



Executive Summary

Lutheran Career and Technical Education High School

The creation of a Lutheran Career and Technical High School (LCTEHS) network stems from the leaders of the Pacific Southwest District (PSD) desire to Retain, Remodel, and Replant churches and schools beginning in Los Angeles County, opening doors for Gospel proclamation in this area and beyond. A career and technical education (CTE) high school offers quality academics, career and technical education providing students with the opportunity to graduate with multiple benefits:

- A standard high school diploma.
- Trade and technical training in a chosen field.
- Preparation to go on to college.
- Access to a wide array of career areas.

Needs

According to researchers' analysis of U.S. Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics data for the years 1980 to 2019, college costs have increased by 169% over the past four decades while wages have remained relatively stagnant. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) recently analyzed the outcomes for 563,000 bachelor's graduates across 337 colleges and universities and found that only 50.2% of the class of 2020 had full-time jobs with a traditional employer (meaning they are not working as a freelancer or entrepreneur) within six months of graduation. This is occurring in an economy experiencing a scarcity of skilled workers, leading to a nationwide labor shortage that's resulted in increased wages for a number of blue-collar occupations. The lesson for many is obvious. "We are lending money we don't have to kids who can't pay it back to train them for jobs that no longer exist," says *Dirty Jobs* host Mike Rowe, summing up a widespread viewpoint.¹

In addition, the presence of Lutheran education in the urban Los Angeles County area has greatly diminished over the past two decades, reducing the opportunities with which to impact the community with the Gospel. As a result, there are numerous PSD church campuses in the area with former Lutheran school facilities that are either underutilized, rented to non-Lutheran entities, or completely unused.

Proposed Solution

Create a Los Angeles LCTEHS micro-school network housed in partnership with willing Lutheran church/school sites that are underutilized or are being rented to non-Lutheran affiliated entities in partnership with local congregations. The LALCTEHS network will seek to provide career and technical learning through a combination of specialized curricula and hands-on learning experiences with practitioners and trade groups in the local area.

Target launch is September 2022. The LALCTEHS Network will begin with a pilot micro-school of 40-60 students. These students will meet at a Lutheran church site in the Los Angeles area for a robust educational experience that combines core digital Christian education curriculum, CTE education curated by the Director, and Lutheran faith development intentionally taught and modeled by the staff.

Key partnerships will be developed with trade organizations like the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America who have Pre-Apprenticeship programs and facilities that can potentially be utilized by students. Also, Google has created a certification program for CTE high schools.

¹ <https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/a26789417/trade-schools/>



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A final distinctive of the LALCTEHS network is to make it affordable to families in Los Angeles County, targeting those that may have the most interest in this type of innovative schooling. By utilizing a combination of church/school facilities, online education, 3rd party school support services, and existing CTE programs, the PSD hopes to offer students below-market private school tuition rates.

Expected Impact of Lutheran CTE High Schools

Lutheran CTE High Schools will:

- Provide exceptional educational ministry to students and families with the ultimate purpose of proclaiming Christ.
- Serve the community by providing alternative routes for quality education and in-demand, well-paying careers. This is also a way for PSD to invest in communities and re-engage in urban areas through education ministry.
- Enable individuals to complete high school graduation requirements while at the same time gaining training, experience and connections to relevant career options.
- Seek to partner with the significant resources of underutilized PSD school campuses. After the closure of their own schools, numerous congregations have empty classrooms or have rented school space to other schools to gain additional income. Hosting Lutheran CTE High Schools on their campuses will provide congregations with the ability to reclaim their long-held mission to proclaim Christ through Lutheran Education and to retain an additional source of income.

Replication and Expanded Scope

Given that similar challenges as those described above are faced in many areas of our Synod, the conditions appear to be conducive to successfully replicate this model not only in other areas of the Pacific Southwest District but throughout Synod as a whole. An expanded scope coupled with launch process refinement gained through experience will present many opportunities for positive impact and better stewardship of the resources currently in place across other Synod districts.