

## **Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers USD 501, Topeka Public Schools**

The Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers (TCALC) is an innovative high school program created in partnership with business and industry concentrating in four strands: Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing; Bioscience & Biomedical; Business, and Human Services. The Center is all about students solving real problems, with real tools (used by real professional(s)), being mentored by real employers, leading to real contributions in the professional area.

Students enrolled in the Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers Program, fast forward into their future as if they already have a college degree and are fully immersed in a professional culture. Students use industry standard tools which lead to substantial advanced contribution during the formative high school years. Students learn from global and local leaders, such as Westar Energy, Valeo Behavioral Health, Stormont Vail, and Meals and Wheels who have chosen to partner with the district and share the program's commitment to educate the future leaders of America. The Center is an example of how business, community and public education can partner to produce personalized learning experiences that educate the needed workforce of tomorrow, especially in high skill, high demand jobs. Early career professional skills like project management, business ethics, time management, teamwork, creativity are instructed, role modeled and measured.

TCALC is not a vocational program. The Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers provides students the opportunity to deeply explore professions of high interest through a profession-based, inquiry-based learning method. Local and global business partners participate with highly skilled instructors to provide authentic exposure and skill acquisition in high demand/high skill 21<sup>st</sup> century professions.

### Requirements for Enrollment:

1. Attained junior or senior status and on-track towards graduation;
2. Desire to work in a profession-based real world environment with other TPS high school students;
3. Be willing to comply with business ethics (e.g. attendance) and dress codes as determined by the type of TCALC study they are involved in;
4. Be willing to spend 2.5 hours a day (morning or afternoon) away from their home high school; 7:30 to 10:00 am **or** 12:30 to 3 pm; and
5. Be able to coordinate transportation either through the district or personally to TCALC sites and business partnership sites.

### Types of Strands and Courses Offered: (Current and Proposed)

TCALC is driven by the changing workforce needs of industry, therefore instructors and TCALC Business Partners co-author all coursework. TCALC curriculum is dynamic, constantly evolving to follow industry trends and market changes using a copyrighted rapid prototyping curriculum development process.

- **Bioscience/Biomedical Strand** – Environmental Science and Animal Health; Energy; Biomedical and Foundations of Medicine; Molecular Medicine and Bioengineering; Bioscience Research
- **Business Technology and Media** – Global Economics, Marketing and Business; Technology Solutions; iMedia and Interactive Design; Filmmaking;
- **Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing** – Architecture; Robotics; Computer Integrated Manufacturing; Design Process for Engineers; and
- **Human Services** – Teacher Education; Emergency and Fire Management; Law and Public Safety.