

Annual Report 2024-25

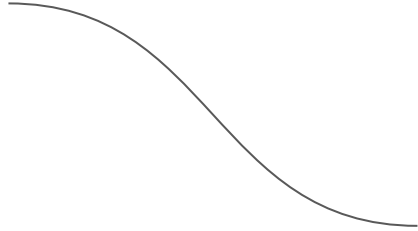
Program Year



Educational Opportunity Centers of PA



Access this Report Electronically:



Our Mission:

To provide exceptional educational and career opportunities to those in our Target Area who are eligible for program assistance.

Our Philosophy:

Person-centered programming to assist individuals with achieving their educational and career goals that is aligned with their Strengths and individual needs.



Empowering Futures: 2024-25 Impact Report

The Educational Opportunity Centers of PA (EOC) provides person-centered programming to help first-generation and low-income individuals achieve educational and career goals. This report highlights participant reach across nine counties and the success of specialized career exploration initiatives.

Scale of Community Impact



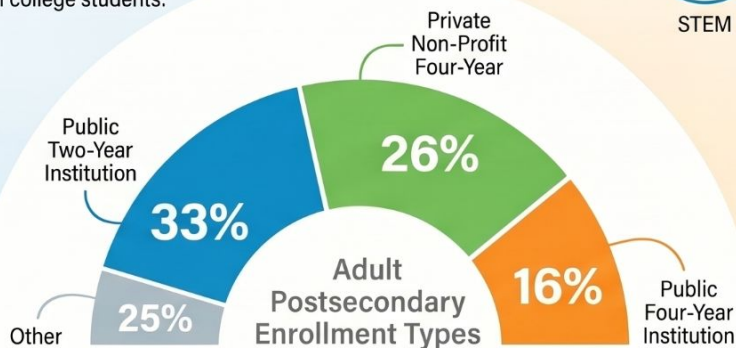
Includes 2,233 adults and 1,000 students across 9 counties and 5 school districts.

Serving High-Need Populations: Two-thirds of participants are low-income, potential first-generation college students.



Broad Community Support:

Provided food assistance to 360 families and 84 GED testing vouchers.



Pathways to Success & Career Exploration



57.7% Degree Completion Rate
Over half of the 2018 graduation cohort completed degrees within six years.

462 Enrolled in Career Exploration



STEM



Medical Mentorship



Trades

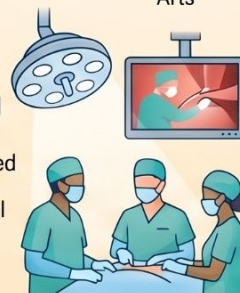


Creative Arts

KEY FINDING

Real-World Medical & STEM Exposure:

150+ students observed live surgeries and 130 participated in medical mentorship activities.



Opportunity is America's foundation.



At **Educational Opportunity Centers of PA**, we believe that providing opportunity to explore careers is a crucial piece to lifetime success. People can shape their own future and build the life they desire by developing an understanding of their strengths and interests along with an understanding of labor market trends and high priority occupations.

At our agency, we create conditions for our participants to grow in their knowledge and truly make an informed decision about their trajectory.

Coupling financial literacy, career exploration and labor market information, we are developing people who are shaping their paths into a thriving, successful life.

Agency Programs By the Numbers:

EOC Program:

- Assisted 2,233 Adults in the 9 county Target Area (Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill, Susquehanna and Wayne) with advancing their careers and education;

Talent Search Program:

- Assisted 1,000 students in grades 6 through 12 in the Target School Districts: Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Scranton, Shenandoah Valley & Wilkes-Barre Area.

OVR PETS PCF Summer Program: 43 Participants

Talent Search Target Area:

Eligible students in **grades 6 through 12** in the following School Districts:

- [Hanover Area School District](#)
- [Hazleton Area School District](#)
- [Scranton School District](#)
- [Shenandoah Valley School District](#)
- [Wilkes-Barre Area School District](#)



The Mission: Facilitating the achievement of 1,000 Dreams

EOC Program Target Area:

Eligible adults, 19 years and older, in the following Target Counties:

- Columbia
- Lackawanna
- Lehigh
- Luzerne
- Monroe
- Northampton
- Schuylkill
- Susquehanna
- Wayne



Program Eligibility:

Must be:

- US Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Live in the Target Area
- Demonstrate a need for Program Assistance

Note:

- Two-thirds of those assisted by the programs must be both low income and potential first-generation college students.
 - low-income (150% of the poverty line)
 - first in their family to complete a bachelor degree program meaning neither parent, step-parent or adoptive parent has a bachelor degree.





