



Expanding Healthcare Pathways:

How Legacy Medical Academy Leverages the Career Scholarship Account to Expand Student Opportunities

Legacy Medical Academy, a healthcare training company with a decade-long history, uses Indiana's CSA to improve access to high-value healthcare certifications for high school students.

Background - A Leader in Healthcare Education

Founded over a decade ago as a talent pipeline for a sister company specializing in home care, Legacy Medical Academy (Legacy) has evolved into a leading provider of healthcare training throughout Indiana.

With physical locations in Mishawaka, Carmel, and Fort Wayne, Legacy serves both adult and high school populations, offering certifications such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Qualified Medication Aide (QMA), and insulin administration.

Their mission is to create accessible pathways for individuals seeking entry into healthcare careers.

Challenge - Overcoming Barriers to Healthcare Certifications

When Matt Presley, President and CEO, joined Legacy, he was charged with expanding partnerships, scaling the school's reach, and embedding industry-aligned training directly into high schools.

Despite Legacy's established reputation and robust adult training programs, high school students in Indiana faced significant barriers to accessing healthcare certifications. Many schools lacked the resources or expertise to offer comprehensive pre-nursing pathways, and traditional career centers often had limited capacity.

As a result, students interested in healthcare careers were frequently left without viable options.



Locations: Carmel, Ft. Wayne, Mishawaka (expanding into Goshen, South Bend, and beyond)

Work-based learning programs: Pre-Nursing/Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)



A cohort of Legacy Medical Academy students

“Our model has been essentially taking nurses from industry and then training them to be teachers,” Matt explained. “But the real challenge was scaling our reach and ensuring that students who wanted to pursue healthcare careers could access high-quality training and work-based learning opportunities.”

Legacy’s challenge was twofold: to expand its high school partnerships and to integrate seamlessly with the new CSA program, which required navigating bureaucratic hurdles, building trust with school leaders, and demonstrating the value of their programs to parents and students.

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Partnering with the CSA is an incredible opportunity that I appreciate because it truly creates meaningful opportunities for students.”

– Matt Presley
President and CEO
Legacy Medical Academy

Solution - High School Training and the CSA

Legacy’s solution was to leverage its expertise and existing relationships to embed healthcare training directly into high schools, using Indiana’s Career Scholarship Account (CSA) as a financial and logistical foundation.

The CSA program allowed Legacy to offer the pre-nursing pathway — six high school credits and 15 college credits — within a single academic year, providing students with a clear route to certification.

“It was really about being good partners with the school in order for them to encourage students and parents to sign up,” Matt said. “We coordinated with school leadership around parent nights, education, and helping them understand the program and its benefits.”

Legacy adopted a flexible approach, tailoring its programs to the unique needs of each school. In some cases, such as Goshen, New Prairie, and Eastern Hancock, Legacy delivered the entire pre-nursing pathway in one block of time, enabling rapid scaling. In others, like Mishawaka and South Bend, Legacy integrated its CNA certification into existing curricula, building on prior coursework in medical terminology and anatomy.

Results - Expanded Opportunities, College Credits, Direct Entry into Nursing Programs

The impact of Legacy’s partnership with the CSA has been dramatic. In just one year, Legacy went from training a handful of students at Carmel High School to serving over 110 students across multiple high schools, with plans to expand further in the coming years.

“Our Goshen program has doubled for next school year,” Matt noted. “All of our programs have grown year over year. We’re delivering the entire pathway in a block of the day. Students can opt in and get the full experience — six high school credits, fifteen college credits, an industry-valued certification, and real-world experience in healthcare.”



Beyond enrollment numbers, Legacy's approach has created a robust pipeline of future healthcare workers, with students earning industry-recognized certifications and gaining real-world experience through clinical placements and employer partnerships.

For example, prior to Legacy's partnership with Goshen High School, students' only option to pursue a healthcare pathway was through the local career center, which never had enough spots for the number of students interested.

With the CSA and expert leadership from Legacy instructor Becky Hulse, 20 Goshen High School students were able to participate in a pre-nursing pathway and get hands-on experience at Greencroft Goshen. At the conclusion of their pathway, all 20 students earned their CNA and Greencroft offered all 20 students a job with a \$17.75 starting wage!

Schools have become more willing to embrace change, and students are empowered with new opportunities that were previously out of reach.

Earning the CNA allows students to work directly with patients, providing skilled care and better positioning themselves for these opportunities that save them time and money.

"Increasingly, as we work with both long-term care and acute care partners, the CNA is being recognized as the backbone of nursing," Matt emphasizes. "CNAs develop critical foundational skills that are essential across every healthcare setting.

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"When you're talking about what's best for students, and if you're able to show that you can provide these opportunities, it's really, how can we work together to do what's right for students and for the community — for the employer partners in healthcare that desperately need this talent.

"I'd love to see continued investment in partnerships through the CSA, which is proving to be a powerful tool in preparing the next generation of healthcare workers in our state. These programs create real opportunity for students and deliver the kind of impact that benefits both communities and the larger healthcare system."

What are the outcomes of Legacy's partnership with CSA?

- Expansion into more high schools, giving more students the opportunity for accelerated pathways into healthcare careers
- Exponential growth in the number of students taking advantage of their programs and earning industry-recognized credentials while still in high school
- A robust pipeline of desperately needed future healthcare workers
- Students better prepared for admission to direct-entry nursing programs because of their CNA certification and direct patient care experience



Want to partner with CSA? *Here are some tips from Legacy's team:*

- 1. Build relationships across your sector** - Connect with a range of employers to create meaningful experiences for students. Legacy builds strong partnerships across the healthcare industry, giving students opportunities to explore career paths, gain hands-on experience, and understand where they fit in the workforce.
- 2. Start with strong school partnerships** - Build trust and shared goals with school partners. Legacy's success comes from close collaboration with schools, which leads to smoother operations and better outcomes for students.
- 3. Invest in instructor support and training** - Provide consistent training and support for instructors. Legacy equips educators to thrive in hybrid learning and build strong student connections, which directly improves program quality.

Ready to take the next step? Register to become a CSA provider [here](#). Students can join the CSA waitlist [here](#).