

# Lake County **TECH**Campus

Celebration of Partnerships  
October 16, 2025





# Message to our Partners and Stakeholders



**Mr. Derrick Burress**  
Principal

Welcome to the Celebration of Partnerships. On behalf of Lake County Tech Campus, it is my privilege to welcome you to our annual Celebration of Partnerships. This event is dedicated to recognizing the ever-expanding business and industry leaders who play such a vital role in shaping the future of career and technical education in our region.

This year, over 2,400 young adults walk through the doors of Tech Campus with aspirations that span college, careers, and lifelong learning. Their successes are made possible because of the strong partnerships we share with you—our community’s employers, mentors, and champions. Together, we ensure that students gain not only hands-on training but also dual college credit, industry certifications, and meaningful experiences that prepare them for life beyond high school.

We are especially proud to highlight new state-of-the-art learning spaces in Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, Welding, and Certified Nurse Assisting. These investments, along with continued growth in programs like transportation, health sciences, IT, and many others, reflect the shared commitment between education and industry to keep our workforce Tech-ready for today and dedicated to tomorrow.

Your support extends beyond classrooms and labs. Through internships, apprenticeships, networking, and statewide competitions like SkillsUSA, you provide students with the confidence and connections they need to thrive. The opportunities you create leave lasting impacts on their futures, our industries, and the vitality of Lake County as a whole.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration and for your partnership, vision, and ongoing investment in the next generation of skilled professionals. Guided by our Tech Campus Roadmap T.E.C.H.: Teach, Establish, Commit, and Honor—we are building pathways, transforming futures, and strengthening our community. Please enjoy our Celebration of Partnerships.

Mr. Derrick Burress,  
Principal of Tech Campus

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# Tech Campus Team



**Dr. Sebastian Kapala**  
Executive Director



**Ms. Joanne Hughes**  
Business Manager / CSBO



**Ms. Danielle Friedlieb**  
Associate Principal



**Mr. Alex Escareno**  
Assistant Principal



**Ms. Elizabeth Del Rio**  
Career Pathway Endorsement  
Coordinator



**Mr. Jack Wilson**  
Auto Service II Instructor / Work  
Based Learning Coordinator



**Mr. Eric Baumann**  
Dean of Students



**Ms. Laura Emmerling**  
Assistant Principal of Student Services

## On the Cover

This year's Celebration of Partnerships cover showcases the 18 career and technical education programs that make the Lake County Tech Campus a hub of opportunity and innovation. Each image showcases the hands-on learning and real-world experiences our students gain every day, made possible through the support of our business and industry partners.

From Automotive Collision Repair and Firefighting to Cosmetology, Cybersecurity, and Medical Assisting, these photos capture candid moments of our students honing and applying essential skills to succeed in today's day and age.

# Looking To The Future



**Kicking off  
November 1st**



## **TOUR OF TECH**

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 4:00PM- 7:00PM



**March**

***TECH CAMPUS CAR RAFFLE***



**March 19th**



**April 7, 8, & 9.**



**Regional  
April 23, 24, & 25.**

**Nationals  
June 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.**



**Last Day of School  
May 29, 2026**

# 10

## Tech Today Your Dedications

### Total Enrollment:

2,425 students

**\$65,000 Paid to  
Give Me TEN + Tech 50  
Student Participants**

### Dual Credits:

91% of eligible students obtained dual credit

### Medical Assisting:

92% earned dual credit in Medical Terminology and Basic Medical Office & Billing Procedures

### Honors & Competitions:

465 National Technical Honor Society participants

216 SkillsUSA Regional competitors

### Experiential Learning:

5,592 CNA clinical hours completed

1,304 EMS Ride-Alongs & ER hours

3,107 Work-Based Learning hours

### Early Education & Teaching:

95% of students earned the Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 1

# 16

**Dedicated to Tomorrow  
Directly Impact**

## Top Five Enrolled Programs:

Automotive Services

Certified Nursing Assistant

Culinary Arts

Medical Assisting

Welding & Fabrication

## Certifications:

179 Illinois Safe Food Handlers

58 ServSafe Certifications (Graduating Seniors)

Scan Here to Dedicate:



# CAREER EXPO

## Career Expo



## \$4,000 In Registration Funds

This year, Tech Campus proudly launched our **first-ever Career Expo Partnership Scholarship**, an initiative designed to support students as they pursue their career and college pathways. Thanks to the generosity of **our Career Expo attendees**, we successfully raised \$4,000.

