



Innovative Educational Pathways at Northampton High School

A FOCUS ON TRI-CREDIT INITIATIVES

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts, the Northampton Public School District is defined by innovation, engagement, and opportunity. The district is also a recent recipient of the Innovation Pathways Grant, a program offered by the state of Massachusetts that is designed to create partnerships with employers in order to expose students to career options and help them develop knowledge and skills related to their chosen field of study prior to graduation. As a recipient of this grant, Northampton Public Schools were recognized for their predesigned pathways for career and academic advancement.

"Shortly after we received the Innovation Pathways grant, it was tricky to partner with our area community college because of the cost and availability of courses and industry certificates." Molly McLoughlin, Digital Literacy & Computer Science Director, said. Once Northampton Public Schools partnered with Acadeum, the high school was able to offer tri-credit programs. McLoughlin noted, "We began with certifications in the IT discipline but soon after offered other programming courses, social media marketing, and engineering. Acadeum has every course and certificate we need and for less than our local community college. That's the value of their network and the empty seat model."



TRI-CREDIT FAST FACTS

- Tri-credit programs offer students the ability to earn high school and college credit along with an industry certificate or credential to acquire in-demand skills
- Bay Path University provides tri-credit opportunities with a social media course for high school students, earning high school credit, college credit, and the Meta certificate

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Looking Forward to the Future

As Molly McLoughlin continues to work closely with the Acadeum team to expand course offerings for students in Northampton, she anticipates an increase in collective interest. "Significantly expanding our course offerings means there will be more options for more students, beyond those who participate in the pathways," she said. "I am also collaborating with other colleagues at the high school to bring together our tri-credit programs and dual enrollment." In the next phase of the partnership, students will have the option to enroll in courses related to health and science, medical billing, and other introductory and fundamental courses.



"The biggest value I see with Acadeum is that it is a nationally recognized platform. That kind of infrastructure has given us so much to work with."

-Molly McLoughlin

HOW NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE EXPANDING INNOVATION AND INCREASING OPTIONS THROUGH ACADEUM:

- + Reducing administrative challenges around payment, enrollment, and transcripts
- + Meeting and exceeding state standards for innovation, college preparedness, and career readiness
- + Building communities of engaged students
- + Fostering student motivation for course and career exploration