



FORT SMITH  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

  
**PEAK**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
Inspiring Transformative Learning

 **UAFS**

**BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.**





# Inspiring Transformative Learning

The Peak Innovation Center is a partnership between Fort Smith Public Schools and the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith that delivers cutting-edge technical and career programming to high school students in 22 school districts throughout the River Valley.

At Peak, students take a hands-on approach to learning in a multi-million dollar facility designed specifically for career-focused programming taught by University of Arkansas – Fort Smith faculty as an extension of the Western Arkansas Technical Center.

Through programming and industry exposure, students receive a direct connection to career opportunities in the region. Students who successfully complete these courses have the ability to earn a competitive salary upon high school graduation and are better prepared to thrive in college. In fact, the coursework students complete at Peak seamlessly transfers to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. In some cases, Peak students will be within a few course hours of earning their associate degree at the same time they graduate from high school.

Student-Centered. Career-Focused. Community-Supported.

This is the Peak Innovation Center.

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PEAK  
INNOVATION CENTER

 UA FS



# At a Glance

**Location:** Zero Street and Painter Lane in Fort Smith, Arkansas  
**Facility Size:** 160,000 square feet with 17 acres for future expansion  
**Phase 1 Learning Space:** Approximately 90,000 square feet  
**Facility/Equipment Investment:** \$30,000,000  
**Facility Partner:** Fort Smith Public Schools  
**Academic Partner:** University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

## Programs

### Advanced Manufacturing

- Computer Integrated Machining
- Electronics Technology/ Automation & Robotics

### Information Technology

- Network Engineering Technology

### Health Sciences

- Practical Nursing
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

### Emerging Art & Design

- Media Arts
- Art History

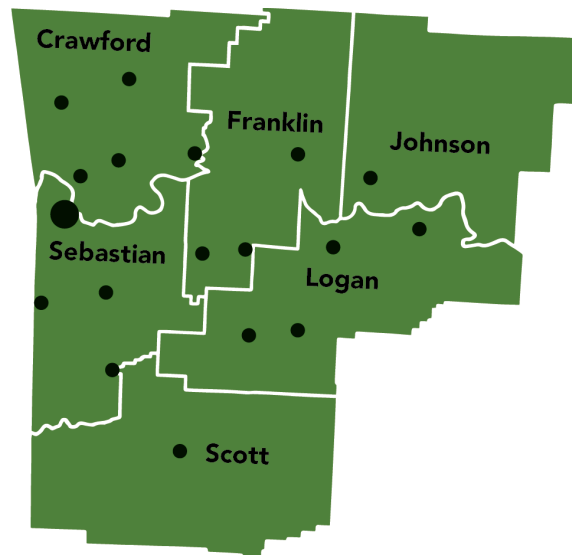
## School Districts Served

Alma  
 Arkansas Connections Academy  
 Arkansas Virtual Academy  
 Booneville  
 Cedarville