Each student received **\$500**, providing meaningful support toward tuition, materials, or other career-related expenses.



# Partnership Scholarship



**Sadie**  
Cosmetology



**Mariah**  
Construction Skills & Management



**Jesus**  
Computer Support Services



**Brandon**  
Culinary Arts

# Supported 8 Scholarship Recipients

This scholarship is a testament to the power of community support and industry partnerships. Every dollar raised at the Career Expo directly contributes to preparing our students for success, ensuring they have the tools and resources to follow their passions and achieve their goals.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who registered and helped make this inaugural scholarship a reality. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next generation of professionals.



# Construction Skills & Management

Tech Campus students gain hands-on experience in Carpentry, HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing while learning construction safety, environmental impacts, and building codes. They apply these skills through real-world projects and paid apprenticeships with local companies, gaining valuable workplace experience. Partnering with Tech Campus allows your company to mentor, train, and connect with motivated students—helping shape the next generation of skilled construction professionals while strengthening your workforce pipeline.



## Certifications Earned

- American Ladder Institute Certification
- SP2 Certifications

## Dual Credit through MCC

- CMT 105 Intro to Residential Construction
- AET 121 Construction Documents



### **Mr. Ed Roucka**

#### **Construction Skills & Management Instructor**

Ed Roucka inspires students to turn their passion for building into real-world skills. With four years of teaching experience—including three with the Youth Conservation Corps—he brings hands-on learning to life and shows students the power of industry partnerships. Through mentorship, resources, and real-world projects, Ed helps students gain confidence, build professional networks, and prepare for rewarding careers. Now, with our partnership with McHenry County College, his students have even more opportunities to get ahead in their education and future careers.

### **Mr. Brian Floore**

#### **Construction Skills & Management Instructor**

A proud Tech Campus alumnus and former Student of the Year, Brian Floore returned to his alma mater to inspire the next generation of builders and leaders. Now in his fourth year of teaching, he blends hands-on instruction with strong industry partnerships, knowing that success in construction depends on more than technical know-how. By working closely with local professionals, Brian ensures his students gain essential skills in communication, decision-making, flexibility, and above all, teamwork—preparing them to thrive in a fast-changing industry.





# Emergency Medical Services



## Ms. Marianne Peistrup

### Emergency Medical Services Instructor

Marianne Peistrep is an experienced **EMS instructor** and **local Antioch firefighter** dedicated to preparing the next generation of first responders. She brings real-world expertise to the classroom, guiding students from skill checks to hands-on mentoring. Leveraging her professional connections, Marianne provides top-notch training and collaborates closely with industry partners to ensure students graduate with the skills, confidence, and readiness needed to succeed in life-and-death situations in the field.

## Ms. Melissa Stennett

### Emergency Medical Services Instructor

For 7 years, Melissa has been inspiring Tech Campus students, building strong relationships, and preparing them for the next steps in their careers. She welcomes partners to visit her classroom, see hands-on learning in action, and explore opportunities to mentor and support the next generation of EMS professionals.



# Firefighting

This program prepares students for entry-level firefighter careers through hands-on training in fire suppression, search and rescue, ladder and hose operations, and protective equipment use. Students learn essential fire science and safety skills in the classroom, then apply them in drills, exercises, and ride-alongs with local fire departments. Through the Give Me Ten+TECH 50 program, students gain real-world experience with partners including Antioch, Waukegan, Mundelein, Countryside, and Round Lake Fire Departments. These partnerships allow companies and departments to mentor students, share expertise, and help develop the next generation of firefighters.