2024-2025

What a Great Year!

Note: Program Year is September 1 to August 31st

SUCCESS



HBCU Fair 2024

Educational Opportunity Centers of PA kicked off the 2024-25 Program year with a Wonderful Event!

EOC sponsored a College Fair with a special focus: Historically Black Colleges or Universities on October 2, 2024.

Success By the Numbers:

- 350 attendees including representation from all of our Target High Schools
- Transportation provided from 6 High Schools
- Parents and grandparents attended
- Adults from GED and Workforce Programs

Watch this video to see the amazing event and energy: [HBCU 2024](#)



Agency GED Program

164 individuals received tutoring from agency tutors

84 Single Subject vouchers were provided for testing



Program at Luzerne County Correctional Facility:

- 55 Students Participated in the GED Classes at LCCF
- Practice Testing & Testing Site is Up and Running

Agency Food Support Program

- Monthly Pop-Up Food Pantry on the 3rd Thursday of the month
 - 360 Families received support
-

Thanks to the **Weinberg Food Bank** Support the agency received items worth \$32,448 passed on to our participants via Agency Food Pantry, Programming and at Agency events and trips.



Career Exploration Program for 2024-25

Total Number of Participants Enrolled in Career Exploration: 462

How it works:

- Participants register for a career or careers that they are interested in exploring
- Each Month different careers are highlighted
- Hands-on Lessons:
 - Supplies are delivered to houses
 - Students log-on for Virtual Session with a Career Mentor
- Field trips are offered to further explore the careers



Career Exploration Program:

Arts & Creative Careers:

- Quarterly Paint & Sip with a different artist every lesson (160 participants);
- Crochet Lessons with Entrepreneurship (56 participants);
- Technical Sewing Lessons-hand and sewing machine (35 participants);
- Pinata Building Lesson with Entrepreneurship (27 participants);
- Upcycled Fashion Designing (79 participants)
- Drone Education-Photography
- Photography for Upcycle Fashion Event

Arts & Creative Careers Field Trips:

- Youtube Star Overnight Trip with Leckey Media (38 participants)
- Sapphire Salon (24 participants)





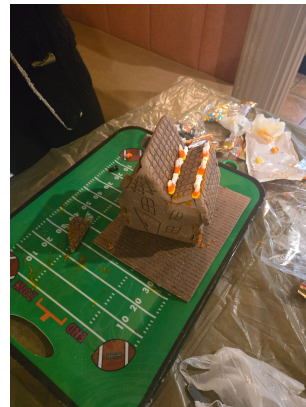
Career Exploration Program (con't):

Culinary Careers:

- MRE Chopped with Meal Ready to Eat kits and special guest Sgt. Holt presenting how to Chef up the MRE & how to cook without heat (33 participants);
- Cupcake Wars-participants register to receive their supplies and log on to learn how to decorate cupcakes (48 participants).

Culinary Arts Field Trips:

- Food Bank Volunteer Trip (18 participants)
- Luna's DiMatteo Gingerbread Building



Career Exploration Program (con't):