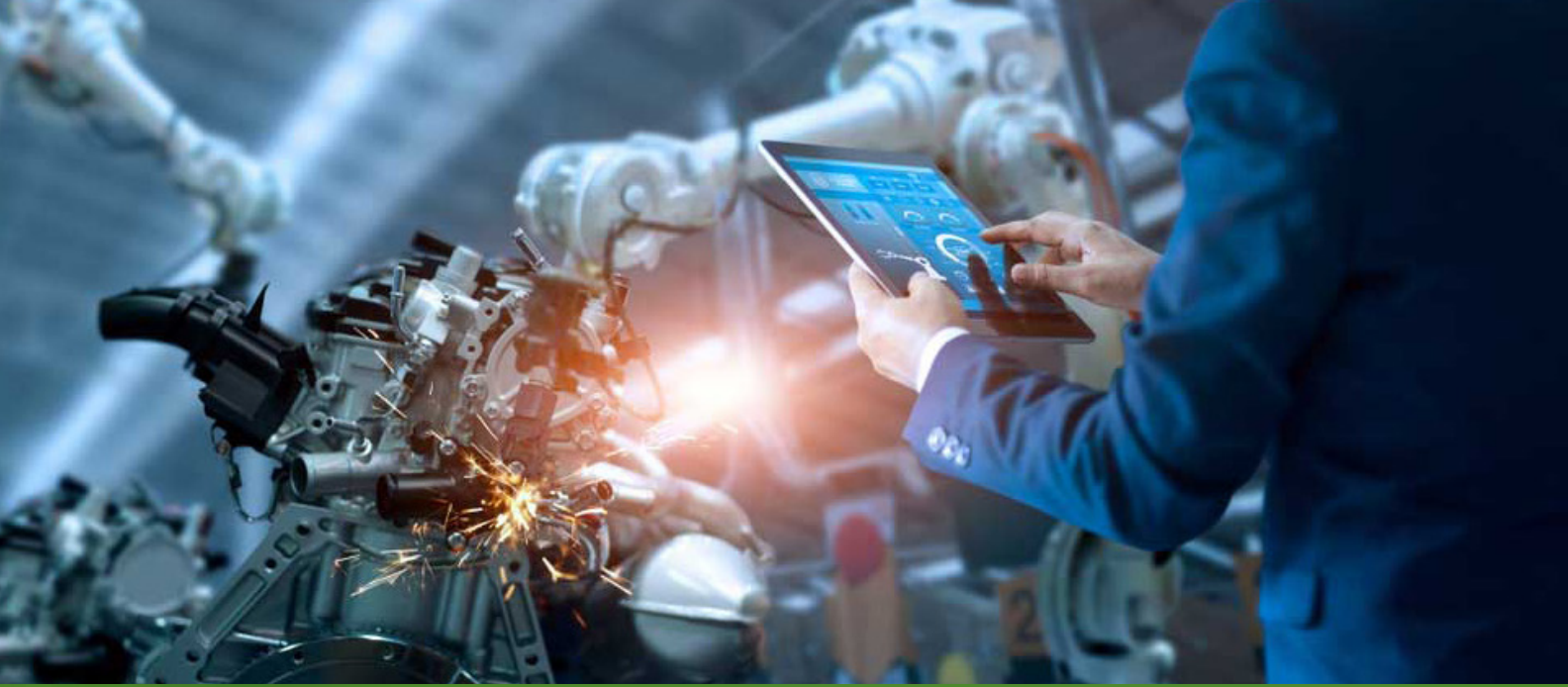
Charleston  
 Clarksville  
 County Line  
 Fort Smith  
 Future School of Fort Smith  
 Greenwood

Hackett  
 Johnson County  
 Westside  
 Lavaca  
 Magazine  
 Mansfield  
 Mountainburg

Mulberry/  
 Pleasant View  
 Ozark  
 Paris  
 Premier  
 Scranton  
 Van Buren







# ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing in the 21st century is highly automated and designed to continuously operate in efficient, clean, climate-controlled environments. In order to maintain this level of productivity, employers need a skilled workforce that's adept in modern technology, computerized production processes, and strategic workflow methods. If you love to work with your hands, as well as your mind, our Advanced Manufacturing pathway is for you.

Peak's Advanced Manufacturing pathway offers three distinct programs:

- Computer Integrated Machining
- Electronics Technology/Automation & Robotics

Each pathway builds on a common set of classes to provide you with fundamental knowledge that will benefit your long-term goals. This foundation gives you the opportunity to more easily delve into specialized manufacturing fields in future academic courses. Through Peak, you'll become a specialist rather than generalist, and better prepared for a successful career.

Median wage figures from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)



## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PATHWAYS >>>>

### COMPUTER INTEGRATED MACHINING

Today's manufacturing world is complex, fast-paced, and reliant upon sharp minds as well as advanced processes, technology, tools and equipment. In the Gene Haas Computer Integrated Machining Lab, students will be trained on state of the art equipment and technology and will receive theoretical and practical education on machine shop operations, manufacturing and machining processes, use and care of tools and machines, technical drafting (CAD/CAM) and interpretation of blueprints, computer numeric control programming and requirements for quality work.

**Career Titles:** CNC Machine Operator, Machinist, Machine Tool Operator, Tool and Die Maker, Advanced Manufacturing Technician

**Industry:** Manufacturing, Public Institutions, Government, Specialty Machining Shops

**Outlook:** 2% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$46,090



### ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY



Students who participate in the program for three years could earn an Associates Degree in Electronics Technology. In the ABB Electronics Technology Lab, students will learn how to install, maintain and repair machinery, equipment and processes used by manufacturing and industrial companies. The courses in this pathway cover a range of integrated fields such as advanced manufacturing, engineering, sciences and technology.

**Career Titles:** Industrial Maintenance Technician, Advanced Manufacturing Technician, Engineering Technician

**Industry:** Electromedical, Manufacturing, Governmental, Engineering Services

**Outlook:** 2% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$63,850

### ELECTRONICS/AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS

Advancements in industrial innovation, productivity and global competition have led to an increasing demand for automation and robotic technicians and programmers in advanced manufacturing operations. In the ABB Automation and Robotics Lab, 2-year program students will develop the skills necessary to design, develop and maintain automation and robotic systems as well as build automation solutions and program robots to perform intricate assignments.