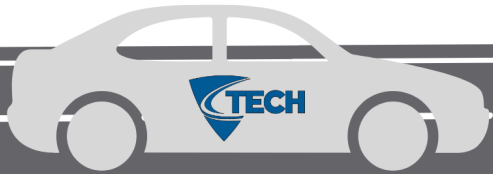
## Mr. John Drinkall Firefighting Instructor

John, a third-year instructor and retired Gurnee Firefighter, is dedicated to preparing students for real-world firefighting careers. He leverages his extensive network to connect students with local firehouses—placing over 15 future first responders last year and aiming for 25 this year. John invites partners to engage with his students, provide mentorship, and see firsthand how classroom skills translate directly to life-saving work in the field.



## Teach

## Establish



Continuing to learn from and with each other – our industry partners, instructors, and students – so we can better prepare every student for the future with knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive.

Working together to strengthen and formalize industry-aligned pipelines into high-demand sectors by supporting our students through guest speakers and career awareness activities.



# PARTNER ROADMAP

## Commit

## Honor

Providing students with the opportunities to gain real-world skills through classroom demonstrations, field experiences, and industry showcases.

Through scholarship and sponsorship, investing in Tech Campus students' futures, ensuring they have the support to pursue their dreams beyond the classroom.



Scan Here to Learn More



# 2024 Top Advocate Antioch Fire Department

Trained more than 15 students across four Firefighting and EMS programs

- Major contributor to our EMS Mass Casualty Training Day
- Regularly conduct hands-on skills check-offs, covering CPR, dive rescue, and so much more



The Antioch Fire Department has been an extraordinary partner and a Top TECH Advocate, and we are proud to nominate them again this year. Their commitment to Lake County Tech Campus students goes far beyond advocacy—they actively equip students with the skills and confidence needed for careers in public safety.

We are incredibly grateful for their team's support and wish Chief Jon Cokefair a happy and restful retirement. Through mentorship, hands-on training, and unwavering support, the Antioch Fire Department inspires our students to excel, pursue careers in public safety, and embrace the values of service and teamwork. We celebrate this incredible partnership and look forward to many more years of collaboration and impact.

*"The Antioch Fire Department has given our students real-world experiences that build confidence and open doors to meaningful careers. Their support has turned classroom learning into life-changing opportunities."* — Marianne Peistrup, EMS Instructor

# 2024 Top Advocate The Village at Victory Lakes

## Over 15 Years of Impact, Innovation, and Inspiration

- Sponsored our 2024 & 2025 Career Expo
- Completed a partner spotlight video
- Directly hire Tech Campus graduates
- 10+ Years Clinical Site



Their support goes far beyond the classroom. By providing clinical-hour placements, contributing to our advisory board, and opening their doors to young healthcare professionals, The Village at Victory Lakes ensures students can apply their skills in a professional, compassionate environment.

In recognition of their remarkable contributions, Tech Campus proudly honored The Village at Victory Lakes as one of our two **Top T.E.C.H. Advocate Partners in 2024**. Their long-standing partnership exemplifies how industry and education can work hand-in-hand to shape futures.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, Lake County Tech Campus looks forward to partnering with the Village at Victory Lakes as they continue to provide unwavering support to our Certified Nursing Assistant students. Together we are building pathways to success for the healthcare leaders of tomorrow.

*"We celebrate The Village at Victory Lakes for being an incredible partner in our CNA students' journey. Through their generous clinical opportunities, students gain hands-on experience, confidence, and a clear path to career success. Our program thrives today because of this strong, valued partnership!"*

— Susan Pucin, CNA Instructor

# 2025 Three A Top Advocate



Ray & Raymond  
Auto Group



Right at Home



City of Hope



Kunes Auto



Crown Lift



Advocate Aurora Health

# Sponsor Nominees



Antioch Fire Department



Superior Ambulance



Auto-Wares

To learn more about  
our Three A Top  
Advocate Sponsor  
Nominees Scan here





# TOUR OF TECH

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | 4:00PM- 7:00PM  
19525 West Washington St, Grayslake IL, 60030

## VISIT US!

Come to our open house and see all the opportunities that Tech Campus has to offer. Make sure to bring your friends and family. No sign-up is required!

