

Northland Workforce Development Center
Student & Community

IMPACT REPORT

www.nwdckc.org

2026

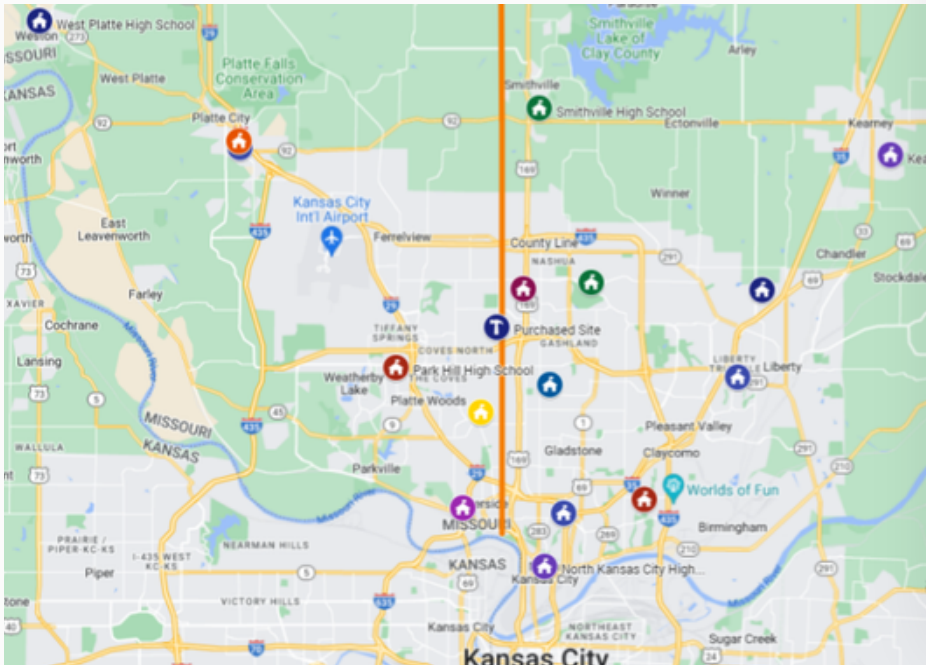


Strengthening Kansas City's workforce pipeline while creating remarkable career opportunities for Northland students.



Executive Summary

Bridging the gap between Kansas City Northland's workforce needs while providing opportunities for students.



Average of
437
students
annually

72% of
responding
students
pursue
aligned
career or
education
pathways

721
stackable
credentials
earned in
2024-25

The Northland Career Center (NCC), and the future Northland Workforce Development Center (NWDC), are expanding opportunity for students historically underrepresented in traditional career pathways. The program currently educates students from homeschool programs as well as **15 area high schools** including two private schools.

Mission

To empower the Kansas City Northland communities through innovative workforce development, strategic partnerships, and supportive programs that build skills, create opportunities, and strengthen our regional workforce and local economy.

Vision

A thriving community where every individual will succeed through education, training, and career advancement.

Benefits & Outcomes



Career and Technical Education (CTE) is at the heart of the work of Northland Career Center and the future Northland Workforce Development Center. Specifically, CTE is an educational pathway that provides students with the academic, technical, and employability skills needed for both college and careers.

Multi-tiered instruction, paired with simulated workplace principles, create a system of opportunity and support that is equitable for all student populations.



NCC/NWDC exists to create pathways into meaningful careers while supporting regional workforce needs. Programs are intentionally aligned to high-demand industries including healthcare, skilled trades, manufacturing, logistics, public safety, and information technology.

Students benefit from:

- Hands-on technical training
- Industry exposure
- Work-based learning
- Postsecondary preparation
- Career-aligned instruction
- Employability skill development

**TRAINING ALIGNED to
WORKFORCE DEMAND**

Workforce Pipeline

Students

Skills

Credentials

Employment/Education

Regional Workforce

Who We Reach

NCC/NWDC serves students from across Clay and Platte Counties through partnerships with multiple school districts and educational institutions.

The student population has become increasingly diverse over the past three years, with growth among students of color, Hispanic students, and students pursuing non-traditional career pathways.



Northland High Schools

- Homeschool Programs
- Kearney
- LEAD Innovation Studio
- Liberty
- Liberty North
- North Kansas City
- Northland Christian
- Oak Park
- Park Hill
- Park Hill South
- Platte County
- Smithville
- St. Pius X
- Staley
- West Platte
- Winnetonka

Students of color make up 26% of the student population.

