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**Together for the integration of vocational education into higher education**



Starting from the new academic year, the Baranya County Vocational Training Center, the Center's Zipernowsky Károly Technical School, and the University of Pécs have signed a cooperation agreement. At a press conference on Thursday, the cooperation was presented to harmonize the content of vocational training and higher education courses and promote the further higher education of students with vocational qualifications, i.e. to serve the needs of the labor market even more efficiently.

As the first step in this cooperation, the UP and the Zipernowsky Károly Technical School have prepared a training program for technician diploma training. The training program covers the compulsory elements of the training organization and describes the knowledge accumulation possibilities of the training courses organized by the University and the total number of credits available. The necessary human, material, and financial resources for the training are provided by the Zipernowsky Károly Technical School.

In this way, prospective students who have completed a vocational training course can benefit from a double advantage, as they can enter higher education with a credit transfer advantage, in addition to acquiring a vocational qualification. And, based on previous results of the Diploma Career Tracker, graduates can enter the labor market with a much higher wage claim.

The institutions have a common goal of ensuring that young people progress in their careers and gain competitive skills in response to changing labor market needs.

Admission statistics show that the number of students admitted to the UP from vocational education and training institutions is significant, with around 1,000 students entering the university from vocational schools each year. The number of students coming from the Zipernowsky Károly Technical School has been negligible, averaging 1% so far.

The University of Pécs aims to make higher education courses offering competitive knowledge and skills available to as many young people as possible, regardless of their social status.