



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

March 2025

Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

Special Populations Best Practice – Nontraditional Learners

As we continue to highlight evidence-based practices, this month we highlight the special population of nontraditional learners. Nontraditional learners are defined as learners enrolled in CTE programs who are preparing for career fields that are nontraditional for their gender. This means individuals from one gender is comprised of less than 25 percent of those employed in that occupation or field. Recruiting and supporting nontraditional learners has been a focus of CTE policies and programs since the 1970s.

In these evidence-based practices, here are several items to remember:

- Expose students to nontraditional career options early (elementary grades) to broaden their horizons about what careers are available to them.
- Address math anxiety and spatial visualization skill development for students pursuing nontraditional fields in STEM through instructional scaffolding and tutoring.
- Offer informal, low-risk, hands-on, skill-development experiences for students to try skills in a nontraditional program, especially for girls who need to develop skills before expressing interest. These activities can include a brown-bag lunch, after-school workshop, maker space experience, or summer camp.
- Review curriculum and guidance policies and practices for bias. Include relevant examples, projects, instructional materials, texts, websites, language, and images regardless of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, or national origin.
- Implement equitable cooperative learning strategies that ensure rotation of responsibilities to all group members. Manage grouping configurations to eliminate tokenism or stereotyping.



We encourage you to:

- Read the Advance CTE publication [Supporting Nontraditional Learners in Career and Technical Education](#).
- Read the Advance CTE publication [Nontraditional Learner Participation in Postsecondary Career and Technical Education](#).
- Review the USBE/CTE special populations webpage <https://www.schools.utah.gov/cte/specialpopulations>.

U.S. Presidential Scholar

Congratulations to the 88 Utah students who are candidates for the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar. Benjamin, Shaza, Sydney, and Walter are the Utah candidates for the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education <https://tinyurl.com/zvstjzsv>. The semi-finalists will be announced in April and the finalists will be announced in May.

Advice to Students

Utah high school seniors were asked, "What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school?" Alexander and Andrea give this advice:

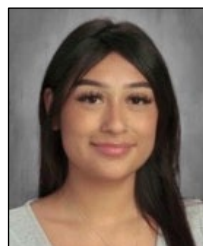
Alexander: Future Construction Manager

"Take CTE courses in high school. I suggest finding any kind of CTE course that interests you and to take it. Sometimes a CTE course can sound simple, boring, or even too complicated on paper, but you should try it out just in case. CTE courses help you learn about specific fields and gives you an idea of what you might like. The courses teach you about simple and complicated aspects of everyday life; these skills are very important for everybody to learn. If you are planning on going to college, or not, CTE will help your future."



Andrea: Future Surgical Technician

"Go for it! There are so many paths you can take. Take at least one pathway, if possible, just to open you up to what you could eventually find a passion for. Finding what YOU like at the end of the day is what matters. You can be anything in this world, but it all starts with you just trying and making an effort to explore and learn new talents, or even hobbies that could eventually turn into something big."



@UtahCTE Social Media Highlights

- The automotive program at Ogden High School is featured in @autobodynews for their brand-new CTR9 resistance spot welder <https://shorturl.at/dc7b6>.
- The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is turning 100. A Centennial Celebration will focus on key events and activities that have helped build ACTE. Take a look at what is planned <https://shorturl.at/WRubP>.
- High school students learn on the job building a home in St. George <https://tinyurl.com/5xzfbmck>.
- "I owe my entire career to CTE training, support, and the passion passed down from many CTE educators. I can never share enough, nor begin to repay, the benefits I have received as a CTE educator, a lifelong learner, and a passionate and productive entrepreneur," said Angela <https://tinyurl.com/ye22zv5>.

Calendar:


March 6: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

March 20: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

[Utah CTE Calendar](#) | [ACTE Calendar](#)

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

Utah State Board of Education | Career and Technical Education
250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

 Learning that works for Utah

