CTE TODAY!

What is 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.
- Preparces 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 2-3 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 2016-2017.
- 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, many of which require an associate degree or less, make up 12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.
- 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.
- Middle-skill jobs, jobs that require education and training beyond high school but less than a bachelor’s degree, are a significant part of the economy. Of the 55 million job openings created by 2020, 30 percent will require some college or a two-year associate degree.
- 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.
- In Washington, for every dollar invested in secondary CTE programs, taxpayers receive a $9 return on investment.
- In Tennessee, CTE returns $2 for every $1 invested. At the secondary level, CTE program completers account for more than $13 million in annual tax revenues.
Endnotes


5. College Board, *Average Published Undergraduate Charges by Sector*, 2016-17.


