



February is Career Technical Education Month!

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers in established and emerging industries.

Career and Technical Education

- Encompasses 94 percent of high school students and 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields
- Is delivered flexibly through high schools, area career centers, career academies, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more
- Educates students for a range of career options through 16 Career Clusters® and 79+ pathways
- Offers clear pathways to industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees
- Partners with businesses to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, high-demand areas
- Prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills

CTE Works for High School Students

High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, graduate at higher rates and typically go on to postsecondary education.

- Taking one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school.
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 80 percent.
- 91 percent of high school graduates who earned two to three CTE credits enrolled in college.

CTE Works for College Students and Adults

Postsecondary CTE prepares students and adults for in-demand careers, and allows them to take on less debt.

- Students can attend public community and technical colleges for a fraction of the cost of tuition at other institutions: \$3,520, on average, in 2016–17.
- According to research in Texas, Colorado and Virginia, graduates with technical or applied science associate degrees out-earn bachelor's degree holders by \$2,000 to \$11,000.
- 27 percent of people with less than an associate degree, including licenses and certificates, earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient.

CTE Works for Business

CTE addresses the needs of industries and helps close the skills gap.

- Half of all STEM jobs call for workers with less than a bachelor's degree.
- Health care occupations are projected to grow 18 percent by 2026, adding more than 2 million new jobs.
- 3 million workers will be needed for the nation's infrastructure in the next decade, including designing, building and operating transportation, housing, utilities and telecommunications.
 - Almost half of the energy workforce may need to be replaced by 2024, and demand for solar and wind energy technicians will double.
 - More than 80 percent of manufacturers report that talent shortages will impact their ability to meet customer demand.

CTE Works for the Economy

Investing in CTE yields big returns for state economies.

- In Wisconsin, taxpayers receive \$12.20 in benefits for every dollar invested in the technical college system.
- Oklahoma's economy reaps a net benefit of \$3.5 billion annually from graduates of the CareerTech System.
- Colorado Community College System alumni in the workforce contribute \$5.1 billion annually to the state economy.

In honor of CTE Month, ACTE is celebrating 28 Days of CTE by featuring CTE awareness events, video/photo or activities. Be sure to visit the [ACTE website](#) to join in.