

# 8th Grade Career Pathway Fairs

November – December, 2017 | Middle Schools Across Rutherford County

## Highlights

**3,883**

Students Participated



**11**

Fairs at Middle Schools  
across the County



**96**

Industry Speakers



**100%** Of Industry  
Partners

&

**99%** Of Middle  
School  
Teachers

Said the Pathway Fair was a  
good use of their time.

## Summary

Throughout the months of November – December 2017, 3,883 Rutherford County School 8th graders participated in Rutherford Works Career Pathway Fairs across the county. Students at area middle schools learned about Career & Technical Education (CTE) Pathways at their zoned high school, allowing them to make a more informed decision when registering for high school classes.

The 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair brings together CTE (Career & Technical Education) teachers, business leaders, and high school students to share highlights about the education and job related opportunities for each CTE pathway.

A month prior to the event, 8th grade students choose the four pathways at their zoned high school that most interest them. A schedule is made for the student for the day of the pathway fair and students rotate between the four sessions, spending 30 minutes in each.

Within each session, a high school teacher, industry professional, and high school students spend time describing the pathway students may study in high school and pursue as adults.

## Feedback



"I've seen different variations of this done in Metro Nashville and in New York...this was by far the best, most organized and most informative experience. Well-done!" – **Middle School Teacher**

"Having a teacher, student, and a career representative helped answer students' questions for the pathway in high school as well as post-secondary. In all the sessions the students were engaged and asked wonderful questions that each speaker answered with a wealth of information!" – **Middle School Teacher**

"As a parent of a high school senior and college sophomore, I wish my children would have had this opportunity. My son struggled in college to choose a major and tried 3 different pathways in high school because he didn't really know what each one was about. I felt this was an incredible opportunity for students." – **Middle School Teacher**

"This program is very positive for students and I think will positively impact their academic journey to finding what career path best suits them." – **Industry Partner**



## Outcomes

- When asked which ONE pathway they were most likely to study in high school, the number one pathway selected by students was the Health Sciences pathway (17.5%), a high-demand, high wage industry in Rutherford County.
- 56.3% of students stated they would like to eventually work in this career pathway when they are an adult.
- When asked how much they enjoyed attending this year's career pathway fair, 60% of 8th graders said "I loved it!"; 37% said "It was just okay"
- 91.4% of middle school teachers surveyed stated the 8th Grade Career Pathway Fair was "very impactful" in helping students determine their course of study in high school.
- 98.6% of middle school teachers surveyed and 100% of industry partners surveyed said the pathway fair was a good use of the students' time
- 100% of industry partners surveyed said they would participate as an industry speaker again next year
- 36% of industry partners surveyed stated they did not know about CTE pathways available to Rutherford County School students before participating in a pathway fair.
- When students were asked which ONE word best describes their experience at the Career Pathway Fair, students stated:



## Moving Forward

- 22% of students stated they "Most Definitely!" know what to do during high school and after graduation to work in their desired career pathway; 58% said they "Maybe kind of" know what to do during high school and after graduation to work in their desired career pathway.
  - In 2018, speakers and teachers should be coached to expound on the educational pathway students may take in their desired sector. For instance, teachers could include a diagram of pathway in their presentation and industry speakers can explain their education pathway during introductions.
- An effort should be made to include engaging speakers with hands-on activities in high demand, high wage sectors to increase student interest in pursuing in high school and beyond. This year, 8.3% of students selected Information Technology, 3.4% of students selected Architecture & Construction, and 2% of students selected Manufacturing as the ONE pathway they were most likely to study in high school.\*

*\*Please note: Architecture & Construction and Manufacturing are not available at each middle school, which will lower the overall percentage of students interested in studying in these pathways.*

