

## What is a *College Tech Prep Career Pathway Program*?

A *College Tech Prep Career Pathway Program* combines academic and technical knowledge with skills that lead to college and careers.



### **By completing a *Career Pathway Program*, students will realize the following benefits:**

- ✓ Learn more about how interests, abilities, and aspirations can lead to inspired future careers;
- ✓ Experience personalized education related to interests and strengths;
- ✓ Enjoy a strong sense of belonging;
- ✓ Make connections between what you learn in the classroom and “real time” experiences in the workplace;
- ✓ Feel less alienated because there are more opportunities for interpersonal relationships through small learning communities or academies;
- ✓ Become actively-engaged in academy programs where current research indicates that attendance rates are higher and suspension and dropout rates are lower.
- ✓ Focus on becoming life-long learners;
- ✓ Become aware of and appreciate a range of careers possible within a given pathway;
- ✓ Follow opportunities to explore a career area within a safe environment to allow for informed career decision making;
- ✓ Participate in capstone experiences, earning college credits for a project involving in-depth research over an extended period of time; or complete an internship in an academy-related workplace;
- ✓ Have opportunities to earn college tech prep credit at Montgomery College;
- ✓ Earn articulated Tech Prep college credits during high school without tuition or college expenses;
- ✓ Make better-informed decisions about college and career choices; and
- ✓ Develop job-seeking and job-keeping skills – especially with respect to college majors and career choices.



# Plan for the Future...

## Steps along the way:

1. Identify interests and strengths. Visit the high school's college and career center, and complete any of the many career interest surveys. They are fun and an easy way to think about future careers.
2. Use the results of these surveys to provide you with "food for thought." Discover that there are many possible career choices. Discuss these options with parents, school counselors, and teachers. Remember that career development is a "*work in progress*."
3. Carefully choose the steps along the way and stay focused on the destination. Keep career choices in mind and use them as guides when choosing courses and career pathway programs.
4. Look at appropriate programs at Montgomery College and other postsecondary institutions. Remember, some high school courses can be articulated for College Tech Prep credit. That means that you can get college credit at no tuition cost when the coursework is successfully completed while in high school.
5. Plan for the future! Stay focused on achieving the goals.

## ***Remember, students need a plan...***

*A journey should always begin with a plan. While the end result may change, experienced travelers always start with a destination and a plan in mind. Think about the future and the destination. It is okay if the destination changes while on this journey, as long as the focus is on a meaningful end result.*

*Good luck, and remember help is always available from your school counselors, teachers, and parents!*