

## Sample News Release

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DATE

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### THE UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

CITY, UTAH— Students and faculty in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in middle/junior highs and high schools throughout Utah will celebrate Career and Technical Education Month, February 2010. Among the special activities scheduled are [name/time/date/place of events open to the public]. This year's theme for the month-long celebration is **Career and Technical Education: Connecting High School to College and Career**. The theme emphasizes the important role CTE plays in the life of every student. CTE will guide students on the right path in order to obtain the academic knowledge and technical skills they will need as they advance to the highly competitive workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*"We hope to have a crowd of interested community residents at each of the special activities we have planned," said [name], director of the school. "We want them to see the level of skills students gain here and how, working with people from the business community, we're preparing young people to be productive workers and community leaders."*

Eighteen of the 20 fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require Career and Technical Education. Research shows that among high school graduates entering the workforce, those with a technical education background earn more than those without this advantage. In Utah, Career and Technical Education provides students with the academic knowledge and workplace skills needed for a satisfying career. There are many high-tech jobs in Utah that students can perform as a result of taking CTE courses while in high school. CTE jump-starts students' careers by preparing them for jobs while still in, or just out of, high school. Students have an advantage of increasing their earning power by entering the job market early.

#### CTE programs are offered in all

- 41 school districts
- 147 middle schools
- 113 high schools with over 131,000 students participating in CTE training in grades 9-12.

#### CTE Areas of Study

- Agricultural Education
- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Science Education
- Information Technology Education
- Marketing Education
- Skilled and Technical Sciences Education
- Technology and Engineering Education

Nationally there are 11 million secondary and post-secondary Career and Technical Education students.

Many post-secondary institutions in Utah offer technical programs, including universities, colleges, technical colleges, and other public and private two- and four-year colleges.

- In Utah, there are over 325,000 secondary and post-secondary CTE students.

#### Is there any proof CTE works?

Yes.

- Students who take two or more CTE courses are less likely to drop out of high school.
- High School CTE programs prepare students for the many high paying, high-tech jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree.
- Statistics indicate that the more CTE courses students take, the less likely they are to suffer periods of unemployment.

#### How can I learn more about CTE?

Talk to your school counselor or contact the Utah State Office of Education, or access our Web site at [www.utahcte.org](http://www.utahcte.org).

For more information about [name of school], call [phone].