



## Collegiate Edu-Nation Statewide Network

The Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN) is a statewide network that facilitates the transformation of rural student outcomes and rural workforce development to prepare future-ready learners. It currently partners with 12 local school districts as well as community and business leaders to achieve the goal of enhancing P-20 education systems. CEN acts as an intermediary by connecting member school districts with training and resources in such areas as capacity building, intentional service supports, statewide networking, professional development, and continuous improvement systems.

This network reflects the future-driven focus of all AASA Lighthouse Districts by emphasizing students' college and career success, ensuring educational attainment of all learners, integrating transformational educator development, and providing exemplary technical support. The CEN transformation process involves deployment of the P-20 System Model to produce 100% high school completion, with 90% of those graduates earning associate degrees and industry recognized certifications. Also, its expectation is that 80% of those learners will go on to earn bachelor's degrees and industry-recognized certifications. CEN serves as a community, state, and national resource for efforts to connect public school districts with higher education partners and workforce leaders.

Overall, the CEN model is intended to support all students in rural districts. With its current districts (in planning and implementation stages), 4,539 students in grade 9-12 are being served. On average, 53% of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged with 50% identifying as Hispanic. Within the CEN network, 17,000 PK-12th grade students receive support and services. In addition to its emphasis upon preparation for high-needs career pathways, CEN has a wide variety of community college partners working to ensure curriculum and program alignment and opportunities for student participation in internships and apprenticeships.

To achieve transformational impact, CEN provides network districts access to CEN technical assistance and shared resources to establish and sustain key building blocks. These include:

1. **Key Curriculum Principles** (e.g., a common instructional framework to support cognitive development); early childhood learning that encourages creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills from an early age; emphasis upon project-based learning and problem solving; and the use of Harvard Instructional Rounds to promote continuous learning);
2. **Innovative and Future-focused Educational Models** (e.g., Secondary AVID, Pathways in Technology Early College High School, STEM, and age-appropriate student research);
3. **Work-based Learning** (with apprenticeships and internships in authentic learning environments leading to industry-based certification); and
4. **District Culture Support** (promoting a culture of innovation and change through leadership training, professional development, school board support, and adult and peer mentoring to promote lifelong learning and continuous improvement).

The CEN Model District “Spotlight” identifies three examples of districts reflecting key principles of ensuring future-ready learners. In Throckmorton CISD, for example, 100% of students who have been in the district since 9th grade will graduate with an associate degree, and 100% will also graduate with an industry-based certification. The district is designated as having a P-TECH High School, offering programs of study aligned with high-wage, high-demand career opportunities for the region. Cross-institutional partnerships with businesses and other stakeholder groups include Baccalaureate opportunities with West Texas A & M, allowing students to complete their college degree within two years after high school graduation. The PTECH model also ensures that students receive 100% coverage of their tuition, books, and fees. According to district leaders, the key to this model is the success of all students, leading to the success of the small town of Throckmorton as more highly educated and better prepared students matriculate from the district.

Similarly, Roscoe Collegiate represents the original model for the CEN Network. It employs an age-appropriate research model that results in future-ready learners skilled in research, communication, creative and critical thinking, and collaboration skills. The research component of this P-20 Model begins in the 3rd grade and continues through high school with a Capstone project aligned to students’ chosen program of study. A community focus is also key to Roscoe’s success, including a learning continuum in which students at the elementary and middle levels engage in a structured experimentation format. Students design research projects based upon an identified real-world problem, conduct the investigation into possible solutions, and then produce their recommended solution(s). The ability of students to design, research, and present a community solution is a critical component of preparing students for future-ready success in both college and career environments.

Finally, Hamlin Collegiate is in year three of implementing its P-20 Model, with over 30% of its high school Class of 2022 earning their associate degree prior to high school graduation. An additional 63% of the class continued into post-secondary institutions to complete their college degrees. Hamlin has also launched the CEN-Registered Apprenticeship Program, a tri-agency partnership involving the district, business partners, and higher education. It allows students to work under master tradespersons to earn skills, certifications, and college credit. In a district where 67% of students are economically disadvantaged, these programs provide students pathways to post-secondary credentials that are outside the typical college degree course offerings. Additionally, Hamlin is using the Registered Apprenticeship Model to impact the adult community, providing them options to up-skill and re-skill—a process that leads to greater economic development within the region served.