



Fire/EMS careers program enrolls diverse DPS student group

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A diverse group of high school students is enrolled in the collaborative program designed to prepare high school students for firefighting and EMS careers.

The Fire/EMS CTE program at Dayton Public Schools' Belmont High School was launched in 2019 with goals of preparing students for meaningful, rewarding careers and diversifying the ranks of the Dayton Fire Department.

During the 2020/21 school year, 22 students were enrolled in the program. Of those currently enrolled in the Firefighter I Certification Class (grade 11), 50% are female and 25% are minorities. In the Foundations of Firefighting & EMS Class (grade 10), 50% are female and 50% are minorities.

Students completing the Fire/EMS CTE program are qualified to apply for any open, entry-level positions with the Dayton Fire Department and surrounding agencies. Classes are taught by DFD instructors and include prep classes and certification courses for Firefighter I and EMT exams. The program is an extension of the City of Dayton Homegrown Heroes initiative, which seeks to increase the number of women and minorities in the City's safety forces.

"We are encouraged by the results of this innovative effort to prepare young people for skilled careers while strengthening Dayton's safety forces," said City Manager Shelley Dickstein. "Dayton residents will be well-served by this diverse and dedicated group from Dayton Public Schools."

"We are proud to offer a program that allows students to graduate ready for a promising career in Fire/EMS," said Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Elizabeth Lolli. "This training will prepare students to serve their community and positively impact the Dayton area. The partnership between DPS and the City of Dayton will not only benefit students, but all Dayton residents because the City will have stronger safety forces as a result."

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