

## Who we are and what we do.

**4,013 and counting, at-risk kids served.** The Cincinnati Arts & Technology Center helps many of Cincinnati's most at-risk urban teens unlock their self-worth and potential through the transformational power of art, a first-class environment and a character-building culture.

We help these young people, all from Cincinnati Public Schools, stay in school to graduation and equip them with skills, credentials and pathways to employment. In other words, we're turning some of our community's most at-risk teens into successful adults.



*CATC has helped prepare thousands of students for successful lives. Year after year an average of 93% of our seniors graduate.*



*We serve about 400 students per year--79% African-American, 21% Caucasian and other ethnicities.*

### Ready to succeed after graduation.

Bridging the Gap, the CATC workforce development program, provides skilled workers in sectors where there are shortages, such as health care and manufacturing. We continue support for 18 months after graduation to ensure the students are firmly established in their careers.

**How we do it.** We start with the arts, which, as years of research prove, can re-engage even the most discouraged young minds in learning. Our students choose from five studio courses and work side-by-side with artist-instructors from the community, earning credits toward graduation. This guild model of learning creates bonds and encourages development of the skills and discipline needed for success in all walks of life.

Bridging the Gap and its partners prepare students for employment by teaching them both the soft skills and industry-specific training needed to succeed in the workforce. Some of our employer partners reserve jobs for the graduates, knowing that we'll send them highly qualified applicants who are committed to the career paths they have chosen. Then we provide mentoring and other supports through 18 months of employment.

**Results.** An average of 93% of participating CATC seniors graduate year after year, proving that lives can be turned around with the right kind of programming. Every year, CATC launches dozens of students onto career paths through Bridging the Gap. Since 2006, 65 CATC graduates have been hired into entry-level health care positions. While these are traditionally high turnover positions, the Bridging the Gap job retention rate is 87% (in position for at least one year). Over the past two years we served 68 students, many of whom are now in college, working, or poised to enter the workforce.



**Why we do it.** There's a ripple effect when even one young person succeeds and goes on to raise a family in which economic stability is the norm. Through the growing ranks of successful CATC and Bridging the Gap graduates, we and our partners are setting in motion patterns of productivity and prosperity that are already reverberating for these individuals, their families, our community and all its neighborhoods.

