



## Tacony Academy Charter School Launches Career-Readiness Institute to Train Students in High-Demand Fields

**PHILADELPHIA, PA; July 21, 2025**—Tacony Academy, one of four American Paradigm Schools located in North and Northeast Philadelphia, is launching the Medical and Technical Skills Institute (MTSI), a new program designed to provide students with career-ready skills and nationally recognized certifications in high-growth medical and technology fields.

The institute's first offering is an 8-week Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT) course, conducted in partnership with Vital Veins Phlebotomy and certified through the National Healthcare Association. Students will receive hands-on and online instruction, testing materials, exam fee coverage, and the opportunity to complete their certification onsite at Tacony. Additional services include resume workshops, mock interviews, job placement support, and social-emotional guidance.

"The launch of MTSI is a bold step toward redefining what it means to be prepared for life after high school," said Naimah Wimberly, CEO of Tacony Academy Charter School. "We're bridging the gap between education and the workforce by equipping our students with nationally recognized certifications, hands-on experience, and the confidence to pursue in-demand careers. This is about economic mobility, equity, and ensuring our scholars are not just ready to graduate, but ready to lead."

MTSI addresses urgent workforce needs in Pennsylvania and beyond, where a shortage of [over 300,000](#) skilled workers is projected by 2030. By equipping students with in-demand skills in fields such as phlebotomy, IT, and healthcare, Tacony is strengthening the talent pipeline while opening doors for its scholars. Future certifications under consideration include medical assistant, EKG technician, OSHA safety training, Adobe and Autodesk software, and ServSafe food safety.

The launch of MTSI underscores Tacony Academy Charter School's unwavering commitment to equity, innovation, and economic empowerment—providing students with tangible opportunities to thrive in today's job market.

### **About American Paradigm Schools**

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit [www.ap-schools.org](http://www.ap-schools.org).

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

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