**Career Titles:** Automation Technicians, Robotic Technicians, Advanced Manufacturing Technicians, Engineering Technicians

**Industry:** Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Engineering Services

**Outlook:** 3% growth

**National Median Wage:** \$39,810 - \$58,350 (varies by specialty)





# HEALTH SCIENCES

The Health Services sectors is one of our nation's fastest growing fields. As our population ages, the demand for skilled healthcare providers will increase exponentially over the next decade. If you're driven by a desire to make a real difference in the lives of others and enjoy a fast-paced environment, then this may be the field for you. Beyond the security and flexibility of an in-demand career, healthcare providers traditionally enjoy one of the highest levels of job satisfaction.

These programs combine practical instruction with clinical experience to provide you with the foundational knowledge needed to begin a career in health care or obtain advanced credentials through continued higher education.

Our Health Sciences pathway delivers the foundational knowledge you will need to enter this fast-paced and highly-rewarding career field.

The Peak Health Sciences pathway offers three distinct programs:

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Licensed Practical Nursing
- Emergency Medical Technician



## HEALTH SCIENCE PATHWAYS >>>>

### CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)

The Certified Nursing Assistant program introduces students to a variety of health careers and the related medical terminology. Students are actively engaged in clinical settings, working directly with residents of local long-term care facilities. Upon successful completion of this two-year program, students may fulfill requirements to take the CNA certification exam.

**Career Title:** Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

**Industry:** Home Health Care – Personal Care Aides – Nursing Assistants

**Outlook:** 8% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$26,000



### LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING



This program offers you the opportunity to earn a technical certificate in Practical Nursing. Admission into the Practical Nursing program is competitive, but those who are accepted will receive a combination of classroom instruction in a state-of-the-art facility with clinical experience in the care of clients at local healthcare facilities.

Upon successful completion of this program, you'll be able to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) when you reach 18 years of age. Peak's Practical Nursing Program is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN).

**Career Titles:** Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurse (LPN, LVN)

**Industry:** Hospitals, Residential Care Facilities, Physician Offices, Government

**Outlook:** 9% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$40,760

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Combine your goals of helping people with your desire to work in a fast-paced environment with Peak's Emergency Technician program. Peak offers certifications in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). An EMT is an emergency responder with the practical medical knowledge and skills necessary to deliver healthcare in a rapid time frame. The knowledge gained at this level provides the foundation for all future certification.

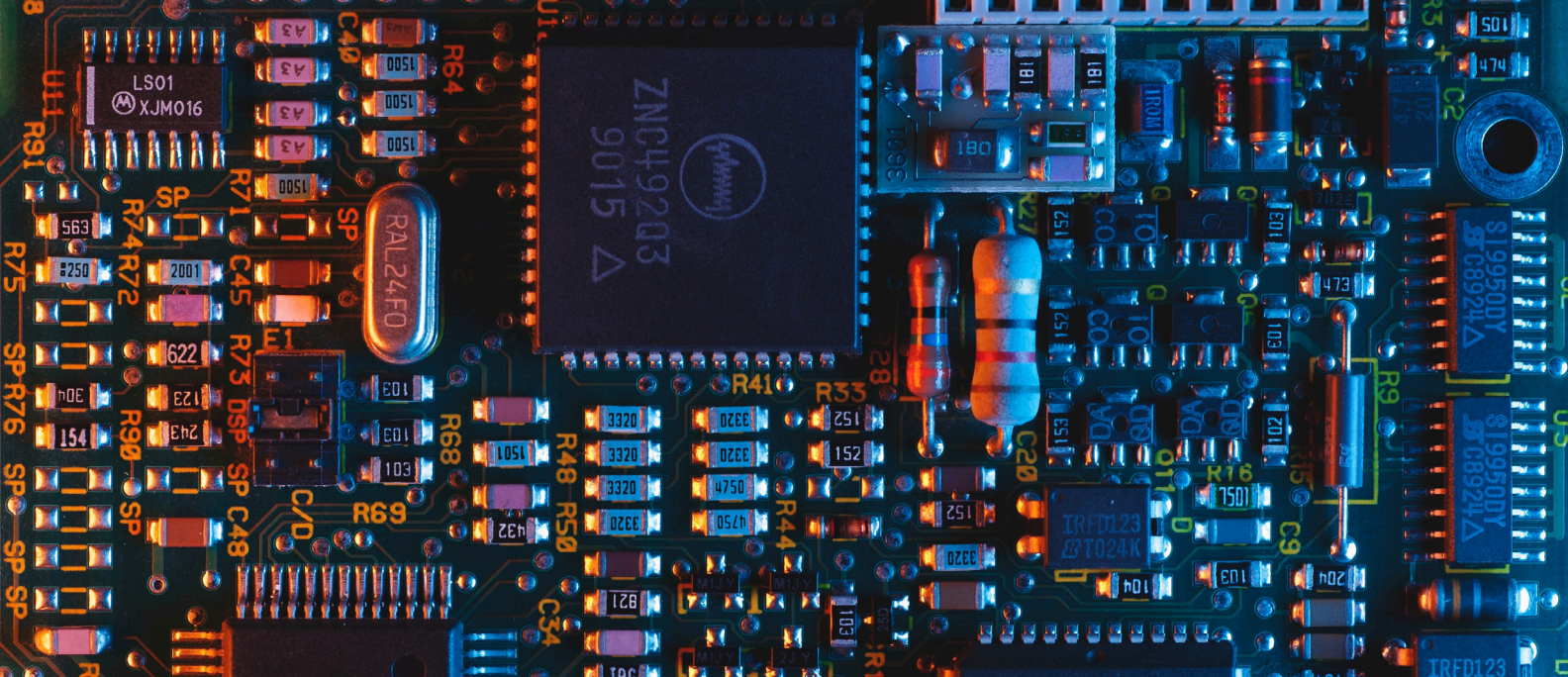
**Career Titles:** Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – Paramedics

