

CTE Monthly

September 2011

CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

- The BLS projects that the number of jobs requiring an associate degree will grow faster than the number of jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a professional degree and a doctoral degree.
- Recent graduates who earned a career-focused associate degree or postsecondary certificate from a Florida community college are earning up to \$11,000 more than bachelor's degree recipients from the state's eleven public universities.
- For every \$1 spent on secondary CTE students, federal and state governments will receive \$7 back in social security, Medicare and federal and state taxes.

Career Pathway Spotlight

Manufacturing

A cornerstone of the U.S. economy, the manufacturing industry produces \$1.7 trillion in value every year, which accounts for almost 12 percent of GDP. And while the recession initially took a toll on manufacturing jobs, demand is again on the rise and companies are now looking to fill manufacturing positions. However, this demand is often not being met due to a troubling skills gap in the American workforce. Unlike factory jobs of the past, today's manufacturing industry relies on skilled employees who are adept at using state-of-the-art machine technology.

CTE provides the solution! Through manufacturing career pathways, CTE provides high school students the foundation for jobs in the manufacturing industry by equipping them with industry-specific knowledge and skills as well as course work that will transition into postsecondary education. For example, the Career Institute of Technology (CIT), which serves five school districts in eastern Pennsylvania, offers Precision Machining courses where students learn both the hands-on skills and the related technologies needed for manufacturing. Students develop their skills by using lathes, milling machines, precision grinders and saws. These skills are supported by technical knowledge, such as blueprint reading, mathematics and the use of precision measuring instruments, as well as the use of CAD - C.A.M. technology to design, manufacture and inspect precision machined components. CIT students can receive a National Skill Standards credential and apply for apprenticeships in tool and die making, mold making and precision machining. Upon completion of the course content, students can apply their skills in one of many local manufacturers or apply their credits toward a degree in Engineering or Automated Manufacturing through an articulation agreement with Westmoreland County Community College.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE

Please join the Association for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium for a briefing on how CTE is working to ensure that students are prepared for high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations and helping to fill the skills gap.

Tuesday, September 20
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Room 121 Cannon House Office Building

~Honorary Hosts~
Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus

Perkins Needs Your Support!

Perkins funding was cut in the recent FY 2011 appropriations bill and needs your support as appropriations bills are considered for FY 2012! Please make Perkins and CTE a priority as these key funding decisions are made.

The purpose of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) is to develop more fully the academic and technical skills of students who enroll in CTE programs. These federal resources help ensure that CTE programs are academically rigorous and up-to-date with the needs of business and industry, support innovation, and expand access to quality programs.

School Spotlight

East Valley Institute of Technology

Recognized by the Department of Education as a model in career and technical education, the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa, AZ, provides high school students and adult learners the kind of high-quality career training needed for today's competitive job market. Serving students from ten East Valley school districts, EVIT provides academic instruction and hands-on learning in 35 occupation-specific programs, such as automotive technology, business marketing, medical biotechnology, aviation, culinary arts, fashion design, allied health, construction, firefighting and video production. Courses are taught by experienced professionals with state-of-the-art resources. This year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs began utilizing EVIT's surgical facilities to teach a Sterile Processing and Distribution course to its own employees.



Courtesy of East Valley Institute of Technology



Courtesy of East Valley Institute of Technology

Student success is the norm at EVIT. For example, students in the welding program earn a certification upon completion and there is a 96 percent job placement rate. EVIT has also been named the number one high school automotive program in the United States for placement of its students into jobs with dealerships. Landry Low, a Fashion and Merchandising student, was awarded the coveted Gold medal for Fashion Design at this year's FCCLA competition in Anaheim, CA. Her designs were so impressive she was offered a prestigious internship in New York City. EVIT's Culinary Arts program is also one of the best in the country. Taught by professional chefs, EVIT students have done exceptionally well in a variety of competitions, each year winning full-tuition scholarships to prestigious culinary institutes like the Culinary Institute of America and Johnson and Wales.

Student Spotlight

Elizabeth Wilson



"I chose career and technical education because I wanted to enrich my high school career." Elizabeth Wilson, a graduate of Jacksonville High School (AL), found the enrichment she was looking for in Agriscience education.

As an active participant in the National FFA, Elizabeth experienced the personal and academic growth that comes from CTE programs. Developing important "soft skills" such as networking and public speaking, Elizabeth won the 2009 Prepared Public Speaking event and was elected the 2009-2010 Central District FFA president and the 2010-2011 Alabama State FFA president.

"CTE curriculum comes to life as students are able to demonstrate their talents through hands-on activities," she said. "My CTE experience equipped me with the tools I need to serve others through leadership."

ETS Report Highlights Need for CTE

In its new report, *The Mission of the High School: A New Consensus of the Purposes of Public Education?*, ETS notes that "while a consensus has developed around the notion that the mission of the high school should be 'readiness for college and careers,' the discussion has focused on college placement tests, remedial education, and qualifying students to enter college credit courses. Little focus has been placed on the careers aspect."

The report goes on to say that the emphasis on "college ready" at the expense of "career ready" has led to a "single minded" approach to education that often leaves a disconnect between what is taught in most classrooms and the skills employers deem most desirable. In arguing for the need for a better connection between education and the workforce, the report highlights the effectiveness of CTE programs, especially the High Schools that Work program and career academies, in preparing students for careers. It also points to the fact that countries that surpass the United States in Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) scores use a CTE model in education.



For more information, contact:



Jamie Baxter
Advocacy Manager
703-683-9337
jbaxter@acteonline.org



Nancy Conneely
Public Policy Manager
301-588-9630
nconneely@careertech.org

This newsletter is a collaborative publication of the Association for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. It aims to keep Congress informed about CTE events, data, best practices and student success stories.