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CONTACT: Communications

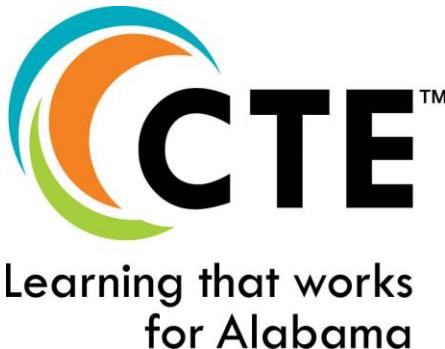
334-694-4686

comm@alsde.edu

**DURING FEBRUARY STATE RESIDENTS AND SCHOOLS WILL CELEBRATE
ALABAMA CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH 2022**

"Alabama CTE Developing College and Career Ready Student Leaders"

Montgomery, Ala. – Leading experts continue to indicate that a *full recovery* from the devastating impact of the recent global pandemic will rely heavily on sustained economic growth over the next decade – **Our nation must maintain its world-class and highly skilled workforce.**



Next week officially kicks-off our state's exciting celebration of *Alabama Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month*, being held from **February 1-28, 2022**. This year's celebration is the most meaningful yet, as Alabama's local educators continue to work hard to inspire every young person to do their very best in school now, to ensure a lifetime of success in the future.

To celebrate, many local schools and communities are hosting in-school events, online career fairs, virtual college and business tours, and job-etiquette workshops

to highlight the great impact that CTE is having on Alabama student success.

**Why are students joining Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and local CTE classes? Watch this video - Hear these honest answers, directly from Alabama students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2K9ofyQtRk>*

State, Local, and National Workforce Trends

"Our nation is reenergized, the global economy is rebounding, and our state's workforce development efforts are truly connecting K-12 education, postsecondary learning, and professional-career development efforts," said State Superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey.

Statewide, over 173,000 students in grades 9-12 are now enrolled in Alabama CTE programs.

"We are truly appreciative for the opportunities our state workforce development partnerships are creating for students," further stated State Superintendent Mackey. "These special partnerships between our state's education and workforce development communities continues to have a positive impact. Alabama's high school CTE programs are now considered to be among the top in the nation. We proudly celebrate Alabama Career and Technical Education Month."

The National Outlook

U.S. high school and college students have even more promising career prospects now available. According to top experts, over the next decade America's leading occupations that require college-level or advanced professional credentials, will have record-breaking job openings.

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2022 Alabama Career and Technical Education Month – February 1-28th

For example, the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics* (BLS) indicates employment in *media and communication occupations* is now projected to grow nearly 14 percent by 2030.

This fast job growth will be a leading example, which is projected to result in nearly 151,500 new jobs. See the full BLS career outlook list of *Projected Openings in Occupations that Require a College Degree* at <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/home.htm>

The Statewide Outlook

Alabama over the past five years has seen a 120 percent growth in workplace credentials earned, with 81.9 percent of students in Alabama schools currently enrolled in at least one CTE class.

*See the *Alabama CTE Report* at:

<https://alabamactso.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Alabama-CTE-Impact-Report-2020-2021-Final.pdf>

“We are truly excited to celebrate Alabama Career and Technical Education Month,” said Assistant State Superintendent, Dr. Jimmy Hull. “There are so many excellent learning opportunities for students in today’s CTE. With personal dedication and hard work, we believe every Alabama student can increase their potential to earn high-paying salaries in the future. Career and technical education can be a very valuable resource in developing a student’s essential workplace skills and professional knowledge.”

Alabama CTE is focused on preparing K-12 students for in-demand career opportunities in America’s leading career areas. The National Career Clusters are 16 basic categories, in which all current jobs in the United States can ultimately be placed into and organized.

*See a list of America’s Highest Paying Occupations at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/highest-paying.htm>

Today’s career clusters represent 79 different career pathways. These categories help students and adult learners navigate their ways to greater success in the professions they are interested in.

Many Alabama middle schools are now also utilizing the career cluster concept too. Their goal is to spark more career interest and STEM-related learning in students – at a much younger age.

Examples of some of the career fields that Alabama CTE students may prepare for include:

- Civil Engineer
- Journalism (radio, television, print)
- Aquaculture, Sports Turf Management
- Human Resources Manager
- K-12 Education/Teacher
- Medical Professions (physician, nursing, dentistry)
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity
- Law Enforcement, Firefighter, First Responder Careers, and Military Leadership
- Hundreds of other career learning opportunities

Impact of CTE on our State and Nation!

America’s CTE initiatives have helped reduce student dropout rates and increase on-time graduation.

Students, who take advanced CTE courses in high school or college (CTE concentrators) are projected to earn 3.2 percent more in salary over their lifetime, in comparison to peers who did not take these classes. Concentrators take at least two CTE classes in a specific program-of-study.

Alabama CTE also provides students a chance to participate in **seven student organizations**.

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- **Alabama FBLA-PBL** helps students to develop their potential for professional careers through learning important business skills and education concepts - <https://www.alabamafbla-pbl.org/>
- **Alabama JROTC** is dedicated to producing the next generation of selfless leaders committed to the greater good. Through JROTC, students learn leadership and personal responsibility - <https://alabamajrotc.org/>
- **Alabama FFA** is a dynamic youth organization that makes positive differences in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education - <https://alabamaffa.org/>

*See this fun and quick video created about Alabama SkillsUSA at: <https://youtu.be/ZCh6ldg9kMA>

- Members of **Alabama SkillsUSA** proudly proclaim, “We are America’s Future Workforce.” SkillsUSA works to ensure students are prepared for high-paying, real-world career opportunities – <https://alskillsusa.org/>
- **Alabama Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** is an organization for students interested in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) education and careers. FCCLA has family as its central focus. It offers students fantastic opportunities to develop top communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills – <https://alabamafccla.org/>
- **Alabama DECA** prepares students for entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, hospitality, and management careers. Nearly eighty-six percent of DECA students go on to pursue a college education – <https://www.alabamadeca.com/>
- The **Alabama Technology Student Association (TSA)** provides leadership and opportunities in technology and engineering areas. This organization prepares students in robotics, science, technology, and STEM-related career areas. <https://alabamatasa.rocks/>
- **Alabama HOSA** students are *Future Health Professionals!* They prepare for careers in Physiology, Growth and Development, Medical Language and Safety, Body Mechanics, Infection-Disease Control, and Forensics. HOSA students develop medical leadership - <https://alabamahosa.org/>
- **Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates (JAG)** pairs students with highly committed JAG Specialists, who provide instruction to help each student through their personal journey to earn a high school diploma, secure a quality career, and pursue their college education. *Alabama JAG has seen nearly a 99 percent graduation rate for students -* <https://www.alabamajag.org/>

To learn more about this year’s Alabama CTE Month celebration and activities taking place in your local community, contact your local Board of Education, call the ALSDE Career Tech/Workforce Development Section at 334-694-4876, or visit www.alabamaachieves.org

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