

## **SUCCEED Florida – Career Paths Fact Sheet**

The SUCCEED Florida Career Paths grant was established by the 2005 Florida Legislature to provide startup funds that would offset planning and implementation costs to develop and operate career and professional academies. A key element of successful career academies includes partnerships between district school boards and one or more businesses, industries, or postsecondary educational institutions.

The Career Education Study Task Force recognized the career academy model as a comprehensive approach to school restructuring at the secondary level. Career academies are designed to help students become more engaged in school and prepare them for postsecondary education, as well as additional training and employment. For the purposes of this grant program, a career and professional academy is a research-based, rigorous education program that combines relevant academic and technical curricula around a career theme offered by a public school district or the Florida Virtual School.

To be considered for funding, each application must include: a rigorous and relevant academic curriculum using instruction relevant to the career; one or more partnerships with businesses, employers, economic development agencies, industry, or other appropriate sectors of the community; one or more partnerships with public or private postsecondary institutions who agree to articulate coursework to maximize transferability of credits; and program offerings that correlate with industry certification in high-growth, high-demand, and high-pay occupations as identified on the statewide Workforce Targeted Occupations List. Applications are competitive statewide, and half of the available funds must go to counties identified as underserved by the Legislature. Low performing schools with a school grade of “F” are encouraged to use these funds to restructure their schools and may be awarded up to ten bonus points in the scoring process.

Total funding of \$6 million was awarded by the 2005 Florida Legislature.

