



For Immediate Release

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County Shares Renderings of Franklin-Roberts, Plans for New Business Incubator Aligned with Student Entrepreneurship Pathway

State-of-the-art facility for entrepreneurs will provide direct connections to Franklin-Roberts programs

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN (April 15, 2026) — Hamilton County and Hamilton County Schools today unveiled renderings for the Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center, offering a first look at the new downtown facility that will bring career and technical education (CTE) back to Chattanooga's urban core. Officials also announced a new Entrepreneurship Pathway for students and plans for the center to serve as the future home of the county's small business incubator.

"Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center will stand as a symbol of our commitment to education, opportunity, and innovation in Hamilton County," said Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp. "This investment honors the legacy of Kirkman Technical School and two of our county's foremost citizens, John P. Franklin and Dalton Roberts. Most importantly, Franklin-Roberts will ensure every student from every neighborhood in Hamilton County has access to career and technical opportunities."

The Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center will serve as a hub for innovation, education, and advancement, expanding access to hands-on learning and career pathways for students from 11 schools across the county. With its opening, the county's network of Future Ready Centers will be complete, giving every high school student in Hamilton County access to a half-day vocational education program, helping them graduate prepared for both college and career.

"We are incredibly excited about the opportunities the Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center will bring to our students and the schools it will serve," said Dr. Justin Robertson, Superintendent of Hamilton County Schools. "With several pathways that lead to viable, meaningful careers and the Business INCubator located on the same campus, our students will gain critical skills alongside Chattanooga's entrepreneurial community."

The county also announced plans for the Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center to house the county's small business incubator in a state-of-the-art facility designed to support the needs of today's entrepreneurs while fostering the next generation of business leaders.

"The One Westside project can't succeed fully without transformational educational opportunities for children, so having this new downtown school with its focus on preparation for tomorrow's careers is an exciting moment for Chattanooga," said City of Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly. "We're grateful to the county and Hamilton County Schools for making it happen."

Building on the county's partnership with Volkswagen to create early, industry-aligned pathways in engineering, the Franklin-Roberts Future Ready Center will include a new Entrepreneurship Pathway, giving students the tools to start businesses, innovate, and lead in a modern economy.