**Industry:** Ambulance Services, Hospitals, Government

**Outlook:** 6% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$34,660





# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As technology advances, so does the industry's need for skilled professionals to deliver effective, efficient, and secure information technology services. This pathway prepares you to go directly into a specialized career in computer networking. With the number of cyber attacks on the rise and confidential information becoming increasingly vulnerable, the need for networking specialists and information security analysts is expected to grow.

Peak's Network Engineering Technology (NET) program will teach you to design, administer, maintain and support local and wide area networks (LANs and WANs). NET graduates will be qualified for exciting technological roles in network design and installation, infrastructure security and maintenance, incident response, inter-network communications, network monitoring and administration and cyber security.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PATHWAYS >>>>

## NETWORK ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Turn your love of computers and virtual networks into a lucrative career by becoming a network engineering technician. Network Engineering Technicians, also known as network architects, combine programming skills with imagination to construct robust computer networks for businesses and their employees.

This program equips students with the skills they will need to enter the workforce as a computer network support specialist progressing to the level of a network and system administrator. Courses of study that will allow high school students to qualify for a technical certificate include:

- Introduction to Program and Networking
- Wiring and Cabling
- Electrical Circuits and Components
- Fiber Optics
- Cloud-Based Computing
- Network Security

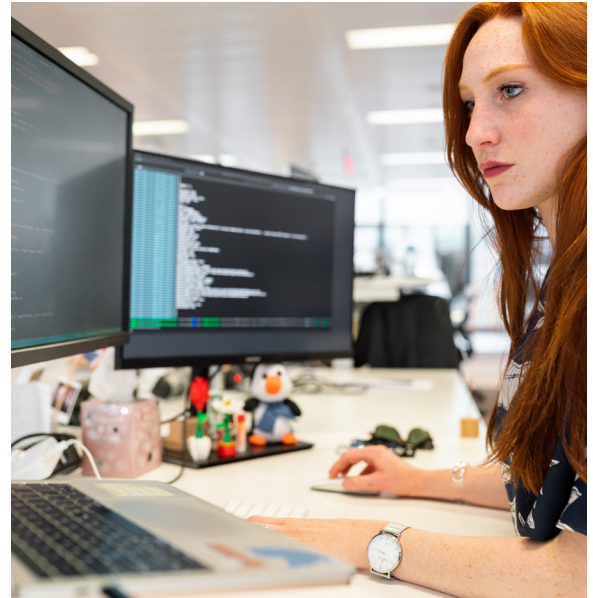
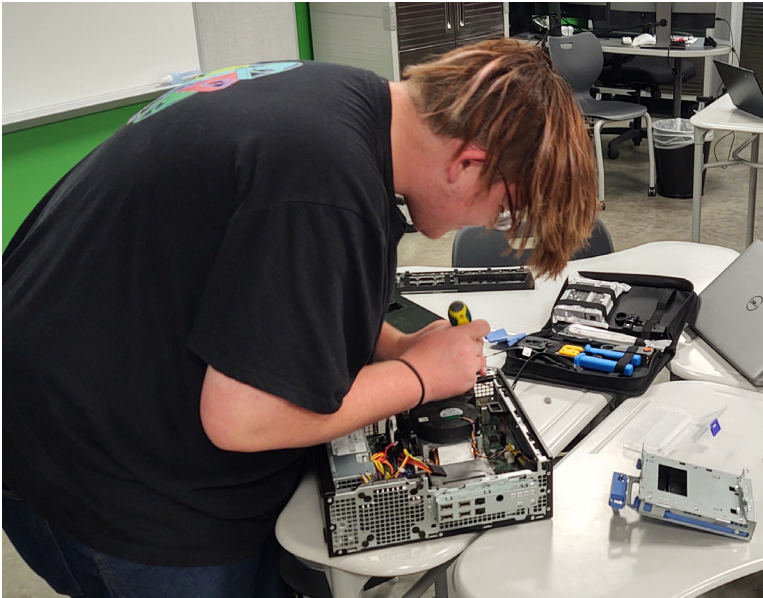
Certificates of proficiency will be awarded in networking technology and supporting technology customers.

