



Know Before You Go

TEACHER PACKET

APRIL 29 + 30
OHIO EXPO CENTER

 **HOSTED BY**

 **HEALTHCARE CAREER
COLLABORATIVE**
OF CENTRAL OHIO

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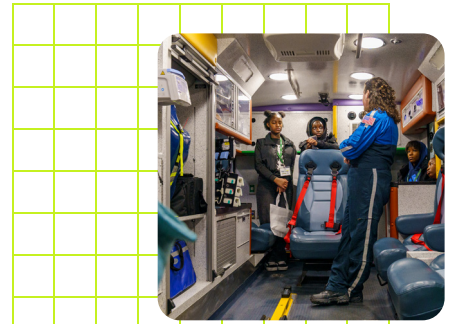


Welcome to the 2026 Central Ohio Healthcare Summit

A Workforce Development Partnership

Thank you for bringing your students to the 2026 Central Ohio Healthcare Summit.

The Healthcare Career Collaborative of Central Ohio (HCCOCO) exists to strengthen the regional healthcare workforce by connecting education and industry. This Summit is designed as an extension of your career-readiness efforts in the classroom.



→ OUR SHARED GOALS ARE SIMPLE:

- Expose students to attainable healthcare career pathways
- Expand awareness beyond traditional roles
- Demonstrate that meaningful, well-paying careers can begin with certification or two-year programs



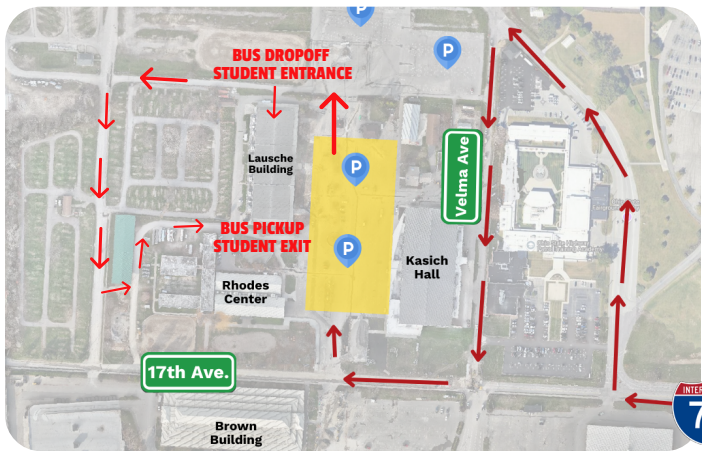
Many students are unaware of the range of in-demand roles available in healthcare. Today is about expanding that awareness and helping them connect their strengths to real opportunities.

We appreciate your partnership in guiding students through exploration, reflection and next steps.

What To Expect at the Summit

Event Structure & Student Experience

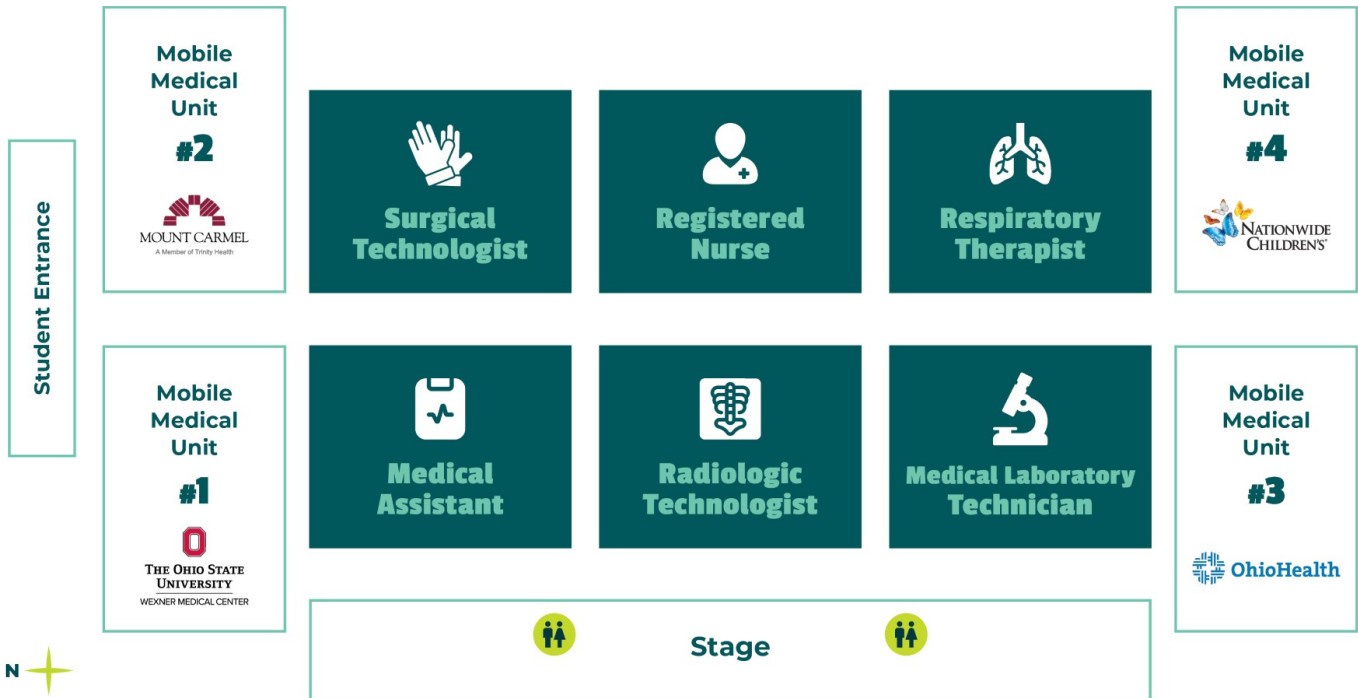
→ Students will rotate through three designated areas for 30 minutes each, with each area featuring two healthcare career stations and providing exposure to all six in-demand pathways. At each station, students will engage in hands-on demonstrations, interactive skill-based activities and conversations with healthcare professionals, while gaining exposure to real tools, equipment and education and credentialing pathways.



