



Know Before You Go

STUDENT PACKET

APRIL 29 + 30
OHIO EXPO CENTER

 **HOSTED BY**

 **HEALTHCARE CAREER
COLLABORATIVE**
OF CENTRAL OHIO

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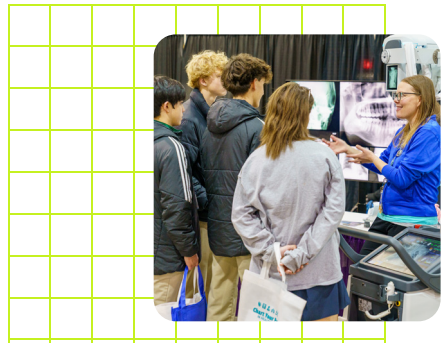
Welcome to the 2026 Central Ohio Healthcare Summit

You are about to step into a day designed around possibility.

The Central Ohio Healthcare Summit is more than an event. It is a chance to explore real careers, meet professionals who started where you are and discover pathways that may shape your future.

Healthcare is one of the fastest-growing industries in our region. But not every role requires eight years of school or becoming a doctor or nurse. Many in-demand careers can begin with a certification or two-year degree and lead to meaningful, well-paying work that makes a difference in people's lives every day.

This packet is your starting point.



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND:

- **An overview** of six in-demand healthcare career paths
- **What to expect** at each Summit station
- **A short career quiz** to help you reflect on your strengths and interests
- **Space to plan** your top stations and goals for the day

We encourage you to explore with curiosity. Ask questions. Try something new. Pay attention to what excites you. There is no right answer, only opportunities to learn more about yourself and what might fit your future.

The Summit is designed to give you hands-on experiences, putting you face-to-face with working professionals and the tools they use every day. Use this packet to guide your time and make the most of every station you visit.

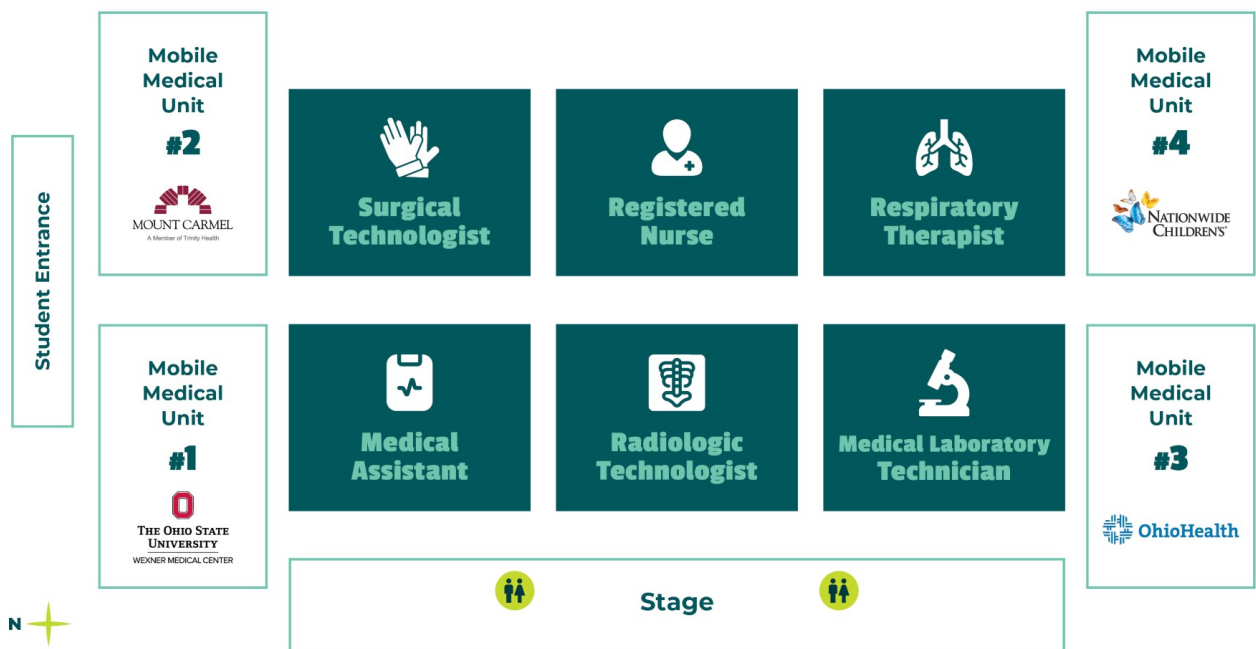
We are excited to support you as you explore what is possible.

