

The 7th Annual Family Engagement
Leadership Summit

welcome!

we will begin
shortly...

**Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

For Every Child, Every Family, Every School

A photograph of three children, two girls and one boy, wearing clear safety goggles. They are looking towards the left side of the frame with expressions of focus and interest. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

Heather Sherman
Director, STEMx Network

Kat Vaughan
Stay In the Game!
Implementation Specialist

Showing Up for Success: Connecting Attendance, Engagement, and Opportunity

Introductions

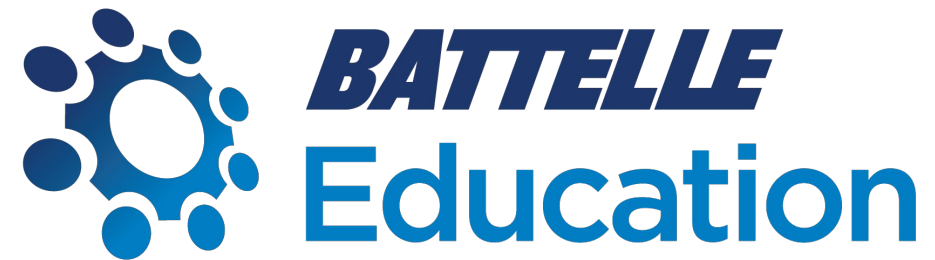
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About Battelle

95 Years of Innovation

Our mission is to translate scientific discovery and technology advances into societal benefits.



National Security

Mission-critical solutions in the air, on the ground, underwater and in cyberspace.

Health

Innovating to accelerate discoveries that augment human health and performance, improving survivability, resilience and recovery.

Environment & Infrastructure

Safeguarding assets, building dynamic research networks, and providing solutions to complex environmental challenges.

Battelle Education

Mission: Build a better tomorrow for students across the U.S. by enabling education systems to advance and connect learning with future careers.

**Connect
Systems**

**Advance
STEM
Teaching**

**Scale Career-
Connected
Learning**

**Expand
Workforce
Readiness**

Scaling STEM and philanthropic impact



2025: 2.8 million students reached

through philanthropy and education efforts at Battelle and national laboratories

And now – we begin!

Session Objectives:

- Share practical strategies to strengthen partnerships, align communications, and create systems that support students throughout their education to career journey.
- Examine how intentional feedback loops and coordinated messaging make the student support ecosystem more effective and impactful.
- By the end of the session, participants will identify one “unlikely collaborator” who can amplify the impact of a program or initiative

Norms

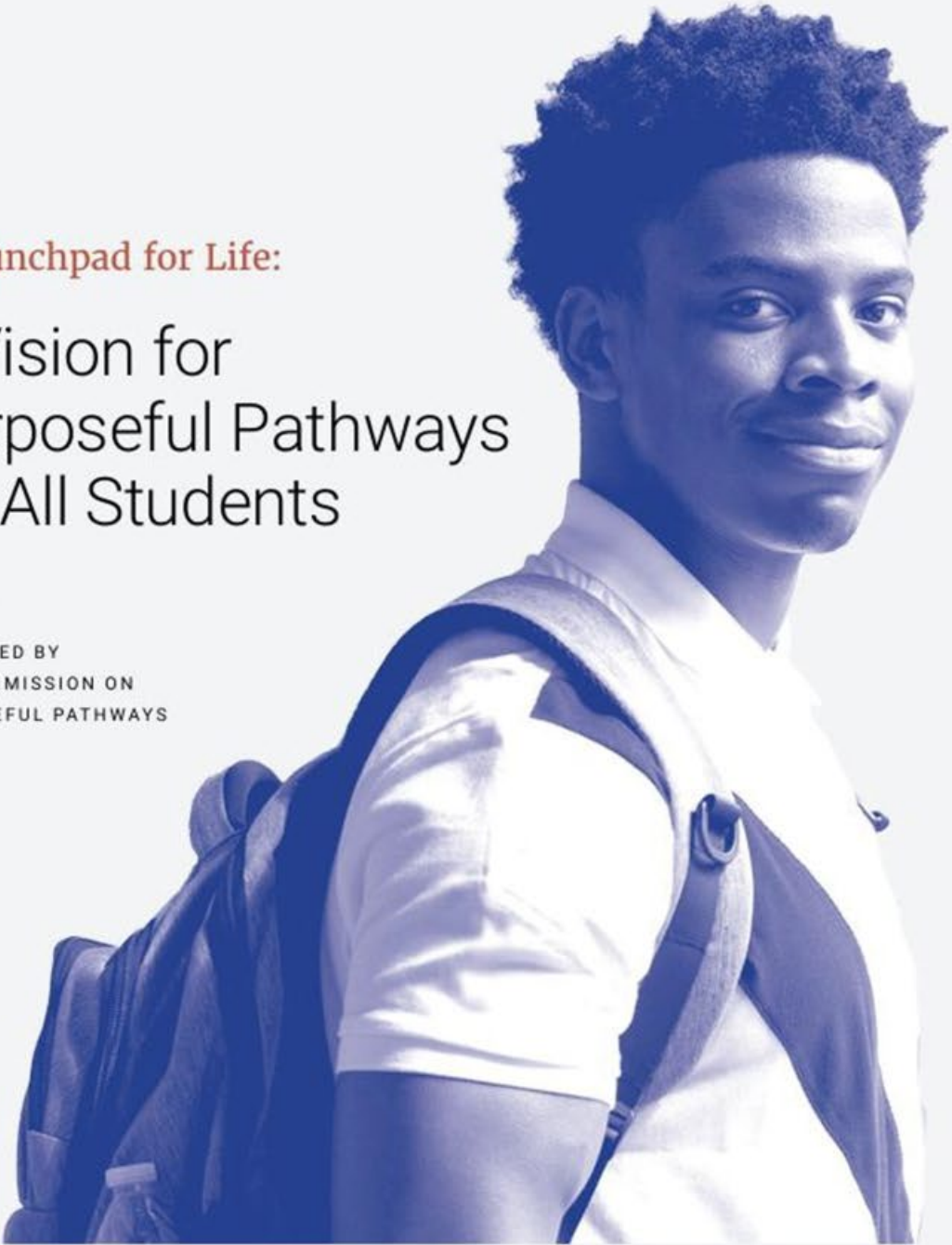
- Brave space – wade as deep as your are comfortable
- Confidentiality – Take the message, not the messenger
- Share the talking stick – Contribute openly, listen actively