**Career Titles:** Network Engineer, Network Architect, Computer System Administrator

**Industry:** Educational Services, Computer systems Design, Government, Finance & Insurance

**Outlook:** 2-5% growth

**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$45,540 - \$94,140 (varies by specialty)





# EMERGING ART & DESIGN

Art finds its way into nearly every facet of our lives in one way or another whether it be social media advertisements, the set of plates in your kitchen cabinet, or the packaging on your favorite snack. Emerging Art & Design students at PEAK will discover how art is used as a tool of communication and influence. Investigate art by creating, responding, and connecting with designs across cultures and time periods.

PEAK Art students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas that integrate real-world issues using industry-standard technology and equipment. They will develop a portfolio of work demonstrating 21st century skills, present in gallery exhibitions to peers and community partners, and gain the skills necessary to earn technical certifications in industry-recognized digital software.

The PEAK Emerging Art & Design pathway is available to Fort Smith Public School students only and incorporates three areas of study:

- Media Arts
- Art History
- Studio Art



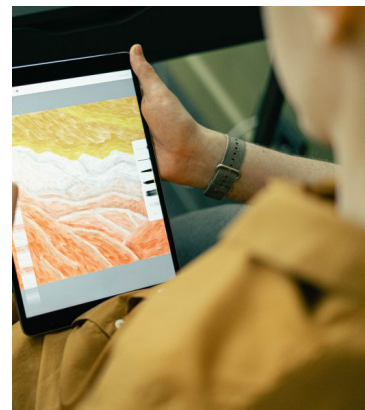
## EMERGING ART & DESIGN CURRICULA >>>>

### MEDIA ARTS

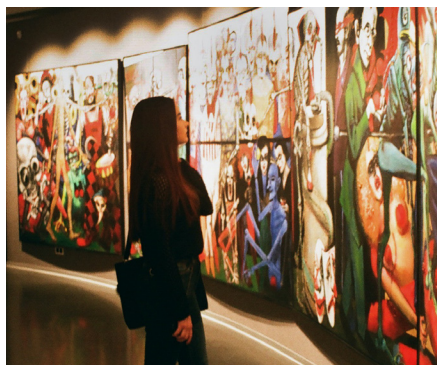
With the growing need for a digital presence continues to increase, many organizations have use for a graphic artist, especially in website layouts and social media advertising. Graphic designers have many niches including package design, branding, website design, and digital illustration.

The PEAK program will train and prepare you for certification in Adobe software such as Illustrator with additional practice in Photoshop and InDesign. Incorporate traditional artistic methods with digital manipulation to learn industry best practices and establish your own design aesthetic to develop a portfolio. Progress from 2-D photography and illustrations to 3-D modeling and animation techniques.

**Career Titles:** Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Special Effects Artist, Animator  
**Industry:** Communication, Media Entertainment, Marketing, Corporate, Freelance  
**Outlook:** 3% growth  
**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$62,430 (depending on specialty)



### ART HISTORY



Dive into the world of art history to discover insightful information about society over time. Studies in art history provide the necessary skills to analyze, interpret, and consider ideas from multiple perspectives. Learn how archivists and curators procure art for collections and how conservators restore artifacts for display.

