



Student Engagement

Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies is an 84,000 square ft. state-of-the-art Career Center in North Charleston, South Carolina that serves 4 Title 1 high schools. The instructional model is based on rigorous college and career teaching standards designed for students to meet the profile of a South Carolina graduate and demonstrate mastery of career characteristics and industry credentials. Students gain experiential knowledge of requirements for their career field prior to being placed as a fellow or student intern. The students engaged in community service projects such as blood drives and assisting community members throughout the year. Every experience at Cooper River is relevant to what is expected in the world of work. We believe in developing highly trained professionals.

Access and Equity

Despite many challenges received with opening our facility in the middle of a pandemic our students and staff continued to strive. Faculty members made viable business connections that led to 7 student interns throughout the Tri-County area and 4 Harbor Freight Fellowships. Providing our students access to state of the art technology has enabled them to produce and sell high quality products, cast and create their own public service announcements and become employable in a global economy.

VISION

Cooper River CAS is a regional career and technical education center preparing students for global industry certifications.

Students are provided training and support through a network of community and business partnerships in pursuit of high wage and high demand college and career fields.

MISSION

Plan.

Prepare.

Pursue.



2020-2021

School

Improvement

Council Report



Inaugural Academic Year

The inaugural academic year was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 delayed the delivery of classroom equipment, and the opening of the building which impacted the recruitment of students for the center. We enrolled 130 students during our inaugural year and provided students the opportunity to earn 12 complete credentials in the following programs: Building Construction, Mechatronics, Automotive Collision, Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Media Technology, Biomedical Sciences, Health Science, Pre-Engineering, Computer and Information Systems/Information Assurance, Information Support and Services, Programming and Software Development, and Networking Systems. The center instituted a hybrid instructional model of in-person and virtual learning for students. This year, 60% of our students received direct instruction virtually. The center's master schedule offered two daily sessions with 3 hours of direct instruction. Through innovative instruction, committed relationships with business partners, and strong leadership Cooper River was able to accomplish its mission to help our students define their career paths, identify post secondary plans, gain relevant industry educational training or certification in order to pursue college or career fields that will meet the demands of future industries.



Business Partnerships

The center has developed business partnerships with global leaders across the world. Even in a pandemic year, Cooper River was able to establish relationships with 25 business partners. Industries such as Harbor Freight, The Chamber of Commerce, Ingevity, Rick Hendrick, Ascue Paint and Body, MUSC, Brownstone, McCleod Information Systems, Trident Technical College, Roper Hospital, readySC, John Harris Body Shop, and Felix Garage. The partnership with Cooper River and industry leaders is a collaborative effort. These industry leaders have voluntarily committed to serve on our advisory boards to ensure that the content being taught is relevant to the industry, provide internship experiences, and assist with increasing the overall enrollment of the center.

Educator Support

Cooper River extended professional development and moral support to teachers by implementing a weekly professional development series based on John Hattie's Visible Learning research. This interdisciplinary professional development session focused on teacher clarity, learning intentions, reflection and feedback. Teachers were challenged to implement the practices they learned during the professional development in their respective classrooms. The center continues to engage teachers in best practices in order to increase student achievement. Having a common planning allowed the faculty time to bond and form relationships. Our faculty spent quality time together vision casting, developing the center's vision statement and core values. Cooper River celebrated its first Teacher of the Year, Flint Mincey, Automotive Collision instructor and the Rookie Teacher of the Year, Gary Careaga, Mechatronics instructor.