Let's Do a Chat Waterfall!

1. Reflect on the question.
2. Type your response in the chat, but don't send it!
3. We will count to 3, and once we do, everyone presses "Enter" simultaneously.
4. Watch the ideas "waterfall" into the chat and note patterns, surprises, and connections.

Activity: Who helped you find your way?

Who helped you find your path, and what did they do that made a difference?



A Launchpad for Life:

A Vision for Purposeful Pathways for All Students

PUBLISHED BY
THE COMMISSION ON
PURPOSEFUL PATHWAYS

***“I know who I am, I
know where I’m
going and I know
who can help me
get there.”***

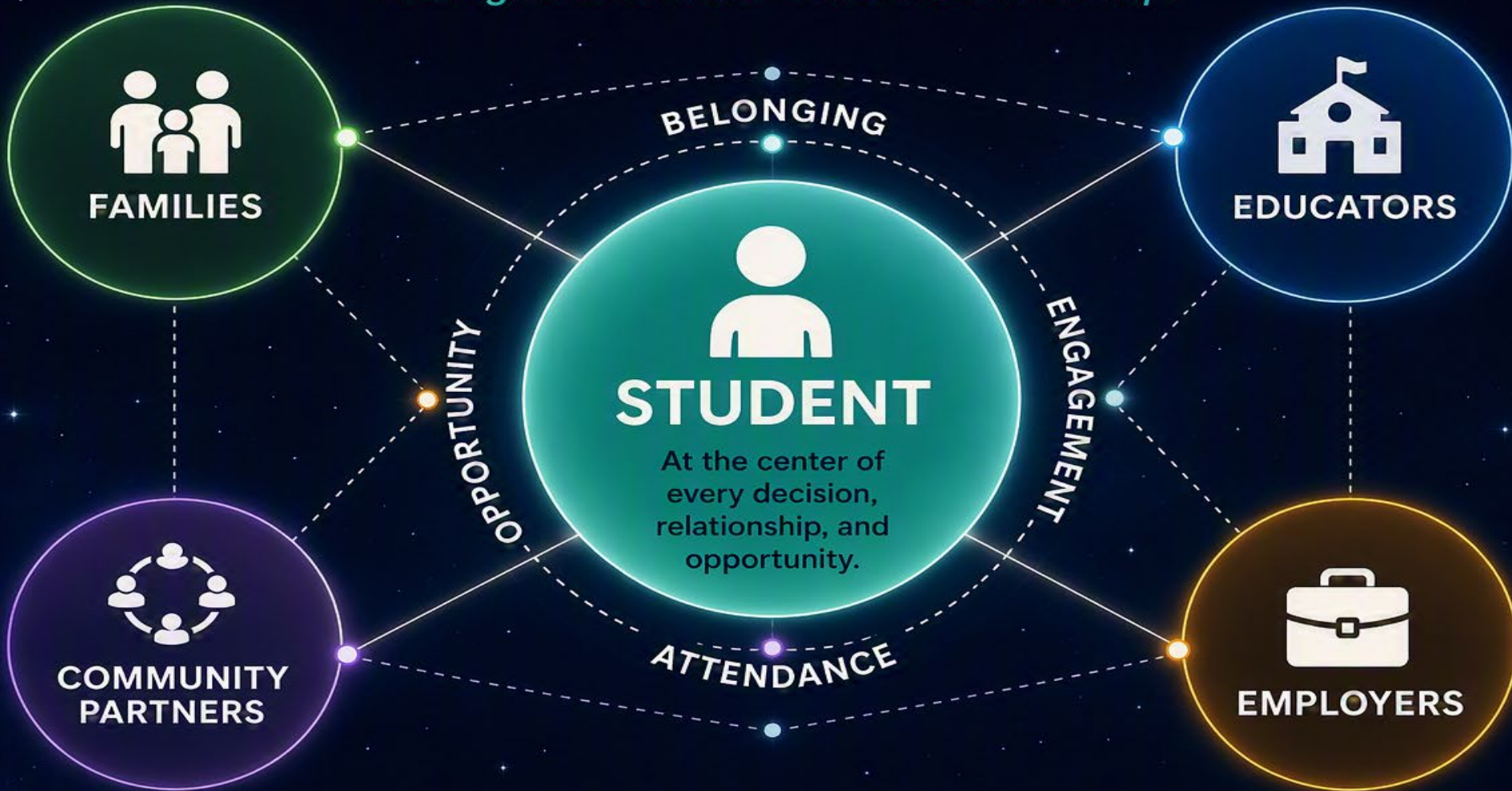
The Student Journey

Wayfinders help students navigate from connection to opportunity.



Every Student Needs a Network of Wayfinders

No single stakeholder holds the entire map.



Students experience *one journey*. Stronger connections among families, schools, community partners, and employers create stronger pathways to success.

