

National Tech Prep Network



# 2005 Exemplary Worksite Learning Award Winners

EWSLA competition sponsored by

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Great Plains Technology Center  
City of Lawton/Lawton Fire Department  
Emergency Medical Technician/Firefighter Academy,  
Lawton, Oklahoma

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The goals of the Emergency Medical Technician/Firefighter Academy are “simple and to the point,” according to program officials. The program began in 2000, and like many other Tech Prep programs, it began as a way to provide students with real-life experience in their chosen career fields. Great Plains Technology Center (GPTC) and Southwest Oklahoma Tech Prep officials, along with City of Lawton officials, drafted an agreement that allowed firefighting and EMS students to complete an 80-hour practicum in their prospective fields. In the program, students work shifts at the fire department, accompany supervising personnel on emergency and fire runs, and participate in limited emergency service duties.

The Academy is a 605-hour program that includes instruction in the skills needed to pass the Firefighter Level 1 exam and the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician exam. Students spend 170 hours in the classroom, 355 hours in lab or skill evolutions, and 104 hours in worksite experience. All instructional methodologies focus on helping students gain the knowledge and skills required for success in worksite learning activities.

The EMT/Firefighter Academy curriculum meets state and national guidelines. Through the curriculum, students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to pass state and national skill examinations. Students have the option of pursuing paramedic certification. The program also includes continuing education through hazardous materials first responder training and introductory technical rescue courses.

In developing the program, leaders met with more than 50 representatives from local fire and emergency medical services agencies. A broad support base from city fire officials and other agencies helped nurture the program from the beginning through equipment donations, course structure, and curriculum design. Program leaders have also ensured that professional development plays a role in keeping educators up-to-date in the latest technology in firefighting and emergency medical technology.

According to program officials, the program is the third of its kind in the United States and the first in Oklahoma. Since its inception in 2000, several other schools have initiated efforts to establish similar programs, modeled largely on GPTC’s EMT/Firefighter Academy.

## North Country Tech Prep Regional Partnership Mountainview Grand Resort and Spa Mountainview Academy, Whitefield, New Hampshire

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Mountainview Academy is a learning partnership involving the Mountainview Grand Resort and Spa and the Vocational Region 3 centers at Littleton High School and White Mountains Regional High School in Northern New Hampshire—all part of the North Country Tech Prep Regional Partnership.

According to Mountainview Resort officials, hospitality and tourism are the second largest employment areas in the state and are among the fastest growing industries in New Hampshire's economy. Employers are facing a shortage of qualified staff to operate and manage hotel and resort properties. With this in mind, executive managers at the resort approached school administrators to talk about ways to get local high school students interested in hospitality and tourism. In January 2004, school and hotel officials signed an agreement that established Mountainview Academy.

Students who participate in the program attend class on the hotel property. Academy instruction is based on curriculum developed by the National Restaurant and Lodging Association. For two days each week, students spend a 90-minute class period with a designated manager from one of the 20 different hotel departments. Students shadow their managers for two weeks and gain exposure to the vital functions managers perform in their departments.

The program is unique in merging the classroom experience with the everyday world of the hotel. A hotel guest recently asked one of the managers why a school bus was parked in front of the resort and if it was there to pick up students to take to school. The manager replied, "Actually, they are being dropped off. This is their school."

When students complete the Academy, they can go directly into careers in the hospitality industry or they can continue their studies in hospitality at state colleges. For example, the nearby New Hampshire Community Technical College (NHCTC) – Berlin Campus offers a strong culinary arts program with apprenticeship programs at several other Grand Resorts. NHCTC also has an articulation agreement with the Vocational Region 3's award-winning culinary arts program.

# North Central Wisconsin School-to-Career Partnership Aspirus Wausau Hospital Aspirus Wausau Hospital Participation with the North Central Wisconsin School-to-Career Partnership Youth Apprenticeship Program, Wausau, Wisconsin

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Since 1972, Aspirus Wausau Hospital has participated in a multilateral business-education partnership with the North Central Wisconsin School-to-Career partnership. Youth Apprenticeship is a rigorous one- or two-year elective statewide program that combines academic and technical instruction with mentored, paid, on-the-job learning that makes a real-world connection for the students. The hospital became a Youth Apprenticeship worksite in 2000 and has served 122 health service apprentices in the last five years.

Program curriculum is written by industry professionals and high school and postsecondary educators under the supervision of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Industry-based competency checklists ensure that tasks and activities performed at the worksite parallel the written curriculum. Curriculum is reviewed, updated, and expanded on a rotating basis. Five of the Youth Apprenticeship programs are under review in 2005.

Juniors and seniors take related high school and technical college coursework each semester. Students enhance the classroom experience by working at their apprenticeship worksites for a minimum of 450 hours a year.

First-year health services apprentices at Wausau Hospital are hired in April, complete their certified nursing assistant coursework by August, and work as certified nursing assistants for a minimum of 450 hours. Second-year apprentices rotate among health information services, therapeutic, and diagnostic departments and accumulate another 450 hours of work-based learning under the guidance of health-care professionals.

On average, apprentices work 12–15 hours within designated release times from school, on weekends, during holiday breaks, and during the summer. Teachers spend up to six days at the worksite during a nine-week period to discuss student progress. Worksite mentors spend two days at the school during fall and spring for parent-teacher conferences. Teachers and worksite mentors also hold biannual advisory committee meetings to coordinate work-based learning with classroom learning.