



Career Exploration and Career Pathways Development in Erie County May 2022

Erie Together is a countywide collective impact movement formed in 2009 to help make the Erie region a community of opportunity where everyone can learn, work, and thrive. Erie Together was created to be a **community-driven movement**, meaning the entity's priorities and body of work are identified and advanced by local stakeholders and citizens. Career exploration and pathways development have been a top Erie Together focus for the last several years.

At the community's request, in 2014, Erie Together launched a unique resource to connect employers with educators to provide career exploration experiences for students in grades K-12. This program, called "[Career Street](#)," has facilitated more than 43,000 student experiences since its inception. This is made possible through the commitment of county-wide educators and employers to provide high quality, age-appropriate experiences for students in elementary through senior high school, with Erie Together staff managing the program.

In 2016, Erie Together further elevated local career exploration efforts by forming the "[Erie County Career Pathways Alliance \(ECCPA\)](#)." Its work centers on (1) developing experiences aligned with PA State Standards for K-12 students and (2) creating a county-wide career pathways system that will better prepare students and help meet employers' needs. Also facilitated by Erie Together, the ECCPA includes school districts, employers, career and technical centers, IU #5, NWPA Job Connect, several colleges and universities, and others. This group has created informational and experiential resources that have impacted school districts, students, employers, and parents/caregivers. The ECCPA is considered a model across PA and beyond.