

# CCLRC & Innovation Lab

Westside High School | 2026–2027 Planning Overview

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Here is a snapshot of the programming already in place or being built out for next year across both the College, Career, and Life Readiness Center and the Innovation Lab.

## College Readiness (CCLRC)

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- Regular visits with students and parents navigating college.
- Regular admission representatives visit the high school.
- Regular virtual college visits via Zoom
- Virtual visits are handpicked to include schools that don't visit in person (the college or alumni)
- Monthly Scholarship Tips & Tricks sessions — some morning, some noon, some after school — hosted by WCS staff and outside partners (Buffett, Goodrich, UNL, MCC, others)
- Regular podcast by graduates sharing their college experience (MIT, Yale, Princeton, Penn, etc.)
- 8<sup>th</sup>-grade pipeline sessions: fall dates, January small and large group sessions
- ACT extension support (consider for spring)
- HATCH and the Podcast room located in CCLRC

## Industry Partnerships

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- Goal of 30+ industry partner sessions for the year
- 11 different ways partners can engage: guest speaker, informational interview, workplace tours, mock interviews, competition judging, mock business project, job shadows, service learning partner, internship, clinical experience, and sponsoring challenges
- Lunch and learns/panels around Find The Why challenges (industry, parents in that field, and students)

## Innovation Lab

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- Drone class
- PLTW Aerospace Engineering
- PLTW Human Body Systems
- Apple Vision Pro headsets — Westside will be the 11th school in the country with a full class set; regular staff presentations planned to show teachers how to use them across content areas
- NeuroTrainer — Virtual Reality brain training for students, athletes, and staff
- Esports — after school, every day

## Find the Why — Student Platform

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- Macro goal: help students graduate college debt-free and confirm a career direction
- Four engines: (1) Microcredentials, (2) Challenges, (3) Assessments (DISC, My Story, 20 Tenets), (4) Job offers and scholarships
- Five challenges offered throughout the year — four open to metro/state students, one exclusive to Westside students in August
- Students who complete the right combination of challenges, assessments, and microcredentials unlock real job offers, internships, and scholarships
- CCLRC and Innovation Lab serve as support hubs — dedicated time blocks during open mods, with additional access during each of the five challenge windows
- Find the Why video and district-only challenge launches in August

## Organization & Communication

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- Weekly organizer for the full year — built a quarter ahead, so nothing falls through
- All programming is tracked on a dashboard similar to the strategic plan
- Active communications push via Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, email, board meetings, and video board

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*The goal is to do these programs well with consistency, depth, and real results for students, while continually searching for new and innovative ideas proposed by students, staff, and the community.*