



## *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANDS TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS WITH SUPPORT FROM  
KNORR-BREMSE GLOBAL CARE NORTH AMERICA**

*\$45,000 Grant Will Help Prepare At-Risk Youth and Young Adults at Crispus Attucks  
Charter School for Post-Graduation Success Through New Vocational Training Tracks*

**AVON, Ohio – July 7, 2022** – Automotive technology. Commercial truck driving. Phlebotomy. Welding technology. These four high-demand fields are new vocational training options for students at Crispus Attucks Charter School (CACS), in York, Pennsylvania. CACS, which enrolls at-risk youth and young adults ages 17 to 21, recently expanded its certification program to include the four fields. The tracks join an existing certification in construction and, together, are a key part of CACS's high school diploma curriculum.

The initiative to increase training opportunities gained the financial support of Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America (KBGCNA), the U.S.-based arm of a philanthropic entity operated by Knorr-Bremse, based in Munich, Germany. KBGCNA awarded the school \$45,000 to help expand its certifications, creating additional pathways to success for its students. Up to 25 students will benefit from the grant, which runs through June 2023.

Knorr-Bremse is the global market leader for braking systems and a leading supplier of other safety-critical rail and commercial vehicle systems. It's the parent company of Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, whose wholly owned subsidiary R.H.

Sheppard Co., Inc. (Sheppard) is a major employer operating in Hanover, Pennsylvania, near York.

KBGCNA centers its investments on initiatives supporting youth, education, and underprivileged populations in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse's three largest North American companies: Bendix; Watertown, New York-based New York Air Brake LLC; and Westminster, Maryland-based Knorr Brake Company.

"With the additional certification tracks, Crispus Attucks Charter School is giving students the tools to have a better quality of life and gain employment through skills that are in demand," said Maria Gutierrez, president of KBGCNA and director of corporate responsibility and sustainability at Bendix. "This is important because fewer than a quarter of CACS's graduates are in a position to pursue traditional post-secondary education – and some find themselves in unsustainable careers. We couldn't be more pleased to support this initiative, which will have a lasting impact on the school, its graduates, and its community."

### **A School of the Community, for the Community**

The charter school is part of Crispus Attucks York (CAY), a 90-year-old community-based nonprofit serving a multigenerational population of underserved and disadvantaged people in the greater York area. CAY's name is inspired by Crispus Attucks, an African American man who escaped from slavery and is considered the first person to die in America's fight for independence from the British.

"Crispus Attucks York helps people to learn, work, and thrive, and our charter school fits within that 'learn' category, specifically targeting grade 12 students from 17 to 21 years old," said Edquina Washington, the organization's development director.

CAY founded Crispus Attucks Charter School in 1993 to meet the needs of high school dropouts and displaced youth throughout York County. Its mission is to help students develop self-esteem, self-respect, and respect for others while promoting academics, leadership, and career skills – transforming students into productive and respectable citizens in the community. The school is affiliated with YouthBuild, which emphasizes workforce and life skills while helping students attain their diploma.

Crispus Attucks Charter School can enroll up to 100 students. The curriculum is designed on a trimester schedule meant to be completed in one year. Students spend half of their time in classrooms working toward their high school diploma; the other half is spent in occupational training, leadership development, and community service.

“The community component is really important to us,” Washington said. “We want our students to have a love for community service. And you can see that in our graduates. They don’t just take their certification and go to work. They give back to the community, too.”

According to Washington, the school is excited to offer the four new certifications as an additional way to set up students for success in fields that are growing.

“I don’t think words can describe how important the KBGCNA funding is for us,” she said. “For those students to have new certifications, to really have a leg up in the workforce when they graduate – that is just invaluable for them. They face financial and other barriers that make it hard to go on to post-secondary education. So having that certification helps ensure that they have a job – it’s an avenue for success that they never would have had otherwise.”

### **On Track for Success**

The new tracks will launch at the beginning of the next school year, in August. Students are encouraged to enroll in two tracks. In each track, the curriculum will combine educational and occupational skills, with a teaching approach designed to engage students with different learning styles. Instructors will deliver course content through lectures, demonstrations, and exposure to industry-specific procedures and techniques.

Students will also learn problem-solving skills while simulating scenarios common to professionals in their fields. And they will practice key skills – such as venipunctures in the phlebotomy track – until they achieve mastery. In addition, career exploration and planning, as well as learning opportunities in community service, are part of the curriculum.

The school is partnering with the local York County School of Technology and certified instructors to provide the new tracks.

“CACS is being thoughtful about choosing initiatives that are going to make the biggest impact on the community with the resources they have, and how they can join with other local organizations,” Gutierrez said. “Rather than reinvent the wheel, they are strategically partnering with a local college that already has the curriculum and equipment. CACS is the facilitator, the connection. It’s impressive how they are growing.”

Crispus Attucks Charter School will work with students to move past any barriers they face. For example, students in the commercial truck driving track, who will train to earn a commercial driver’s license (CDL), must have a valid noncommercial driver’s license for at least two years and no disqualifying criminal offenses. CACS plans to assist students in connecting

with the resources – such as driving lessons and forgiveness or restoration programs – to fulfill the certification requirements.

CACS also will ensure that students are able to get back and forth between the school and York County School of Technology.

“We’ll transport students to and from so they don’t need to have a car,” Washington said. “We don’t want there to be any barriers to them getting their certification.”

### **Industry Connections**

As a part of Bendix, R.H. Sheppard specializes in the design and manufacture of power steering gears for the heavy commercial and specialty vehicle market. Eric Eldridge, Sheppard’s plant manager, serves as project champion for this KBGCNA effort.

“Walking through the CACS halls, you can see the tremendous pride the students have in their school, from their artwork on the spotless walls to the welcoming way these young men and women carry themselves,” Eldridge said. “The school teaches its students to be accountable, self-sufficient, and to give back. Crispus Attucks is more community-serving than any school I’ve seen. It echoes the community support ethos of Sheppard, Bendix, and KBGCNA. I’m honored to be part of this effort.”

Eldridge sees the possibility for further partnership with the school, which is down the road from Sheppard’s robust manufacturing operation in nearby Hanover.

“We hope to be able to show these young adults what great potential there is in a manufacturing career by experiencing our culture, our environment,” he said. “And so we view this as a tremendous opportunity, helping graduates to see themselves working in manufacturing – and possibly in a career at Sheppard, if they so desire. All to the benefit of the students as well as the local community in both York and Hanover.”

### **About Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America**

Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America Inc. (KBGCNA) is an independent organization operating as the North American arm of a global nonprofit organization – Knorr-Bremse Global Care. With an aim to address local social challenges more effectively, KBGCNA investments are centered in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse’s three largest North American companies: Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC; Westminster, Maryland-based Knorr Brake Company; and Watertown, New York-based New York Air Brake LLC. Funding activities are championed and supported by the employees of each of the three local companies. Follow us on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc).

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**About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,100 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](http://bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](http://brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](http://bendix.com/careers).

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