We encourage educators to:

- **Review** the rotation map before students begin
- **Help** reinforce group transitions
- **Encourage** thoughtful participation
- **Model** professional engagement

→ **The goal is structured exploration.** Students will not simply observe — they will engage.



Final layout details and rotation zones will be confirmed onsite.

Event Logistics

Important Details for Educators

→ Lanyard Distribution

Educators will receive a packet of lanyards with badges before the event. HCCOCO staff will distribute these to schools. Please:

- **Distribute** lanyards to students **before** entering the main event space.
- **Ensure** students wear their lanyards visibly at all times.
- **Collect** lanyards prior to departure unless otherwise instructed.

→ Arrival & Check-In

When you arrive at the Lausche Building entrance, you will be greeted by volunteer staff. Each student will receive an HCCOCO bag to carry materials they gather while visiting the demonstration areas. Please ensure all students are wearing their lanyards and badges. This helps us manage student flow throughout the event.

→ Student Group Rotation

- Students will rotate through **three designated areas** during the Summit.
- Each area includes **two healthcare career stations**. Rotation schedules are predetermined prior to arrival.
- It is important that students arrive on time, as **each group will have 30 minutes** in each area, with two career stations per area.
- We are unable to accommodate additional time at demonstrations for late arrivals.

→ Chaperone Expectations

- Remain with assigned student groups during rotations.
- Encourage students to ask questions and participate in activities.
- Assist with time management between rotations.



For day-of questions, contact Becca Alexander at balexander@aspyrworkforce.org.

6 Healthcare Career Pathways

HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW FOR EDUCATORS



Surgical Technologist

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years)



CREDENTIALS:

Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)



WORK SETTINGS:

- Operating rooms
- Surgical centers



CORE TRAITS: Precision, teamwork, ability to remain calm under pressure



Radiologic Technologist

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years)



CREDENTIALS:

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification and Ohio state licensure



WORK SETTINGS:

- Hospitals
- Imaging centers
- Clinics



CORE TRAITS: Technical aptitude, communication skills, attention to detail



Respiratory Therapist

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years) or
Bachelor's Degree
(4 years)



CREDENTIAL:

National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) exam and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential



WORK SETTINGS:

- Hospitals
- Specialty care units



CORE TRAITS: Calm in emergencies, compassionate, critical thinker



Registered Nurse

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years) or
Bachelor's Degree
(4 years)



CREDENTIAL:

NCLEX-RN licensure exam



WORK SETTINGS:

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Schools
- Community settings



CORE TRAITS: Leadership, advocacy, adaptability



Medical Assistant

EDUCATION:

Certificate
or Diploma
(often under 1 year)



CREDENTIAL:

Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)
exam through the American Association
of Medical Assistants (AAMA)



WORK SETTINGS:

- Physician offices
- Outpatient clinics



CORE TRAITS: Multitasking, organization, patient communication



Medical Laboratory Technician

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years)



CREDENTIAL:

Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT)
certification through the American
Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)



WORK SETTINGS:

- Hospitals
- Diagnostic laboratories



CORE TRAITS: Analytical thinking, accuracy, behind-the-scenes problem solving

Why These 6 Career Paths?

REGIONAL WORKFORCE CONTEXT

The six featured career pathways were selected based on regional workforce demand and attainable education timelines.

Healthcare is one of the fastest-growing sectors in Central Ohio. Many in-demand roles:

- Require certification or a two-year degree
- Offer strong entry-level wages
- Provide opportunities for advancement
- Exist in hospitals, outpatient clinics, labs and specialty settings

These pathways were intentionally selected to show students that meaningful healthcare careers are accessible, attainable and aligned with workforce needs.



