

NCWORKS CERTIFIED CAREER PATHWAYS

AUGUST 2020



The newest NCWorks Career Pathway to be recognized is the [Agriscience/Biotechnology Career Pathway](#), established by the Northeast NC Career Pathways Partnership – Northeastern, Rivers East and Turning Point Workforce Development Boards. Partners also includes 11 NCWorks career centers, nine community colleges, three universities, 27 local education agencies, more than 100 employers, and a wide variety of community support agencies, covering 20 counties in the Northeast partnership region.

NCWorks Certified Career Pathways are a key strategy to strengthen the workforce and increase the percentage of North Carolinians with education and training beyond high school. Certified Career Pathways are integrated, seamless systems of education and workforce development programs developed by engaged employers, workforce development boards, high schools, and colleges.

Key elements about Northeast Agriscience/Biotechnology and the new certified career pathway:

- Agriscience/Biotechnology is one of the four pathways of the Northeast NC Career Pathways Partnership. Others: *Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing and Business Support Services*.
- Agriculture and agribusiness are the number one industry in North Carolina, contributing \$92 billion to the state's economy. (*NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services*)
- The Northeast's contribution to the gross regional product for 2019 was \$2.5 billion.
- According to EMSI data, biotechnology careers are projected to grow an average of 10% through 2029 and are already 60% above similar careers nationally.
- Some careers in the new pathway are included in Star Jobs for 2019.
- In the Northeast, 195 businesses fall under the pathway for biotechnology, and more than 2,000 businesses under agriculture.
- Biotechnology is an industry covering pathways in pharmaceutical manufacturing and genetic crop engineering - the tie that paired Biotechnology with Agriscience for the region's new pathway.
- Nearly 500 CTE students in the Northeast were considered "concentrators" in agriculture during 2018/2019, while nearly 1000 students were provided opportunities for work-based learning in agriculture during that same period.
- The region boasts active 4-H and other agriculture-related clubs in every county.
- Many community college partners have developed pathway-related courses/programs.
- Many middle or high school CTE programs in the Northeast offer agricultural-based courses and clubs. Secondary school students earned 339 agricultural industry-related credentials in 2018-2019.
- The partnership is focused on a collaborative initiative with Apprenticeship NC for agriculture apprenticeships.