

2017

## Excellence in Action Award

### Milton Hershey School

Law, Public Safety, and Security Career Pathway  
*Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Career Cluster*

#### OVERVIEW

Based in the Milton Hershey School, a private, cost-free, co-residential school and home for children from lower income families, the Law, Public Safety, and Security (LPSS) Career Pathway is one of 11 that rising secondary students may choose from, teaching students about law and law-enforcement careers throughout their four years of high school.

The program begins by allowing students to explore various fields in this sector, with an emphasis on foundational knowledge about criminal justice process and ethics. As students progress through the program, their coursework and experiences are focused on what they are likely to face in the field, such as investigating crime scenes and performing parole duties. Real-life experience in a courtroom and forensics lab enhance classroom instruction. During the 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year, students have an opportunity to experience an internship or take a college course.

Secondary Students (79 students)	Percentage
Male	38%
Female	62%
Low-Income	100%
Minority	51%
Postsecondary Students (19 students)	Percentage
Male	32%
Female	68%
Low-Income	100%
Minority	63%

#### LOCAL PARTNERS EMPOWER STUDENTS

Professionals from the community have taken a vested interest in supporting students, serving as classroom teachers and mentors who help students plan for a future in law and law enforcement. Local law enforcement and police department staff regularly come to campus to teach lessons and facilitate demonstrations and host student tours in their precincts. The state police academy has also been heavily involved, with both state and local police staff serving on the program’s advisory committee.

A local partnership with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts has enabled students to engage with professionals in the Office of General Counsel and the Safety & Security Department. The resorts have hosted interns, offered summer programming and conducted co-ops throughout the school year. The Vice President of General Counsel and Secretary, Frank Miles, serves as a visiting instructor and was selected as the 2012 Outstanding Advisory Committee Member by the Pennsylvania Association

for Career and Technical Education. The involvement of these professionals has been a catalyst for success.

“So many of our students have encountered criminal justice and the law in a very different way in their homes,” explains Dave Curry, Career and Technical Education Director. But through the LPSS career pathway, students can redefine what the profession means to them. “Every kid is reachable, and there’s always an opportunity to get a little bit more out of everyone. The kids at Milton Hershey School are incredible – you want them to achieve what they are capable of achieving.”

Part of the successful model is that every student graduates with multiple industry-recognized credentials, including the ICS-100 Incident Command Certification from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Certification from Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA).

## Milton Hershey School



### PROGRAM PROFILE: THE MOCK TRIAL TEAM

In addition to real-life experiences provided by industry partners and leaders, students participate in mock trials as another way to get hands-on practice and simulated experience. The Mock Trial Team finished its history-making 2016 season ranked fifth out of 317 teams in the state of Pennsylvania. The team won the school's first District Championship, Regional Semifinals and Regional Championship before advancing to the state finals of the Pennsylvania Mock Trial Competition.

To prepare students for this unique opportunity, the school partners with the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office to facilitate an advocacy workshop to train the mock trial team.

"Many students choose to complete four-week summer internships and co-op programs at various organizations in our community. These students are only in high school, but through these work-place learning opportunities, they are already highly prepared for college and the workforce. On top of that, every student in the pathway completes certification tests that further elevates their industry experience."

– Officer Tony Clements, Derry Township Police Department

### PATHWAY TO POSTSECONDARY

The Milton Hershey School's engages directly with their Pre-K and elementary students because they know it is never too early to get students thinking about and working toward their future. To expose these younger students to the possibilities ahead, career exposure begins in 4<sup>th</sup> grade during an annual career fair in which each of the 11 CTE pathways is represented.

Programming continues in middle school, where all students go through CTE classes across the pathway areas. Part of this experience includes exposure to some of the practical aspects of law and public safety. The local police department facilitates a junior police academy for students served by year-round residential programming.

CTE Director Curry explains, "By time they get to 9<sup>th</sup> grade they've been exposed to a ton of different career areas so they have a decent idea of what they're interested in. Coming from families that may not have any career models to emulate makes it important to get exposure to these experiences."

## Success by the Numbers



100%

Graduated High School



95%

Enrolled in Postsecondary Education



100%

Earned an Industry-recognized Credential



100%

Dual Enrollment Students Earned Postsecondary Credit

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