

Career and Technical Education Innovation & Equity Grants

2018 Grant Winners



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

Background

Purpose

In January 2018, RIDE opened the first application for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovation & Equity Grants. The CTE Equity Grant program was created to ensure historically underserved student populations have expanded access to quality career preparation opportunities in priority sector industries. RIDE awarded grants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies for new or existing CTE programs that:

- 1) Expanded access to CTE for student populations that are currently underserved (either by launching a new program or expanding and enhancing services in an existing program);
- 2) Aligned to a priority sector industry (as defined by the Governor's Workforce Board); and,
- 3) Met the industry-specific content standards adopted by the Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees (see www.prepare-ri.org/cte).

About PrepareRI - Rhode Island's Career Education Strategy



CTE Equity Grants are part of Rhode Island's larger statewide career education strategy: **Prepare Rhode Island (PrepareRI)**. PrepareRI is the statewide career education initiative that unites many partners — including Rhode Island government, private industry leaders, the public education system, universities, and non-profits — around a common strategic plan to improve youth career readiness. PrepareRI began in 2016 after Rhode Island was awarded a New Skills for Youth grant from JPMorgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

PrepareRI aims to close the gap between what students learn in school and what they need for high-demand jobs. The initiative was built on the belief that all young people, regardless of their previous background or intended career, will need some form of postsecondary credential and practical work experience to be successful. RIDE-approved CTE programs play a critical role in this effort.

To learn more about PrepareRI, visit www.prepare-ri.org.



The Need for an Equity Focus

In 2012, RIDE revised the regulations governing CTE programs to help ensure that every student is provided the opportunity to enroll in any CTE program of their choice, irrespective of the student's zip code or circumstances. While these changes helped provide many opportunities to students who otherwise would not have had them, RIDE recognizes that more needs to be done to fulfill the promise that *all* students participate in opportunities that prepare them for high-demand jobs in today's economy.

CTE Equity Grants will help deliver on that promise by incentivizing LEAs to address current equity gaps and create opportunities for students who have not traditionally participated in high-quality CTE opportunities. For example, based on 2015-16 enrollment data of students participating in RIDE-Approved CTE Programs:

- **English language learners:** Students identified as Limited English Proficiency (LEP) made up 5% of Rhode Island's high school population, but only 1% of students completing a CTE program in the state. These students participate in CTE programs at similar rates to their native English-speaking peers, but have a completion rate that is 22% lower.
- **Gender:** Girls comprised 15% or fewer of the students in CTE programs in many priority industries, such as STEM, transportation, manufacturing, and construction. Instead, female students were concentrated in fields stereotypically associated with female roles, such as human services (98% female) and nursing/health sciences (81% female).
- **Disabilities:** Students identified with a disability through an Individual Education Program (IEP) were underrepresented among CTE completers in priority industries. For example, 15% of Rhode Island high school students had IEPs, but those students comprised less than 5% of CTE completers in STEM, health science, and finance.
- **Race:** While students of color participated in CTE programs at rates comparable to statewide averages, they were disproportionately enrolled in non-priority or lower-paying industries. Students of color comprised 40% of the high school population, but less than 10% of total enrollments in CTE programs such as STEM, business management, and marketing.
- **Poverty:** Students living in poverty enrolled in CTE programs at a similar rate to their wealthier peers, but were underrepresented in many priority industries. Students in poverty comprised 43% of the state's high school population, but less than 20% of enrollment in STEM and business management programs.



Grant Winners for 2018

For the 2018 application cycle, RIDE received applications from 26 districts, requesting a total of \$3.1 million in funding. In June 2018, RIDE announced it had awarded \$1.2 million in grants to eight schools across the state. The recipient schools will each receive roughly \$150,000 in funding over two years, starting in the 2018-2019 school year. Read below for more information on the grantees.

Overview of Grantees

School	Type	Population	Industry	Notes
CHARIHotech	Existing	Females	IT	Proposal does not identify # of new seats, but sets goal of 50% female participation (currently 71 seats and only 7 female students)
Exeter-West Greenwich HS	New	Students with disabilities	Environmental Science	Creation of an agriculture and life science program for 50 students, at least 11 of whom have IEPs
Warwick Area Career & Technical Center	Existing	Females and students of color	IT	Creation of a center for excellence in STEM and IT, starting with a CISCO IT pathway that targets female students and students of color
RI Nurses Institute	New	English Learners	Health care	Curriculum creation and ELL certification for current instructors (272 RINI students, plus up to 80 per year non-RINI students)
The MET School	New	Students of color and low-income	Finance	Creation of business and finance program, working with local finance experts and the MET's existing internship program



School	Type	Population	Industry	Notes
Smithfield HS	New	Females	IT	Creation of two new CTE programs in IT and Computer Science for grades 6-8; creation of a part-time CTE coordinator position
East Providence Career & Technical Center	New	Females, English Learners, students with disabilities and students of color	Construction	New electrical program, expansion of summer exploratory program, establishment of work-based learning
Mt. Pleasant HS (Providence)	Existing	English Learners	Defense / pre-engineering	Adopting new curriculum and offering summer enrichment camp targeted at ELs

Grantee Details

CHARIHotech has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to expand and upgrade their computer technology program. The funding will allow CHARIHotech to introduce work-based learning and Digital Design Lab experiences into their curriculum. Furthermore, CHARIHotech will develop tools to get female students interested in IT careers including the development of after school opportunities for middle school students to begin encouraging the participation of female students in IT activities at earlier ages.

Exeter-West Greenwich High School has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to fund a student support specialist in the Agricultural and Life Sciences program. The student support specialist will provide scaffolding for students with disabilities who make up at least one-fifth of the students in the program.

The **Warwick Area Career and Technical Center** has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to develop a CISCO IT pathway to educate students in the field of computer technology and develop their problem-solving skills. This program will emphasize the inclusion of female students and students of color in STEM opportunities.



The **Rhode Island Nurses Institute Charter School (RINI)** has been awarded the CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to develop a curriculum based on the Computer Proficiency Certification Test (CPCT) to provide students with a credential upon course completion. This grant will also be used by instructors to obtain English Learners certification to support English Learners in healthcare.

The **MET School** has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to develop a business and finance CTE program which will complement their well-established internship program. The Met School will build partnerships with local finance experts to expose students, particularly students of color and low socio-economic status, to the world of finance and accounting.

The **Smithfield Middle School** has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to create two Information Technology and Computer Science CTE programs. Furthermore, Smithfield Middle School will create a part-time CTE coordinator position to improve access and support for female students in these courses.

The **East Providence Career and Technical Center** has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to increase the enrollment of low-income students in the electrical CTE program through an expansion of the summer exploratory program, the establishment of work-based learning opportunities, and content support courses.

Mount Pleasant High School has been awarded a CTE Innovation and Equity Grant to expand the pre-engineering program by providing additional supports for English Learners, conducting curriculum revisions, and building a summer enrichment camp with supports for English Learners.