



# Expanding STEM Career Pathways through the Precision Agriculture Curriculum Enhancement (PACE) Project

**PARKLAND  
COLLEGE**

Year-2 Summary Report | 2018

## BACKGROUND

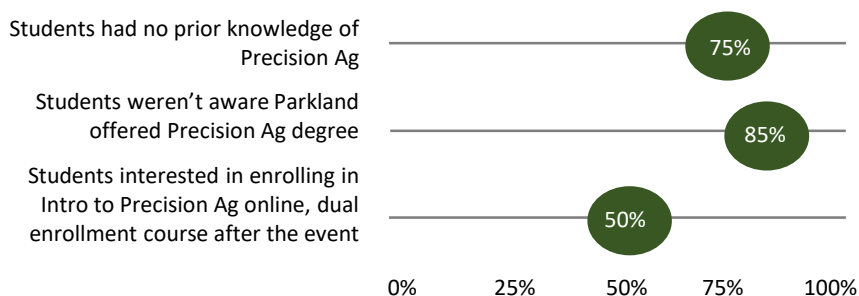
The PACE project focused on precision agriculture education to meet the growing demands of the U.S. agriculture industry. The major goals of this project are to not only 1) improve and expand precision agriculture education at Parkland College but also 2) expand precision agriculture education opportunities at area high schools and 3) improve capability between Parkland College and 4-year universities precision agriculture curriculum.

## IMPACT

- Updated curriculum for precision agriculture degree to match industry expected knowledge and skill competency areas. New courses added include Precision Hardware Systems and Commercial UAS Ground School.
- Created new 17-hour Precision Agriculture Certificate to serve 4-year university agriculture degree programs as well as current Parkland students seeking specialized training in precision agriculture.
- High school teachers from across Illinois participated in Emerging Technologies in Agriculture workshops to further their education on Precision Agriculture concepts and career opportunities for students.
- Expanded precision agriculture education opportunities at area high schools with a newly created Introduction to Precision Agriculture online, dual enrollment course.

## FINDINGS

Education of precision agriculture begins at the high school level to meet the growing demands of the agriculture industry. High school students (182) were surveyed at multiple agriculture events to determine their knowledge of Precision Agriculture as a viable career option. Results indicate more awareness is needed in the high school on the opportunities that exist in agriculture.



**24** high school students have completed Introduction to Precision Agriculture online, dual enrollment course since fall 2016

**30%** of the high school students that have completed Introduction to Precision Agriculture online, dual enrollment course have enrolled in Parkland's Precision Ag program



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