Battelle strengthens the network of Wayfinders

Families and Students

- COSI Science Fest
- Philanthropic Investments
- Stay in the Game! events

Educators

- Professional Learning
- Curricular resources
- Coaching
- Technical Assistance

Community Partners

- Student Design Challenges
- Cross-sector Partnerships
- Collective Impact Initiatives
- Community Engagement

Employers and Industry

- Career-connected learning
- Pathway development
- Industry Recognized Credentials



Building belonging, engagement and attendance



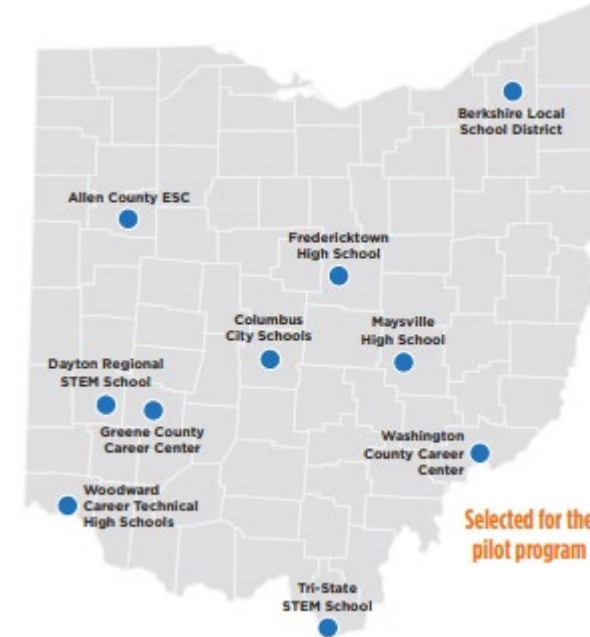
Columbus Crew team members at Stay in the Game! event.

Manufacturing Pathways Pilot Program

- Distributed \$1.76M in awards to 10 school districts
- Connects students to the world of work
 - Hands-on learning
 - Industry recognized credentials
 - Work experience



This pilot program will enroll **1,000+ students** in new manufacturing career pathways by 2026.