Up from 20% in 2023.

GENDER



FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH



RACE





LOCATION

The new site, located at the epicenter of the Northland, will reduce travel time and costs for students.



ACCESS

NCC continues to increase enrollment of underrepresented student populations to equitably serve the Northland population.



ACCEPTANCE

The new 19-acre facility will allow the program to increase acceptance rates and vastly reduce the number of students waitlisted each year.



GROWTH

This space will support a strategy to remove the childcare barrier holding many students back from pursuing their career goals.

1 IN 5

Students self-report being **eligible for the free or reduced lunch program**

More than

12%

of students have an **IEP or 504 plan**

85% of

non-traditional students **successfully completed** their CTE pathway

Barrier Reduction and Access

NCC/NWDC is committed to expanding access to career-connected learning opportunities for students who may face educational or economic barriers.

The organization serves:

- Economically disadvantaged students
- Students with disabilities and specialized learning or health plans
- Students pursuing non-traditional career pathways
- Students seeking alternatives to traditional academic-only pathways

Equitable Growth

NCC/NWDC is expanding access to high-demand careers in the Northland for students traditionally underrepresented in those fields.

Students in non-traditional pathways achieve outcomes comparable to their peers while entering industries critical to the regional economy.

72%

of respondents

pursue careers or education aligned to their training

1 in 4

respondents

participate in a non-traditional career pathway

64%

of respondents

enter the workforce directly

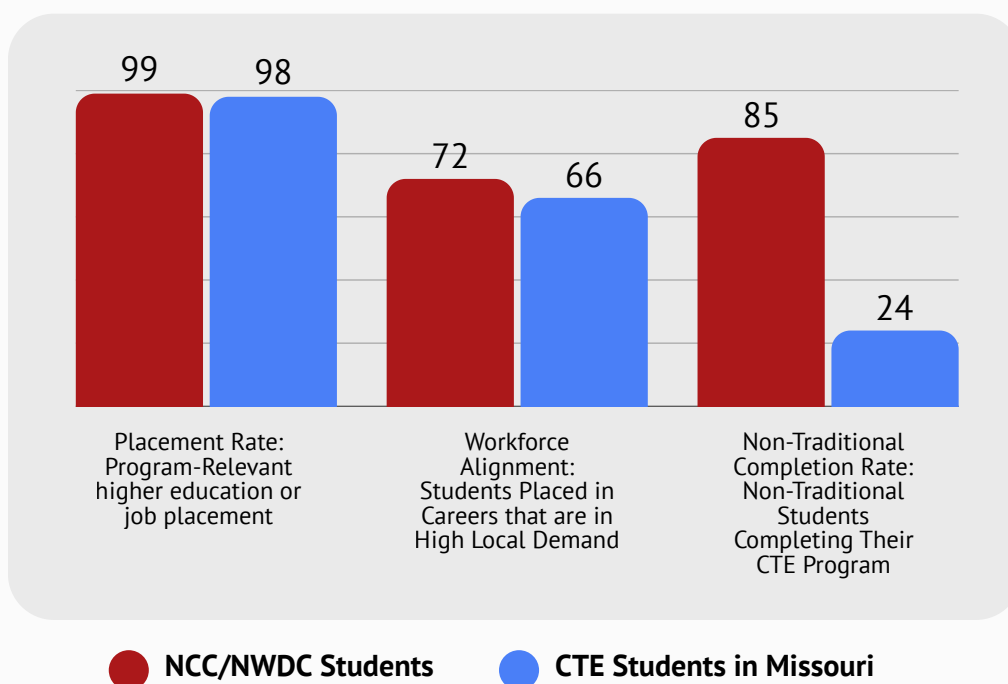
45%

of respondents

are entering high-demand, local jobs



Outcomes for CTE Students in Missouri



Skill and Credential Attainment



Students gain industry-relevant technical skills through hands-on instruction, project-based learning, and exposure to real workplace environments.