Completion of this program results in up to nine university credits at UAFS from Advanced Placement scores.

**Career Titles:** Curators, Archivist, Conservators, Gallery Director  
**Industry:** Museums, Art Galleries, Public Institutions, Educational Institutions  
**Outlook:** 12% growth  
**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$54,740

### STUDIO ART 2-D/3-D

Fine, craft, or commercial artists practice and develop techniques to create works for sale or exhibition. Students will experiment with a variety of media and learn how to apply techniques toward creating unique works for their personal portfolios.

**Career Titles:** Crafter, Illustrator, Painter, Sculptor, Tattoo Artist, Art Educator  
**Industry:** Museums, Art Galleries, Craft Fairs, Educational Institutions  
**Outlook:** 6% growth  
**Arkansas Median Wage:** \$46,400



# APPRENTICESHIPS

To supplement classroom exposure, students gain practical experience during later-term apprenticeships, which are modeled to provide real-world learning throughout the student's senior year, allowing them to capitalize on the technical concurrent college credit offerings at Peak and WATC. The ongoing, aligned support of our K-12 partners is critical to a student's successful transition into the workplace or their pursuit of a college degree.

Changing perceptions about the value an apprenticeship has for both students and industry requires an adjustment of delivery methods and expectations. Students are expected to hone the professional and technical skills that will allow them to become competitive candidates in the workplace.

Our apprenticeships hold high expectations for industry partners. In order to participate in the program and engage with the diverse and proficient talent being produced through the technical centers, companies will be required to demonstrate their commitment to our modern apprenticeship model.





# BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

Student,

The information on the previous pages represents the culmination of over four years of brainstorming, strategic planning, collaboration, development, and investment by countless individuals and organizations. The Peak Innovation Center leverages an over \$20 million investment and throughout the work it has taken to bring Peak to life, you should know that you have been the focus of our efforts.

As business, industry, and community leaders, we take our responsibility seriously when it comes to driving the economy of our region forward. With the help and commitment from many, we work hard to be good corporate citizens as well as the financial engine for thousands of employees, who are our families, friends, and neighbors. Ultimately, the efforts we make at providing career opportunity and community support, are only possible if the workforce in our region continues to be skilled and experienced. As a young adult, we understand that your ability to experience career opportunity is incredibly important, and that is why the Peak Innovation Center is something we hope you will consider.

At Peak, career and college bound students will have the chance to learn hands-on, in a cutting-edge environment, directed by University of Arkansas – Fort Smith instructors who bring industry experience to the classroom. Through programming and industry exposure, you'll receive direct connection to career opportunities in our region. Preparing for one of those careers not only provides you the ability to earn a competitive salary right out of high school, but better prepares you for any college ambitions you might have. The coursework you complete as a Peak student will seamlessly transfer into enrollment with UAFS, and in some cases you can graduate high school very close to the completion of an associate degree.

We hope you'll choose to Believe in yourself, decide to Belong at Peak, and Become a highly skilled professional in our community. Share this information with a parent or guardian and talk with your counselor to find out how to enroll.

Best wishes,

Industries of Western Arkansas





**COMPUTER INTEGRATED MACHINING • ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY/  
AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS • NETWORK ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) • LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN  
EMERGING ART & DESIGN**



# Inspiring Transformative Learning

With a building and land donated by the Estate of William L. Hutcheson, the Peak Innovation Center is the culmination of more than four years of planning, collaboration, development, and investment by countless individuals and organizations, all with one goal in mind – your success.

Choose to:

- Believe in yourself
- Belong at Peak
- Become an accomplished professional

Ready to join the Peak Innovation Center? Get started today.

## Next Steps

### Middle School

- Participate in Career and Technical Education classes and summer camps at Peak to learn more about options for high school
- Utilize career interest and aptitude inventory tools like YouScience and Edge Factor to help focus on your strengths
- Create a student success plan that includes your area of interest at Peak Innovation Center

### High School

- Take the first-level class to begin your path to Peak Innovation Center. CTE courses offer Principles or Introduction classes.
- Communicate your interest in continuing your chosen pathway with your high school counselor
- Register for classes at Peak through the Western Arkansas Technical Center at UAFS
- Participate in work-based learning opportunities such as apprenticeships and internships
- Complete your high school credits while earning concurrent technical credit and industry-recognized certifications

For more information visit [peakinnovationcenter.org](http://peakinnovationcenter.org) and [academics.uafs.edu/watc](http://academics.uafs.edu/watc).





**PEAK**

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