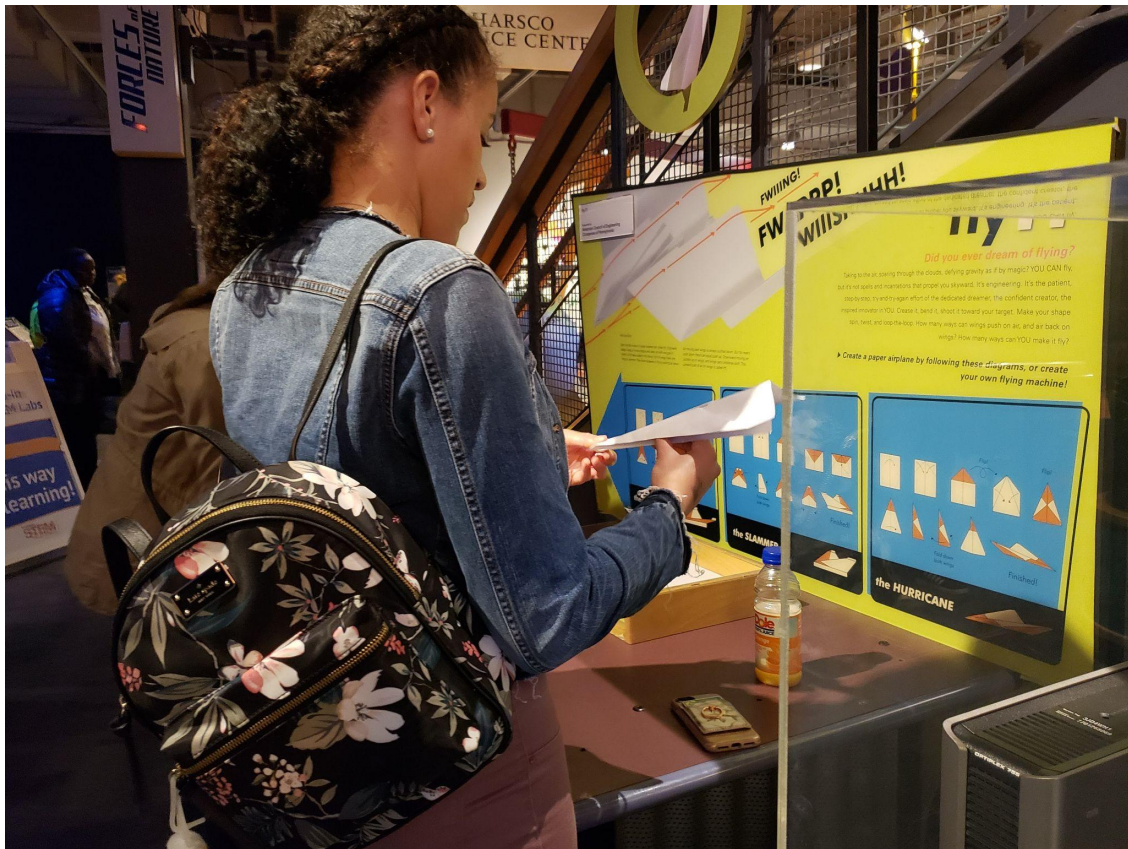
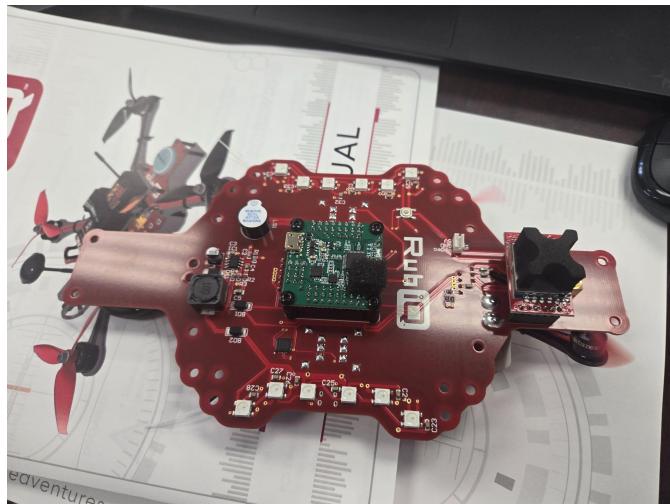
STEM/Engineering Exploration:

- Civil Engineering with Tower Build (55 participants)
- Save the Egg Design Competition (51 participants)
- Cyber Security Careers with Professor Bastig from the University of Scranton (14 participants)
- Sphero Bolts-learn coding and code the Bolts (52 participants)
- Drone Build and FAA Pilot Program (14 participants)

STEM Field Trips:

- 570 Manufacturing Field Trip with NEPIRC-October 2024 (12 participants)
- Penn College of Technology Open House-November 2024 (WHHS) (6 participants)
- Misericordia STEM Day -March 2025 (WBHS) (29 participants)
- Engineering Day at Wilkes University-February 2025 (WBHS) (36 participants)
- Rotorfest at Penn Tech: April 2025-WBHS & Shenandoah Valley HS (60 participants)
- Railriders STEM Game-May 2025-NEIS and SSIS (80 participants)





Career Exploration Program (con't)



Humanities Exploration:

- Book Club with Ralph Godbolt (12 participants);
- Social Work Careers with Volunteerism Experiences (21 participants);

Humanities Field Trips:

- PA Careerlink Lackawanna Black History Month-Feb 2025 (SHS and WSHS) (18 participants);
- Misericordia STEM/Psychology Day-March 2025 (WHBS) (29 participants);
- Psychology Day at Marywood University-March 2025 (SHS and WBHS) (58 participants)



Career Exploration Program (con't):

Trade Career Exploration:

- Plumbing Build activity (18 participants)
- CTE Certificate Programs with VR Goggles

Trade Field Trips:

