Partner Profile:
C.A. Fredd Jr. Career & Tech Academy

Dr. Dominic Combs, Founding Leader

Dr. Dominic Combs is a practitioner-scholar and Deputy Director of the Office of Evaluation at The University of Alabama, where he is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Evaluation Research. His work centers on culturally responsive, trauma-informed programming and on building STEM capacity in the Alabama Black Belt. He holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a Delta Region Authority Leadership Fellow.

Opening 2028 in Tuscaloosa

Unanimously approved by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission in 2026, C.A. Fredd Jr. Career and Technical Academy will open in 2028 on MLK Boulevard in Tuscaloosa as a tuition-free public charter high school for grades 9–12. Built around career and technical education, it helps students work toward a diploma, an associate's degree and an industry certification, with support from career coaches.

C.A. Fredd Jr. Mission

C.A. Fredd Jr. Career and Technical Academy prepares Tuscaloosa-area students for college, career and life by joining rigorous academics with hands-on career and technical education. Every student is supported to graduate with a diploma, college credit and an industry credential, ready to step into high-demand careers in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, construction and teaching.

Target Demographics

Future high school students in Tuscaloosa and nearby communities, including Hale and Perry counties. The academy opens with grades 9–10 and grows to serve grades 9–12.

Core Pillars

C. A. FREDD JR. CAREER & TECH ACADEMY

Career Pathways

Pathways in healthcare, industrial maintenance and manufacturing, construction, and teacher education connect learning to real careers.

Diploma, Degree and Credential

Students work toward a high school diploma, an associate's degree and a trade certification at the same time.

Industry Partnerships

Partners including Shelton State, Mercedes-Benz, Nucor Steel, Peco, Warrior Met Coal and Maxwell AFB bring the workplace into the classroom.

2027 Pathways Preview

Hands-On: Career workshops of four hours or less that end with something students take home.

Applied Math: A summer Foundations bridge built on blueprints, dosage math and torque.

Real Professionals: Industry experts join in person or live by video.

Choice: Pathways from healthcare and trades to IT, culinary arts and public safety.

Access: Transportation support for students outside Tuscaloosa.

How You Can Help

Your support lets future C.A. Fredd Jr. students experience the pathway model before the doors open. Gifts fund hands-on career workshops, take-home starter kits, CPR and First Aid certification, industry guest speakers and transportation for students from rural communities. Through its partnership, Mattison Hall Group supports the academy with a turnkey career workshop series, a summer Foundations math bridge taught by certified math teachers, a speaker tech kit that stays with the school, and data, compliance and ALSDE reporting, while Dr. Combs sets the pathways and industry partners.