## Activities

- Tour the building
- Meet Instructors
- See the classrooms
- Q & A



This year's  
**TOUR OF TECH**  
is Proudly sponsored by



## CONTACT US

  
(847)-223-6681

GET SOCIAL  
@LCTECHCAMPUS

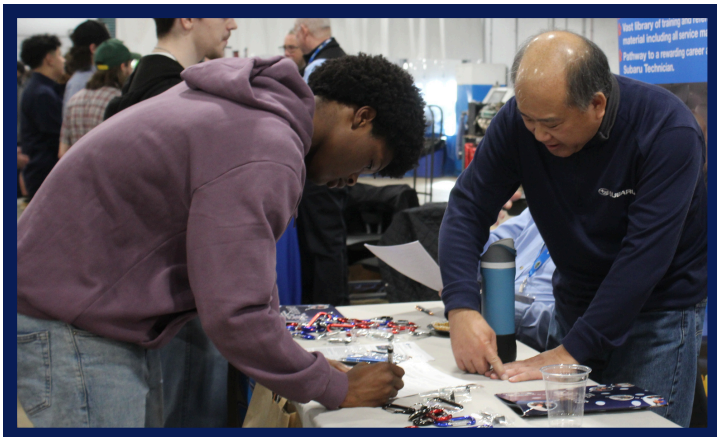
  
TECHCAMPUS.ORG

# 10th Annual Career Expo

Over 131  
Industry  
Partners

+

1,941  
Students  
Participated



11th Annual  
CAREER EXPO  
March 19th, 2026



# Raffle Car



4th Annual



***TECH CAMPUS CAR RAFFLE***

**Over \$12,500 Raised  
in Tool Scholarships**



**Congratulations to  
Ms. Melissa Hofman, the 2024 Raffle Car Winner.**

This is an excellent experience for our students because it allows them to get hands-on experience and leave a valuable impact on our community.

Scan Here to Watch a Video About the Annual Raffle Car



# Give Me Ten + Tech 50 Work-Based Learning



Through Give Me TEN, students spend 10 hours in a professional setting, building essential workplace skills and exploring potential career paths. Once they're ready for more hands-on experience, +TECH50 takes it further with 16–50 hours of project-based learning alongside industry mentors. These programs help students gain confidence, apply classroom knowledge in real-world environments, and make valuable connections that often lead to future opportunities.

**3107 Internship  
Hours Completed**

**131 Students  
Participated**

**\$65,000 Awarded  
to Students**

As an incentive for participating in our Work-Based Learning (WBL) program, Tech Campus provides students with a stipend upon successful completion of their program hours.