- IBEW Training Center in Nanticoke-November 2024-WBHS, Hazleton and Hanover) (18 participants)
- Manufacturing 570 Day (13 participants)
- Rotorfest at Penn College of Technology-April 2025 (Shen HS & WBHS) (60 participants)





Career Exploration Program (con't):



Business, Communications and Entrepreneurship Careers:

- Nucleus Education Certificate Programs: Entrepreneurship and Real Estate (82 participants)
- Pinata Party & Crochet-how to turn a craft into a financial win (83 participants)
- Sapphire Salon-learn about a business in wellness and cosmetology (24 participants)
- Podcast & Media Program virtual at SHS (18 participants)
- Photography for the Upcycle Fashion Event
- Drone Education Program

Field Trips:

- Youtube-so you want to be a Media Darling (38 participants)
- Upcycle Fashion Shoots-how to create a portfolio for photography (47 participants)



STEM Programs at EOC, Inc.:

- ★ Drone build and FAA Pilot Certification
- ★ Sphero Bolts with Nucleus Education:
 - Learn Coding
- ★ Ai-Introduction to using Ai Google Classroom
- ★ VR Goggles CTE Programs: Robots, Drones, and Welding
- ★ Summer STEM 2025:
9 participants completed certificates



Medical Mentorship Program

Thanks to our **M1s from the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine**, our participants experienced hands-on lessons:

- **Blood Activity**-using candy, sprinkles & karo syrup-the students built a model of our blood while learning the parts of blood and blood disorder;
- **Cow Eye Dissection**-learned about our eyes and dissected a cow eye;
- **GI Activity**-learned about gastrointestinal anatomy and built a GI ugly sweater;
- **Lung Activity**-learned about respiratory anatomy and illnesses while building a set of working lungs.
 - 130 participants

And:100 students also experienced a **Day in the Life of a Medical Student**

Field Trip in April 2025.



Surgery Live!!

Surgery Live provides the students with the opportunity to watch a surgery performed live at UPMC. During the surgery, the OR Team is live and microphoned to discuss the surgery and answer questions.

Surgery's Observed:

- Robotic Assisted Colectomy February 26, 2025: WBHS
- Robotic Assisted Colectomy March 26, 2025 -Shenandoah JSHS
- Watchman Heart Procedure: April 2, 2025 Scranton HS, WBHS & West Scranton
 - More than 150 students participated in these activities

Overnight Field Trips:

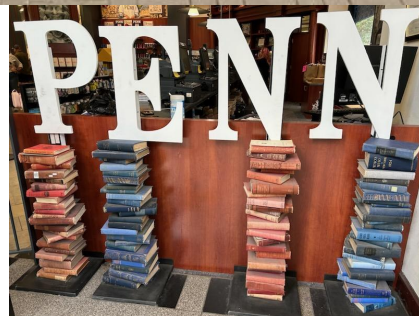
- November 2024-Field Trip **Southern Tier of NY** to cheer on Misericordia Men's Basketball and visit Cornell, Binghamton University and SUNY Broome Campus (32 Participants);
 - July 2025-So you want to be a **Media Darling** with Leckey Media (24 Participants)
 - August 2025-**Philadelphia Region**-visited Temple University, University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University (33 Participants)
-



Colleges Visited:

- Binghamton University
- Commonwealth University
- Cornell University
- East Stroudsburg University
- King's College
- Lackawanna College
- Luzerne Community College
- Marywood University
- Misericordia University
- Northampton Community College
- Penn College of Technology
- SUNY Broome
- Temple University
- University of Pennsylvania
- West Chester University
- Wilkes University





Volunteer Experiences:

- Agency Monthly Food Bank-the 3rd Thursday of every month:
 - October 2024
 - December 2024
 - February 2025
 - May 2025
 - July 2025
- Veteran Stand Down-November 2024



EOC Program Field Trip



EOC Sponsored a Trip for the Adult Program at the Lehigh Valley PA Careerlink
Visited Berks Technical Institute and Lehigh Career & Technical Institute



PA Careerlink LV Youth Program

Field Trip to the Lehigh Valley Health Network
Education Program: Cetronia Ambulance Corps,
American Red Cross, LVHN Rehabilitation Services



Academic Programs:

- SAT/ACT Prep offered in the Fall, Spring & Summer:
 - Total Participation: 58
- Essay Writing offered monthly throughout the year:
 - Total Participation: 47
- GED Preparation Program:
 - Total Participants: 164 individuals received tutoring from agency tutors
 - Vouchers Issued: 84