See you at the Summit.

What To Expect at the Summit

How the Day Is Structured

- ➔ You will rotate through **three different areas every 30 minutes** of the Summit.
- ➔ Each area features two healthcare career stations, giving you **exposure to all six in-demand career paths** during your visit.
- ➔ Your rotation schedule will be **assigned before you arrive**.
- ➔ Because time at each station is limited, we encourage you to **think ahead about which careers interest you most**. While you will experience all six stations, identifying your priorities will help you focus your questions and participation.



What You Will Experience

- Hands-on demonstrations
- Interactive skill activities
- Conversations with healthcare professionals
- Exposure to tools and equipment used in the field
- Insight into education and training pathways

How To Navigate the Summit

- Follow your assigned rotation schedule
- Listen for announcements signaling rotation times
- Stay with your group
- Ask staff or volunteers if you need assistance

Come ready to participate and explore.

Explore **6** In-Demand Healthcare Careers

Real Roles. Real Impact. Real Possibilities.



Surgical Technologist

Ever wondered what it's like to work in an operating room? This area is all about surgery prep and teamwork. You'll learn how surgical technologists keep things clean and sterile, practice operating room skills through hands-on activities and see what it takes to support surgeons during procedures. There's also a virtual reality experience to help you picture yourself in the role.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Scrub technicians are the center of every surgery.

— **BRANDY DICKSON**, Surgical Technologist, OhioHealth



Radiologic Technologist

This area shows how healthcare professionals use imaging technology to see inside the body. You'll explore tools like X-ray, ultrasound, CT and MRI, see real equipment up close and interact with a 3D anatomy table that helps explain how imaging works. If you're into tech, science or problem-solving, this is a must-see.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

A career in ultrasound matters because every image has the power to answer a question, guide a decision and change a life!

— **CHRIS MEDER**, Radiologic Technologist,
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center





Respiratory Therapist

Want to learn how healthcare teams help people breathe? In this area, you'll see how respiratory therapists work with lungs, airways and breathing machines. You'll participate in demonstrations using real pig lungs, learn how therapists help clear airways and see how they manage breathing in emergencies.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE



Being a respiratory therapist matters because we help people rediscover the strength of a single breath, turning moments of fear into hope and the chance to live fully again.

— **ANDREA YAGODICH**, Respiratory Therapist, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center



Registered Nurse

In the nursing area, you'll get to try real nursing skills instead of just watching. You'll practice CPR, explore virtual reality healthcare scenarios and check out hands-on stations that show what nurses do every day to care for patients. If you like helping people and staying busy, this area gives you a real feel for the job.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE



Nursing is where science and human caring can meet. Without nurses, we would not have healthcare — we would just have medicine.

— **LIAM HIX**, Registered Nurse, Nationwide Children's Hospital



Medical Assistant

In the medical assistant area, you'll experience what it's like to work in a doctor's office or clinic. You can practice taking vital signs, try an EKG simulation, learn how vaccines are given and explore simple lab tests used every day. This area shows how medical assistants keep clinics running smoothly and work closely with patients.



PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Being a medical assistant can give you the opportunity to work in primary care, specialties, nursing homes, urgent care and hospitals, and is a great starting point if you want to further your education in the medical field.

— JOHN W. FULLER VI, Medical Assistant, Mount Carmel Health System



Medical Laboratory Technician

This area is like stepping into a real medical lab. You'll learn how lab technicians test samples and find answers that doctors use to diagnose patients. Activities include DNA extraction, blood typing and learning how lab professionals protect themselves with proper safety gear. If you like science experiments and attention to detail, this area is for you.



PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

I love knowing what I do every day helps patients, even if they never know my role in their healthcare journey.

— KAYSI GLASGO, Lead Pathologists' Assistant,
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center



Education & Training Pathways

Different Paths. Different Timelines. All Meaningful.

Not all healthcare careers require the same amount of education. Each pathway offers a different timeline and entry point after high school.