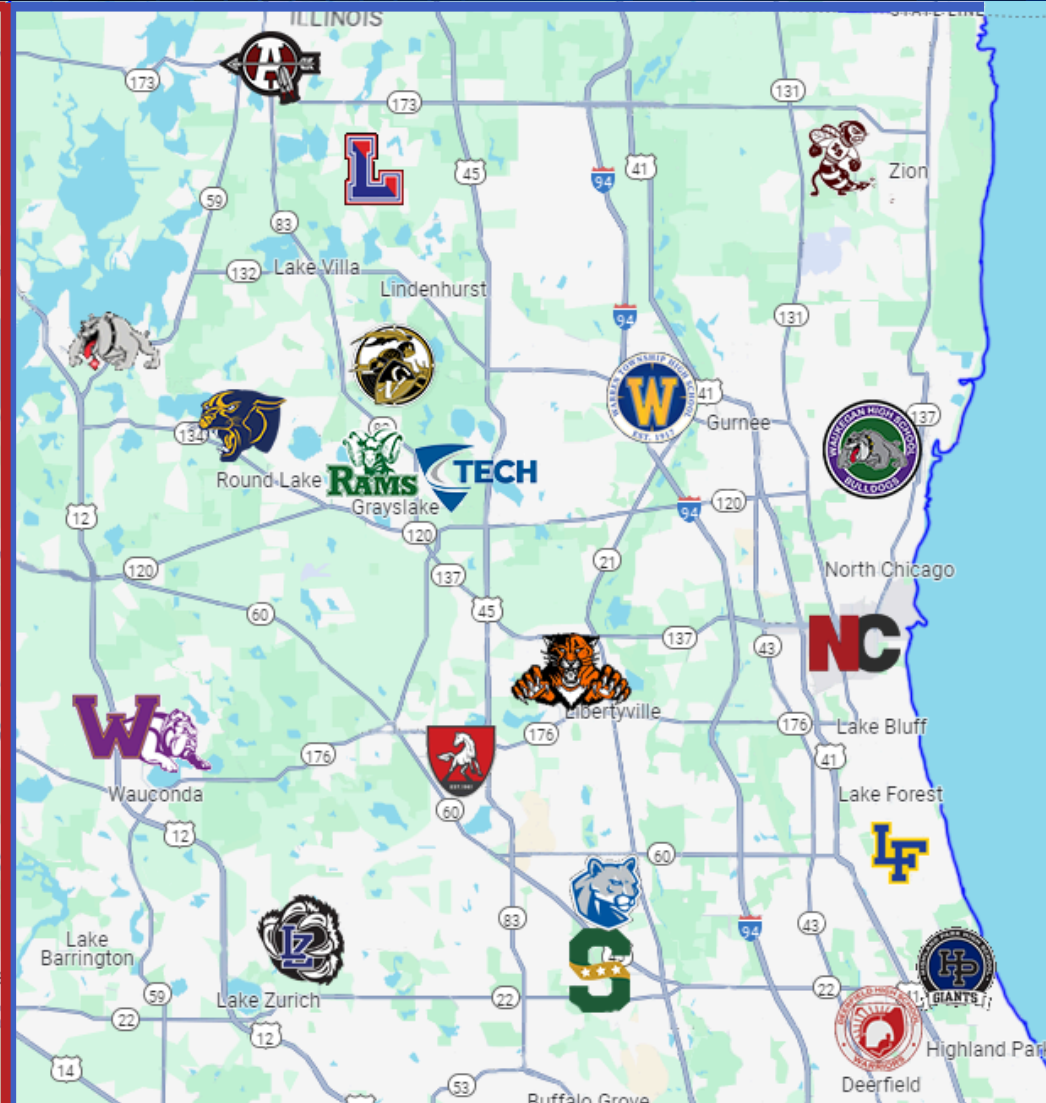
**\$250**

for students completing 11 - 25 hours.

**\$500**

for students completing the +TECH50 program

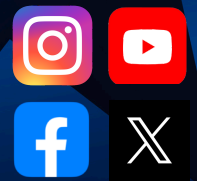




**22 High Schools  
in Lake and  
McHenry County**

**Key**

- |  |                   |   |                   |   |                 |   |                 |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|  | Alden-Hebron      |  | Antioch Community |  | Vernon Hills    |  | North Chicago   |
|  | Deerfield         |  | Grant Community   |  | Wauconda        |  | Round Lake      |
|  | Grayslake Central |  | Grayslake North   |  | Zion-Benton     |  | Mundelein       |
|  | Highland Park     |  | Johnsburg         |  | Warren Township |  | Richmond-Burton |
|  | Lake Forest       |  | Lake Zurich       |  | Stevenson       |  | Lake County     |
|  | Lakes Community   |  | Libertyville      |  | Waukegan        |  | McHenry County  |



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