For updated labor market data, career pathway information or partnership inquiries, visit healthcarecareersohio.org or contact Becca Alexander at balexander@aspyrworkforce.org.

FAQ for Educators



Q: How does this align with career-readiness standards?

A: The Summit supports exploration, self-assessment and exposure to postsecondary pathways.

Q: Are these careers attainable directly after high school?

A: Several pathways begin with certificate or two-year associate degree programs, such as medical assisting, surgical technology, radiologic technology and medical laboratory technology.



Q: Is this event focused only on hospital roles?

A: No. Pathways include outpatient clinics, diagnostic labs, imaging centers and community settings.

Q: How can we extend this experience in the classroom?

A: Use the integration activities provided, reflect on quiz results and discuss next-step planning.

Q: Who is HCCOCO?

A: Healthcare Career Collaborative of Central Ohio is a regional workforce development partnership connecting healthcare employers, educators and community organizations.

Q: If I have additional questions about the event, who can I contact?

A: Becca Alexander at Aspyr: balexander@aspyrworkforce.org

Quick Warmup Activity:

“You Might Be a Good Fit If...”



This quick activity can be facilitated before or after the Summit.

Ask students to raise their hands if the statement describes them:

- “You stay calm under pressure.”
- “You enjoy solving puzzles or analyzing details.”
- “You prefer hands-on work over sitting at a desk.”
- “You enjoy working directly with people.”
- “You are interested in technology or equipment.”
- “You like organizing and supporting others.”

→ **After discussion, reveal how these traits align with specific Summit pathways.**



Encourage reflection:

- Did your result surprise you? Why?
- Did today's experience change your perspective?

Group Discussion Activity:

Myth or Fact: Healthcare Edition



Invite students to write down statements they believe about healthcare careers.

Facilitate discussion and identify myths versus facts. Example prompts:

“You have to go to school for eight years to work in healthcare.”

Reality: Not all healthcare careers require long academic programs. Some roles, such as medical assistant or surgical technologist, can begin with certificate programs or two-year associate degree programs.

“Healthcare careers only exist in hospitals.”

Reality: Healthcare professionals work in many settings including outpatient clinics, diagnostic laboratories, imaging centers, physician offices, schools and community health organizations.

“You must be excellent at science to succeed.”

Reality: Healthcare careers require many different strengths, including communication, problem-solving, attention to detail and teamwork. Science skills are important in some roles, but there are many pathways with different skill requirements.

“There are entry-level roles that lead to advancement.”

Reality: Many healthcare careers offer clear pathways for advancement through additional training, certifications and experience.



Connect discussion back to Summit experiences and stations.

The goal is to correct misconceptions and expand awareness.

Post-Event

Reflection Prompts

**After the Summit, consider asking students:**

- Which career pathway surprised you most? Why?
- Which station felt most aligned with your strengths?
- What additional information do you need to make a decision?
- How might this pathway fit into your long-term goals?

→ **Encourage students to connect their experiences** to graduation planning, credential exploration and career advising conversations.

Post-Event

Next Steps



After the Summit, consider guiding students through a brief reflection activity:

Discussion Prompts:

- Did your top career choice change after attending?
- What new information did you learn?
- What questions do you still have?

→ **The Summit is a starting point.**
Continued conversations can help students move from curiosity to clarity.

Next Steps:**Encourage Students To:**

- Meet with a guidance counselor to discuss pathway planning
- Research certification or degree programs
- Explore volunteer or shadowing opportunities
- Investigate dual enrollment or career technical education options



For additional partnership opportunities or classroom resources, contact Becca Alexander at balexander@aspyrworkforce.org.

Reflection & Synthesis Activities:

Extending the Summit Into Your Classroom

TURNING EXPOSURE INTO EXPLORATION

The Summit is designed to spark curiosity. You can extend that momentum into meaningful classroom discussion and exploration. Below are simple ways to build on the experience:

1 Reflection Discussion

(15–20 Minutes)

After the Summit, ask students:

- What surprised you most?
- Did any career path change your perspective?
- What station felt most aligned with your strengths?

→ Encourage students to reference their pre-event reflections and quiz results.

2 Career Pathway Comparison Activity

Have students compare two healthcare roles by identifying:

- Education required
- Typical work environment
- Key skills needed
- Type of patient interaction

→ This reinforces research and critical thinking.

3 Pathway Research Assignment

Assign students to research:

- A local training program
- Certification timeline
- Estimated starting salary
- Local employers hiring for that role

→ Students present findings in short summaries.

4 Guest Speaker Follow-Up

(Optional)

Consider inviting a healthcare professional to speak in your classroom and share:

- How they chose their path
- Challenges they faced
- Advice for students considering similar roles



These small extensions help translate exposure into action.