



Partner Success Story

Challenge

Akron Public Schools (APS) sought to transform the way high school students are prepared for success, graduating ready to enroll in post-secondary education, enter the workforce, or enlist.

OPPORTUNITY

To address this challenge, APS partnered with Ford Next Generation Learning and ConxusNEO to launch the College & Career Academies of Akron, a District-wide educational framework designed to provide all students with opportunities to pursue pathways related to high-demand, high-wage careers. The broad goal: increase academic achievement, attendance and graduation rates. The three foundational aspects: small learning communities, learning through a career lens, and business and community engagement.

ConxusNEO was already deeply involved in forging connections for APS students with local manufacturers.

OUTCOME IN PARTNERING WITH CONXUSNEO

ConxusNEO was asked to serve as the “Convening Organization” to co-facilitate development of the master plan, engaging a range of industry leaders in the process and later tracking regional labor market data that helped guide the development of specific pathways for every high school. In 2017, that plan was approved by Ford Next Generation Learning (the first in Ohio), and today, the learning framework provides students with more than 50 career pathways. ConxusNEO continues to contribute to the implementation strategy by engaging business partners to participate in experiential learning days, career fairs and interview opportunities.

WHAT'S AHEAD

All incoming freshmen recently entered Freshman Academy in the 2018-2019 school year, and all 10th-12th grade students will enroll in an academy of their choice for the 2019-2020 school year. As that occurs, APS will continue to rely on ConxusNEO as its trusted partner for labor market information, and for facilitating new industry sector partnerships to engage businesses throughout Summit County. “ConxusNEO is indispensable in our efforts to make College & Career Academies the success we believe it will be. We see this as a lifetime partnership,” said Superintendent David W. James.

For information on how to engage with Conxusneo, please contact 330.630.9969

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“IF I WERE A BUSINESS OWNER, I WOULD WANT TO BE ENGAGED WITH CONXUSNEO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THEY POSSESS A WEALTH OF RESOURCES AND NETWORKING CAPABILITIES THAT HELP BUSINESSES IN WAYS THAT FAR TRANSCEND EMPLOYMENT.”

—Dr. Ellen McWilliams-Woods, Assistant Superintendent, Akron City Schools