STRENGTHENING CAREER-ORIENTED LEARNING** by expanding access to foundational pathway-connected early college courses as part of an effort to establish a robust work-based learning continuum for Chicago Public Schools;
- **EXPANDING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT** by partnering with more youth apprenticeship employers and forming industry working groups to vet curricula, the sequence of work-based learning, and credentials awarded through youth apprenticeship; and,
- **INCREASING STUDENT AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO CAREER PATHWAYS** through the deployment of more postsecondary navigators in high schools that advise students on how to enroll and persist in youth apprenticeship and other college-connected pathways.



High-quality apprenticeships that give students rigorous academics, relevant work opportunities and mentorships are truly career launching experiences, and the confidence shown by both our funding partners and national experts is a testament to the collaborative success of Chicago's educational, business, civic and philanthropic communities.

LORI LIGHTFOOT, Mayor of Chicago