



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts: media@crossroadseducation.org

Crossroads Education and Cathedral High School are working together to help shape and brighten the future of education through peer tutoring and an industry level project-based STEM program

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - With the COVID-19 pandemic creating new challenges for students and causing an array of stress within educational communities, Crossroads Education and Cathedral High School have begun working together to equip students better on their new journey.

A Learning Commons is being designed within Cathedral to create a safe, collaborative learning environment that adheres to safety protocols, and allows students to understand math more effectively. This setup also provides access to learning tools outside of the classroom through Crossroads virtual collaboration platform Nexus. Crossroads is bringing in new furniture to fit the space, whiteboard tables, and interactive technology.

Julia Barthel, Cathedral's Principal, says, "We are beyond excited about the potential of our partnership with Crossroads Education. They have already brought innovative planning and thinking to our school, and we look forward to implementing many strategies and practices that will benefit our students academically and holistically. We feel this will be a mutually beneficial relationship that will serve Cathedral and our community."

The unique aspect of this program is that it is designed as a peer-to-peer learning environment. This model means that rather than outside tutors coming in, Cathedral students are trained on how to help their peers effectively. Volunteers will submit applications to either the school administrator or the Learning Commons Director, and all applicants are reviewed before being given an interview and mock tutoring session.

Dr. Kevin Berkopes, Crossroads' CEO, says, "This partnership is a manifestation of our team's belief that to innovate in education we must include students as part of the learning ecosystem, where they are asked to serve others through the joyful activity of tutoring. We believe Cathedral High School is a cornerstone partner, one that pushes us to execute our services at the highest level possible."

Tutors are given service hours and scheduled to tutor during their free periods and before and after school. There is flexibility within their busy schedules, as it is understood that many of the tutors are potentially involved in extracurricular activities.

The Learning Commons is available to the entire school and open throughout the day. It will be functioning alongside the existing Learning Resource Center to ensure that the students' needs are met. Everyone at Crossroads and the Cathedral administration is ecstatic to get this program up and running to strive to deliver equity, drive value, and serve students.

In addition to the Learning Commons, Cathedral has hired Crossroads Education to run the Cathedral STEM Program with a focus on project-based learning and industry relationship. Andrew Salmon, Crossroads' Chief Admin Officer, says, "We are very excited about the opportunity to provide students industry level experience at the high school level and bridge the gap between industry and K-12 education. Through this program, we can connect students to industry partners who are leading in innovation."

The first course of this program will have students' program and design a smart city. Industry professionals from BLN Engineering, EntryPoint Networks, TMGcore, and American Structurepoint are participating in providing industry-level context for students with Crossroads. The long-term goal of the program is to expose students to future problems they can solve as well as promote the opportunity for internships and talent development at the high school level.

About Crossroads Education:

Crossroads Education (CRE) is an Indiana-based company that designs, builds, and manages blended learning spaces called Learning Commons for K-16 educational partners. Crossroads Education aims to enhance the capacity of educational institutions by utilizing peer-tutoring and collaboration as a vital part of equitable learning. Find out more at www.crossroadseducation.org.
