



Talent &  
Education  
NETWORK

The Main Line Chamber of Commerce

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-25 School Year

An update on an expanding program  
to connect students with employers



“At their core, the college-student-oriented Talent and Education Network (TEN) and high school-oriented Jobs and Education Development Initiative (JEDI) create employer/student interaction that provides career-awareness knowledge, professional development opportunities, internships and jobs.” Bernard Dagenais  
Main Line Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

## Inspiring future careers and providing pathways to economic mobility:

### For college students

**What:** Five virtual Opportunity Knocks Employer-Student Meetups served 680 college students, which was a 28 percent increase over the previous year, from 30 schools. Close to 500 resumes were sent to participating employers, including Vanguard, Comcast, Bentley Systems, Closets by Design, Vertex, Essential Utilities (Aqua PA), Accenture, USLI, Bentley Systems, Independence Blue Cross, and Philadelphia Insurance Cos.

**Looking back:** TEN grew from two Regional Congresses on Talent and Education hosted by the Chamber at Saint Joseph's University in 2013 and Villanova University in 2014.

**Looking ahead:** As part of a growing collaboration with the Chamber's Society of Professional Women, the Annual No Limits Leadership Experience is being expanded from a tech-only focus to serve college women of all majors.



### For high school students

**What:** The Jobs and Experience Development Initiative (JEDI) for high school students opens the door for employers to build relationships with future employees as they decide on a career path. More than 260 students toured different companies during ten field trips and four in-school sessions to gain knowledge about opportunities and the skills needed to get and keep a good job. JEDI is focused on encouraging students to take steps toward a career that can include getting a part-time job or participating in one of the many educational programs offered in Greater Philadelphia.

**Looking back:** After initially concentrating the work of TEN on college students, employers wanted to communicate with high school students who likely would not pursue a four-year degree upon graduation.

**Looking ahead:** JEDI will host 25 interactions with high school students during the 2025-26 school year, with a particular focus on taking action, including applying for jobs, participating in professional development and creating LinkedIn profiles to keep in touch with employers.

## Announcing the Greater Main Line Health Care Jobs Collaboration:

**What:** A new collaboration is connecting technical students who are working toward health care job certifications with health care systems looking to hire.

Four field trips in the past year occurred with participating health care systems: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in King of Prussia, Jefferson Einstein Medical Center Montgomery, Main Line Health and Nemours Children's Health.

**Looking back:** The initiative was created as a result of a research project conducted for United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. One conclusion was that as health care systems are becoming more intentional about attracting entry-level employees, they can provide pathways for students who aren't immediately college bound to good-paying jobs.

**Looking ahead:** Employers, students and the region benefit when students learn about the jobs in the region and the varied pathways to a family-sustaining wage.

**"I think you all are doing amazing work and I appreciate your energy and all that you do to support such important forums and connection points." – Cheryl Gebeline-Myers, CHOP**

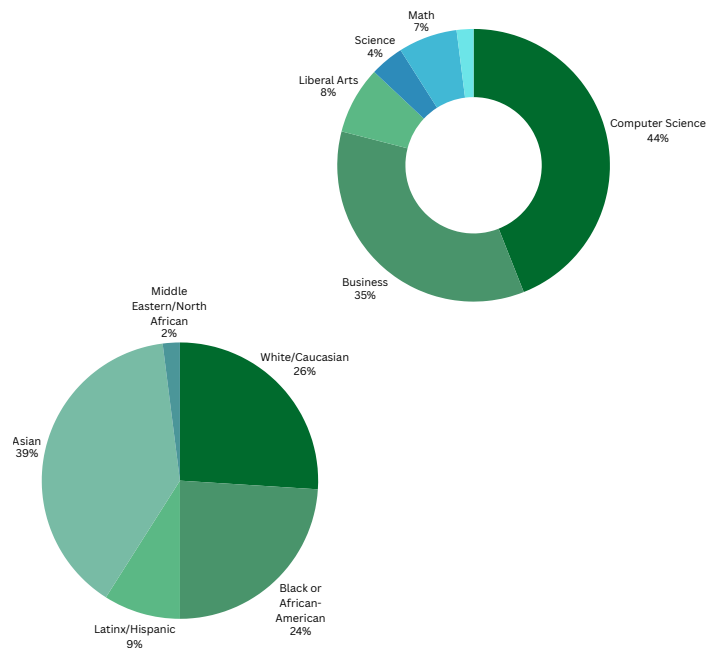
## Cultivating a diverse talent pipeline:



56% Female, 44% Male

31% of attendees are first-generation students.

63% are students of color.



**"I wanted to extend a thank you for once again inviting me to such an amazing opportunity today! You are really helping and inspiring us to get out there! Much appreciated." – Troyanna Butler, Student**

## A growing impact:

- 82 employees from 27 different companies participated in college or high school events as attendees, panelists, moderators or breakout session leaders
- Close to 1 in 5 college students had an interview as a direct result of TEN
- An estimated 60 students have attended Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week, thanks entirely or in large part to promotions through the JEDI program



### Additional opportunities promoted to high school students include:

- Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week
  - PECO / Exelon Girls and Boys STEM Academies
  - PECO / Exelon Foundation Infrastructure Academy
  - University City Science Center hands-on STEM experiences
  - High school internships at U.S. Liability Insurance Group
  - Part-time and summer jobs at Giant Supermarkets
- New partnerships soon to be announced

## Company partners:



## Greater Main Line Health Care Collaborative:



## College & university partners:



### Additional information

#### School partners:

- Norristown Area High School
- Upper Darby High School
- Delaware County Tech High School
- Montgomery County Tech School

#### Supporting companies:

The list of companies that have supported TEN and used events as recruiting opportunities include Truist, Vanguard, Bentley Systems, Comcast, Lincoln Financial Group, Closets by Design, Vertex, CSL, Cencora, Essential Utilities (Aqua PA), Accenture, USLI, UGI, Bentley Systems, Independence Blue Cross, Philadelphia Insurance Cos. and American Water. The United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey also provided seed funds for JEDI.

“It was a pleasure to host this worthwhile event. We could see the excitement and curiosity of the students. I must say they were very respectful and mature in how well they interacted with the other students and the adults in the room. You and all of the teachers and administrators at Norristown should be acknowledged for this.” – John Nucero, Van Horn Metz