Where available, students may earn:

- Industry-recognized credentials
- Dual credit
- Technical certifications
- Work-based learning experience

Credential Types

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Medium & Heavy Truck Student Certification
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Excellence Certification
- Drone Certification (Part 107)
- Paraprofessional Certificate

68%

**PURSUE
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION
AND/OR
TRAINING**

6 IN 10

**WORK DIRECTLY
IN THEIR FIELD
OF STUDY**

64%

**ENTER THE
WORKFORCE
DIRECTLY**

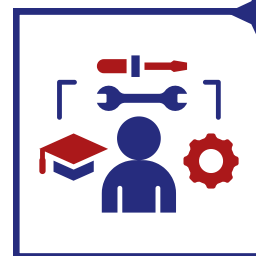
Career-Readiness Outcomes

Career readiness extends beyond technical instruction. NCC/NWDC emphasizes employability, professionalism, attendance, teamwork, and workplace expectations.

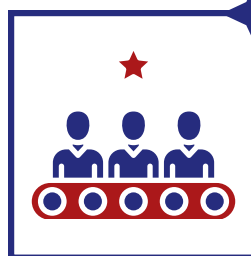
Students participate in work-based learning, career exploration, industry simulations, and employability assessments.



Work-Based Learning



Career Exploration



Industry Simulations



Employability Assessment



Students Graduate with High Demand Industry Alignment

Healthcare

Skilled Trades

Supply Chain & Transportation

Information Technology

Manufacturing

Post-Program Outcomes

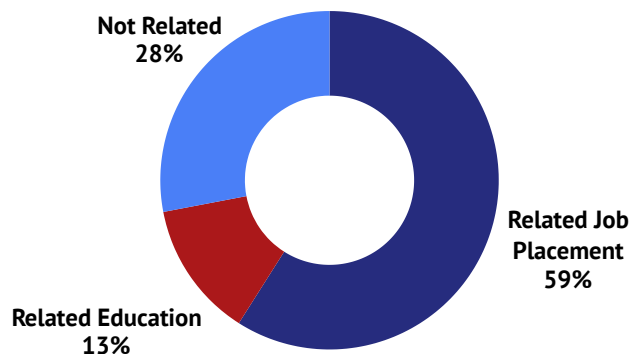
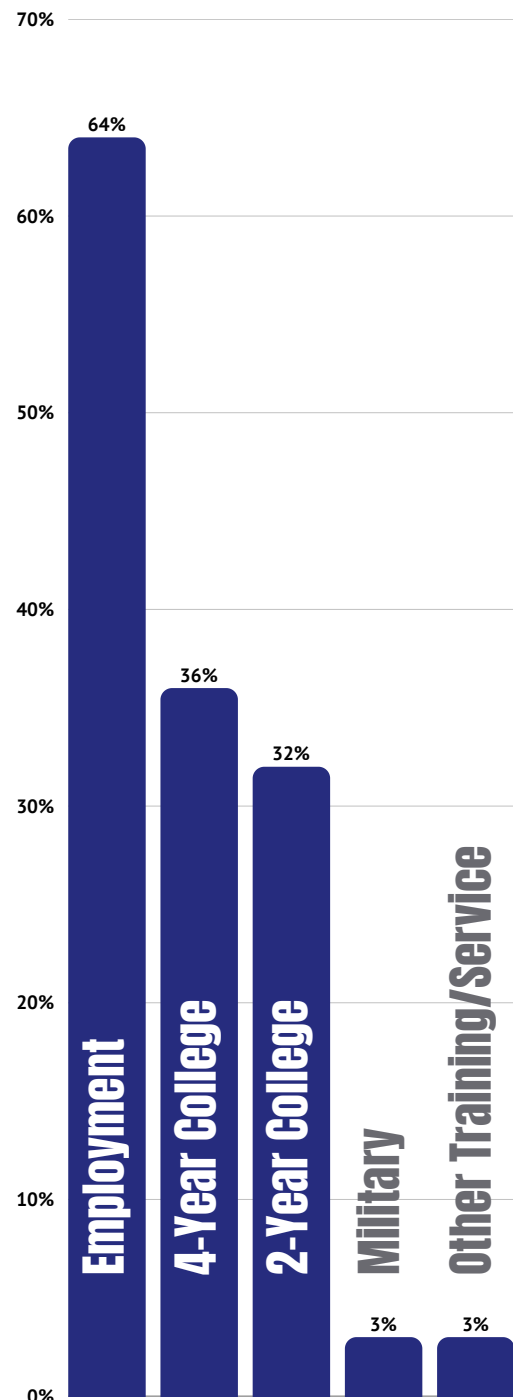


Among survey respondents, students report strong outcomes in employment, postsecondary education, military service, and continued training.

These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of career-connected education pathways in preparing students for life after graduation.

