Seamless Pathways: Designing Aligned CTE Experiences 2-Day Workshop

Objectives:

- **Align CTE Curriculum** – Ensure seamless pathways between high school, postsecondary education, and industry needs.
- **Map Clear Student Pathways** – Create visual resources from middle school to career, highlighting certifications, courses, and job opportunities.
- **Develop Real-World Learning** – Design new problem-based learning (PBL) modules aligned with essential skills, industry challenges and postsecondary expectations.
- **Plan for Implementation & Assessment** – Draft timelines for implementing PBL lessons, develop assessment strategies for both technical and essential skills, and track student progress over time.

DAY 1: EXPLORATION & PROBLEM DEFINITION (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

8:00-8:30 AM: Welcome & Introduction

- Welcome and overview of objectives and design thinking approach

8:30-9:15 AM: "Best Failure" Showcase (Connecting Design Thinking to Teaching)

- Teachers share instructive professional failures in small groups
- Recovery processes and lessons learned
- Fun awards for **Most Valuable Lesson** and **Most Creative Recovery**

9:15-10:30 AM: Industry Advisory Insights/Brainstorm

- Analysis of common themes from industry advisory feedback
- Small group work: **"How Might We..."** challenge framing:
    - Identify essential workplace skills highlighted by industry partners
    - **How might we build those essential skills into the curriculum?**
    - **How might we measure progress/improvement in skills?**

10:30-10:45 AM: BREAK

10:45-11:45 AM: Curriculum Alignment Introduction

- Review of postsecondary program requirements (VVC/BCC):
    - Vertical alignment
    - Articulation
    - Dual enrollment
- Identify alignment challenges or upcoming changes between high school and college programs
- **How might we address these challenges? What lesson plan activities could help students better understand and engage with these opportunities?**

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM: Pathway Mapping Activity/Competition

- How might we create visual pathway maps for students showing progression from 8th-12th grade to community college to a 4-year university and the workforce?
- Pathways should include middle school to postsecondary/workforce connections
- **Best design wins a fun prize!**

12:45-1:15 PM: Lunch

1:15-1:50 PM: Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Exchange

- Form pathway-specific or cross-disciplinary teams
- Industry, real-world problem sharing from participants
- Begin developing PBL modules based on authentic industry challenges and postsecondary requirements

1:50-2:00 PM: Day 1 Reflection & Preview of Day 2

- Quick sharing of key insights and questions

DAY 2: SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

8:00-8:15 AM: Day 1 Review & Day 2 Preview

- Reconnect and refocus on objectives

8:15-10:30 AM: PBL Module Development - Part 1

- Teams continue developing cross-disciplinary or pathway-specific modules
- Align with industry needs and postsecondary requirements
- Incorporate essential skills development into PBL design

10:30-10:45 AM: BREAK

10:45-12:15 PM: PBL Module Development - Part 2

- Create assessment strategies for both technical and essential skills
- Develop concrete classroom implementation plans
- Establish timelines for rolling out PBL modules
- Design strategies for differentiation and student engagement

12:15-12:45 PM: Lunch

12:45-1:30 PM: Implementation Planning, Sharing & Feedback

- Teams present PBL modules and implementation plans (5-7 minutes per team)
- Peer feedback and collaborative refinement
- Discussion on anticipated challenges and solutions

1:30-1:50 PM: Reflection & Next Steps

- What will implementation look like over the next semester?

1:50-2:00 PM: Closing & Commitments