**"PEOPLE WHO SAY
IT CANNOT BE DONE
SHOULD NOT INTERRUPT
THOSE WHO ARE DOING IT."**

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

FAFSA and Financial Aid Assistance:

- Assisted 1,925 participants with completing the FAFSA
- Provided more than 5,000 one-on-one appointments to assist with applying for financial aid (FAFSA/PHEAA/School based forms)
- Conducted more than 50 Scholarship Workshops on site at our Schools and Referral partners as well as monthly virtual sessions
- Financial Literacy Programming:
 - Assistance with Understanding Awards Letters
 - Understanding Student Loans
 - Comparing costs of postsecondary education
 - High Priority Occupations and Salaries
 - How to read a Pay Stub



Certificate Program at the Agency:

- 158 Participants enrolled in one of the FREE Certificate Programs with many completing more than one certificate:
 - 61 completed the Real Estate Certificate
 - 45 completed the Entrepreneurship Certificate
 - 38 completed the Stock Market Certificate
 - 14 Drone Education
 - 52 Coding with Sphero Bolts
 - CTE using VR Goggles:
 - 12 Welding with OSHA 10
 - 7 Medical Assisting
 - 3 Carpentry



Postsecondary Admissions Assistance:

- Conducted more than 3,000 one to one appointments to apply for postsecondary schools such as colleges, universities and trade schools;
- Conducted monthly Common Application Workshops
 - Onsite in our Target High Schools
 - Virtually
- Provide monthly Hot Jobs Workshops to more than 500 participants in 9 counties



Postsecondary Enrollment-Talent Search Program:

- Talent Search Program: 73% enrolled in a program of postsecondary
 - 34 enrolled in a 2-Year Public School
 - 19 enrolled in a 2-Year Private School
 - 42 enrolled in a 4-year Public School
 - 51 enrolled in a 4-year Private School
 - 3 enrolled in a Vocational or Trade School
 - 2 enrolled in a Proprietary School
 - 8 participants enlisted in the military



The 2025 TS Graduates Popular College Choices:

- Commonwealth University
- East Stroudsburg University
- King's College
- Luzerne Community College
- Marywood University
- Misericordia
- Penn State university
- Temple University
- University of Scranton
- Wilkes University



And a few a little out of the usual:

- Bowie State
- Bucknell University
- Hofstra University
- Louisiana State
- Princeton University

Postsecondary Enrollment-EOC Program

- EOC Program: 40% of the adults not already enrolled in a postsecondary program enrolled
 - 26% Private, non-profit, four year institution
 - 8 % Private, non-profit, two-year institution
 - 13% Proprietary school
 - 4% Public or non-profit vocational/technical institutes
 - 16% Public, four-year institution
 - 33% Public, two-year institution



Talent Search Tracks for 6 years after Graduation:

For the 2018 Graduation Cohort, our Graduates did amazing things!

- 57.7% completed a degree within the 6 years

So proud of our graduates and now professionals:

- 57 completed a Bachelor Degree with 10 completing more than one degree
- 2 Physician Assistants
- 2 Dental Hygienists
- 3 HVAC/Plumbers
- 2 Pharmacists
- 4 Masters of Sciences
- 5 Social Work
- 2 Rad Techs
- 6 Computer Sciences and Information Management
- 2 Engineers
- 8 Business with 2 Accounting



2025 Talent Search Scholarship Winners



Hanover Area HS: Moohee Zapata

Hanover Area HS: Joanna Elick

Wilkes-Barre HS: Angie Hernandez

Wilkes-Barre HS: Karla Aguilar

Scranton HS: Kylie Lynch

Scranton HS: Karis Bennett

Scranton HS: Jhaven Sims

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES

2025 EOC Program Scholarship Winners



- ★ Amber Jones
- ★ Corey Cici
- ★ Delmar Hugg
- ★ Amber Wine
- ★ Gabrielle Pleska
- ★ Carriann Reed
- ★ Zander Feist
- ★ Adrienne Wren
- ★ Dameca Patrick

Congratulations

2025 Agency Summer Scholarship Winners

- ★ John Prater (Culinary Student at Luzerne Community College)
- ★ Gergana Petkova (Architecture at Drexel University)
- ★ Valentina Vanegas (Nursing Student at Fortis Institute)



Where to find us:

Website: www.eocinc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EOCincPA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/EOCincPa>

X: <https://x.com/eocinc>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/educational-opportunity-centers-inc>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@EducationalOpportunityofPA>

2025-2026 Program Year

We started the year with a huge momentum!

