

## **A Tale of Two Cities: Examples of Transportation-focused High Schools in**

### **Two Urban, Freight-Centric Communities**

With workforce remaining a top challenge for both public and private transportation sector employers, it is increasingly important to be proactive and collaborative in building a talent pipeline. Workforce efforts must start early and increase awareness of transportation career paths, as limited awareness is one of the key factors contributing to pipeline challenges. In both Memphis, Tennessee and Long Beach, California, unique transportation-focused high school academies have been in place for several years.

The T-STEM Academy at East High School in Memphis, Tennessee opened in the fall of 2017 to its first class of 100 freshman and has grown to nearly 800 students in its current 9th-12th grade classes. Through its STEM-for-ALL model, T-STEM provides students with a unique learning experience that is industry-engaged and offers numerous options to earn dual enrollment credits and industry certifications prior to graduation.

Similarly, the Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo High school launched in 2016 and has engaged over 800 students to date. The Academy provides students with a range of transportation-focused programs, career exploration, and a capstone experience, ultimately preparing them to enter the workforce or college pathways.

This presentation will showcase both program models, highlighting similarities, differences, and outcomes - including longitudinal data on common indicators. Lessons learned and insight for building productive industry-academia partnerships will be shared. Additionally, findings related to impactful experiences that have resulted in students entering transportation majors and careers will be discussed.

#### **For more information:**

##### **Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo High School**

<https://cabrillo.lbschools.net/pathway/agl>

2023 curriculum evaluation: <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/68036>

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##### **T-STEM Academy at East High School**

T-STEM Academy Playbook: <https://www.memphis.edu/setwc/tstemplaybook.pdf>

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