Innovative Curriculum

Opportunities for hands-on learning and flexible content delivery (i.e., online courses or flexible scheduling)



College Credit and Industry Credentials

Path to an associate's degree and credentials recognized by local industry partners



Experiential Learning

Students learn by doing through internships, pre-apprenticeships, and hands-on real-world technology experiences

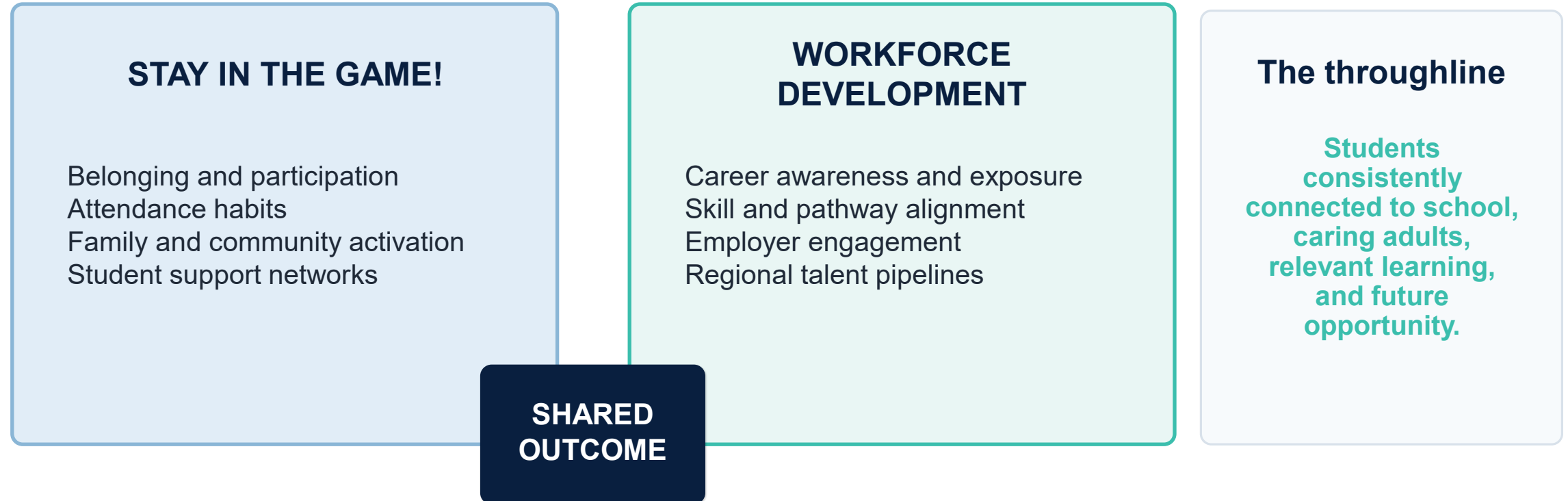


Career Advising

Support students and families in making informed decisions about enrollment (including interest/aptitude testing)

The Intersection: Engagement today, opportunity tomorrow

Stay in the Game! and Workforce Development share the same ecosystem and many of the same stakeholders.



Communication is the connective infrastructure.

Discussion: What do effective Wayfinders do?

Effective Wayfinders

Belonging>> engagement>> attendance>> access to opportunity>>success

01

Center the student – know their needs, interests

02

Build relationships

03

Create (or share) opportunities

04

Remove barriers

05

Connect people

06

Follow up

Move from parallel programs to a connected system

Overlapping audiences create leverage only when information, relationships, and action travel across programs.



1

SEE THE WHOLE STUDENT

Connect attendance signals with student interests, strengths, supports, and future goals.

2

SHARE RELATIONSHIPS

Coordinate district, family, community, and employer touchpoints instead of asking stakeholders to navigate separate systems.

3

ALIGN THE MESSAGE

Use consistent language about why showing up matters, what support is available, and how today connects to tomorrow.

4

ACT ON FEEDBACK

Close the loop by showing what was heard, what changed, who owns the next step, and when progress will be revisited.

A feedback loop is only complete when communication changes action

Each stage should define the audience, channel, owner, and evidence of follow-through.



Key test: Can stakeholders see the link between their input, the decision made, and the next opportunity to shape the work?

One-way Sharing, Two-way Engagement, Student-Led

Increasing Ownership & Agency

One-Way Sharing: Adult informs

- Messaging
- Newsletters
- Announcements
- Websites
- Posts

Two-Way Engagement: An exchange of ideas, information, feedback

- Conversation
- Collaboration
- Mutually beneficial

Student-Led: Initiate and Lead

- Advise
- Engage
- Create sustainable practice

Chat it up:

What have you observed in your ecosystem that was a missed opportunity because people weren't communicating effectively?

From disconnected to engaged

Transitioning from seeing the gap to foreshadowing the opportunity



Closeout!

What is one next step you will take to identify and collaborate with someone new?

Thank You!

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BATTELLE

It can be done

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**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

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