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



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



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



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



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



Medical Laboratory Technician

EDUCATION:

Associate Degree
(1–2 years)



CREDENTIAL:

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



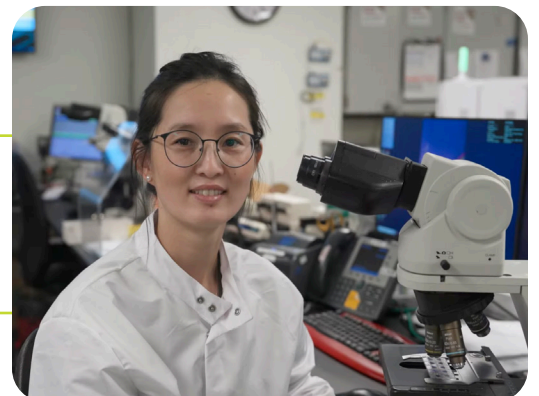
WORK SETTINGS:

- Hospitals
- Diagnostic laboratories



THERE IS NO SINGLE RIGHT PATH.

**Each offers opportunities for growth,
advancement and long-term impact.**



Career Path Quiz

→ WHICH PATH MIGHT FIT YOU?

Circle the letter that feels most like you for each question.

→ When things get stressful, I:

- A. Stay calm and focused in fast-paced situations
- B. Concentrate on operating equipment correctly
- C. Focus on helping someone feel stable and safe
- D. Step in to help and keep things organized
- E. Communicate clearly and guide others
- F. Double-check details to make sure everything is accurate

→ I prefer work that is:

- A. Hands-on and team-based
- B. Technology-driven
- C. Directly helping someone in the moment
- D. A mix of clinical and administrative
- E. Leadership-focused and patient-centered
- F. Analytical and laboratory-based

→ I feel most confident when I am:

- A. Following precise procedures
- B. Using imaging or technical tools
- C. Responding in urgent situations
- D. Supporting others and multitasking
- E. Coordinating care and advocating
- F. Reviewing information and spotting patterns

→ My ideal environment would be:

- A. An operating room
- B. An imaging suite
- C. An emergency or respiratory unit
- D. A physician office
- E. A hospital floor or specialty unit
- F. A clinical laboratory

→ My ideal education path after high school:

- A. 1–2 year technical training
- B. Associate degree
- C. Associate or bachelor's degree
- D. Certificate program
- E. Associate or bachelor's degree + licensure
- F. Associate degree + certification

→ What motivates me most?

- A. Being part of a surgical team
- B. Using technology to solve medical questions
- C. Helping someone breathe easier
- D. Making patient visits run smoothly
- E. Leading patient care decisions
- F. Discovering answers through testing

QUIZ RESULTS



Mostly A's
→ **Surgical Technologist**



Mostly D's
→ **Medical Assistant**



Mostly B's
→ **Radiologic Technologist**



Mostly E's
→ **Registered Nurse**



Mostly C's
→ **Respiratory Therapist**



Mostly F's
→ **Medical Laboratory Technician**

Mixed answers? That's completely normal.

Use your results as a guide for which stations you want to focus on most during the Summit.

Make the Most of Your Rotations

FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION

Your rotation schedule is assigned, but you control how you engage.

As you move through each area:

- Pay close attention to the pathways that align with your quiz results
- Ask professionals what surprised them about their career
- Notice which station feels most interesting or energizing
- Take notes on what stands out to you
- Review the career pathway signs at each station for information about skills, salary and expectations

→ **You will experience all six pathways.** Your goal is to identify which ones deserve deeper exploration.



Build Your Agenda

Identify Your Top 3 Priorities

Based on what you've learned so far, list the three careers you want to focus on most:

1 Career: _____

Why this interests me: _____

2 Career: _____

Why this interests me: _____

3 Career: _____

Why this interests me: _____

During each rotation:

- **Participate** in at least one activity
- **Ask** one meaningful question
- **Write** down one new insight

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE Pre-Event Reflections

What are you hoping to learn about yourself at the Summit?

What strengths do you think you bring to a healthcare career?

What questions do you want answered?

Taking time to reflect now will help you stay focused and engaged during the event.

Enter for a Chance to Win

You made it through the packet! Fill out the form below for a **chance to win a \$25 gift card.**

Name:

Personal Email:

The career path that interests me most (check one):



**Surgical
Technologist**



**Medical
Assistant**



**Radiologic
Technologist**



**Registered
Nurse**



**Respiratory
Therapist**



**Medical Laboratory
Technician**

Why:



Drop off this page at the designated entry location during the Summit to be entered to win.