Graduate Outcomes

% of survey respondents



Employer and Community Impact

Based on labor market data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, NCC/NWDC programs are highly aligned with the largest and fastest-growing industries in the Kansas City region, including healthcare, skilled trades, logistics, and technology. These sectors represent critical and local workforce needs, with ongoing demand for skilled workers. By preparing students for careers in these fields, the program directly supports regional economic growth and helps employers fill high-demand roles. In addition to the below programs, NCC/NWDC leadership is developing new programs to fill the workforce gaps in other high-demand industries.

High-Demand Industry	High-Need Occupations (KC Region)	NCC/NWDC Programs	Workforce Alignment Strength
Agriculture & Environmental	Ag technicians, environmental workers	Agricultural Sciences	🎓🎓🎓
Construction & Skilled Trades	Electricians, HVAC techs, welders, construction laborers	Construction Technology, Industrial Welding, HVAC	🎓🎓🎓🎓🎓
Education	Teachers, paraprofessionals	Teaching Professions	🎓🎓🎓🎓
Healthcare	Nursing assistants, medical assistants, healthcare support roles	Health Sciences	🎓🎓🎓🎓🎓
Hospitality & Food Service	Cooks, food service managers	Culinary Arts	🎓🎓🎓
Information Technology	IT support specialists, network techs, cybersecurity roles	IT Professionals	🎓🎓🎓🎓🎓
Manufacturing & Production	Machinists, production technicians, welders	Industrial Automation and Robotics, Industrial Welding	🎓🎓🎓🎓
Public Safety	Police officers, forensic techs	Law Enforcement / CSI	🎓🎓🎓🎓
Transportation & Logistics	Diesel mechanics, heavy truck drivers, aircraft mechanics	Diesel Technology, Aviation Technology	🎓🎓🎓🎓🎓



Investment in the Future

Established in 1980, the Northland Career Center was created to provide career and technical education opportunities for students throughout Kansas City's Northland. Located in Platte City and operated by the Platte County R-3 School District, the center has spent more than four decades preparing high school students and adult learners for in-demand careers through hands-on, industry-focused training programs.

Capital Campaign

The Northland Workforce Development Center capital campaign reflects an unprecedented regional commitment to workforce development and economic growth. To date, more than **\$72.2 million has been secured toward the approximately \$77.4 million project**, with transformative investments from the State of Missouri, the City of Kansas City, municipalities, foundations, corporate partners, and individual donors.

These investments support far more than the construction of a new facility. They create expanded access to career and technical education, industry-recognized credentials, workforce training in high-demand fields, and an innovative on-site childcare center designed to remove barriers for adult learners pursuing career advancement.

Finishing Strong

With approximately \$5.1 million remaining to be raised, campaign efforts continue through strategic donor cultivation, grant opportunities, corporate partnerships, and community engagement. Every investment strengthens the region's talent pipeline, supports local employers, and creates pathways to family-sustaining careers for future generations.

The Northland Workforce Development Center is more than a building — it is **an investment in opportunity, workforce readiness, and the long-term economic vitality of the Northland.**

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"My experience at Northland Career Center was invaluable in launching my career in the IT field. Through the program, I earned industry-recognized certifications and developed essential professional skills that helped me secure my first job before graduation."

Gavin Finch, '16
IT Professions



"This program has prepared me for the next step of becoming a police officer. I currently have a position as a security officer. I can't wait to join the police academy and serve this community in the future."

Oumar Coulibaly, '23
Law Enforcement/CSI



"My time at NCC was well spent. The culinary program gave me the knowledge and skills that I needed to succeed, that being said the skill and knowledge I have now is leading me to become a better chef every day at the cheesecake factory!"

Juliana Salinas-Teixeira, '25
Culinary Arts



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Sources for this report include:

- NCC/NWDC Student Information System (2023–2025 Cohorts)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (Kansas City MSA)
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Perkins V State Performance Indicators
- Missouri Economic Research and Information Center Workforce Projections
- Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development Workforce Data

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"When education and industry work together, everyone benefits. Our partnership with NCC creates opportunities for students, strengthens our local workforce, and helps businesses like ours continue to grow. Investing in technical education is an investment in the long-term success of our community. Together, we're building a stronger workforce, supporting local families, and ensuring our industry has the talent to meet tomorrow's challenges."

Paige Roberts Executive Director of Growth, Strategy & Partnerships at Central Power Systems & Services