

TICUA

Workforce Initiative: LEAP



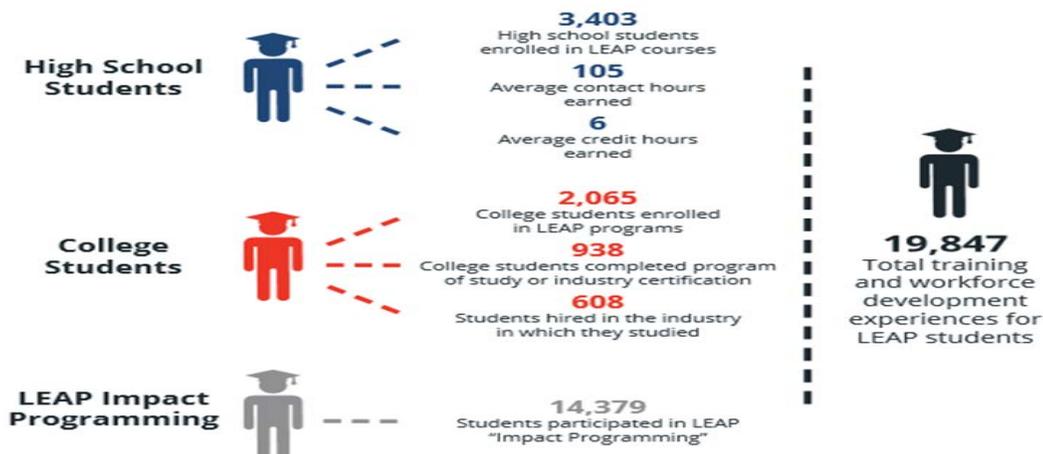
The Labor Education Alignment Program (LEAP), sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) and Representative Gerald McCormick (R-Chattanooga), was established in 2013 through Public Chapter 338 to address the growing disparity between workforce needs and the supply of qualified workers in Tennessee.

LEAP's primary goal is to execute strategies that close the skills gap by ensuring that students gain the necessary training for the increasing number of high-skill and high-technology jobs offered in the state. LEAP accomplishes this goal by providing grant funding to communities that develop a framework for regional partnerships – comprised of Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) and community colleges, industry partners, workforce development professionals, and K-12 educators, particularly those associated with Career and Technical Education (CTE). Collectively, these stakeholders create tailored workforce pipelines designed to provide the requisite technical skills that local employers need.

As of December 2016, LEAP programs have enabled students from 51 counties to participate in 19,847 training and workforce development experiences. Over 3,400 students have enrolled in high school courses supported by LEAP-funded equipment and instructors. Students enrolled in dual enrollment or dual credit courses earned an average of 6 credit hours or 105 contact hours towards academic programs at a partnered community college or TCAT, respectively. To date, 120 students have earned an industry certification through LEAP coursework.

In total, 2,065 college students enrolled in community college and TCAT programs supported by LEAP funded education pathways, equipment, and instructors. Of those students, 369 students have earned an industry certification through LEAP programs of study; 938 have completed their program of study. Of these completers, 608 have found employment in their respective sectors to date.

Since 2014, 14,379 students have engaged in LEAP "Impact Programming." These Impact Programming initiatives include extracurricular programming and career readiness initiatives, work-based learning experiences, academic clubs, and career exploration programs. These programs are designed to expose students to career fields and educational pathways leading to jobs in advanced manufacturing and IT.



Taken from the *TN LEAP Annual Report 2017*.

<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/thec/attachments/LEAPReport2017.pdf>