



North Central State College Workforce Event October 15, 2026



Strength of Postsecondary Education in Ohio

- Strong budget for FY26-27 supporting higher education/industry initiatives.
 - Initiatives to keep Ohio's talent in the state.
 - Workforce programs
 - New and expansion of current programs
 - Commercial Truck Driving Student Aid Program - CDL
 - Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills – RAPIDS
 - Choose Ohio First STEM Scholarship Program – COF
 - Ohio Technical Centers + CTX
 - TechCred



Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program

- FY26-27 \$3,000,000
 - Participating schools include OTCs, community colleges, and private providers
 - Demonstrating success with hundreds of students receiving full and partial loan forgiveness.
- Over 500 students have received full or partial loan forgiveness and 92% of students successfully complete the program and receive a CDL license.



RAPIDS

- RAPIDS is a capital equipment grant for workforce training and education, specifically for institutions of higher education and post-secondary and workforce partners. The program awards institutions funds to acquire industry-relevant, state-of-the-art equipment to train students and incumbent workers.
 - RAPIDS has awarded over \$47 million since 2015.
 - Equipment focus areas include:
 - Advanced Manufacturing Healthcare IT/Cybersecurity Industrial Trades



Choose Ohio First

- Choose Ohio First has been Ohio's marquee STEM scholarship program since 2008.
 - The program is an important part of Ohio's workforce development strategy and is designed to increase Ohio's talent pipeline in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and increase the number of qualified STEM teachers.
- Under this administration, Ohio has committed more than \$283 million for scholarships through AY2031.
 - Last year, more than \$30 million in COF scholarships was awarded to more than 8,000 students at 73 participating institutions.



Ohio Technical Centers

- Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs) provide postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) at 48 career centers across Ohio.
 - These institutions offer programming in the technical skill trades (i.e., HVAC, Phlebotomy, Police Training, EMT, STNA, Welding, Nursing, CNC Machining, etc.) that prepare learners for certificates, industry-recognized certifications, and state licensures.
 - Many of the OTCs are positioned to respond quickly to the needs of business and industry by providing customized trainings and business consultation services to companies and organization to assist with meeting Ohio's workforce goals.



TechCred

- Key points:
 - Industry-driven
 - Businesses are awarded funding for technology-focused credentials
 - Training must be completed in less than 12 months from the award date.
- Employer reimbursement program for employees to upskill or reskill in a technical field.
- Employers can apply for TechCred funds during the
- Open Round – October 1 – 30, 2026.

www.techcred.ohio.gov



Thank you!

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