Association for Career and Technical Education ACTE
Learning that works for America CTE
STATE DIRECTORS
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CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

- Students who complete a rigorous academic core coupled with a career concentration have test scores that equal or exceed "college prep" students, are more likely to pursue postsecondary education, have a higher grade point average in college and are less likely to drop out in the first year.
- Students using the National Research Center for CTE's Math-in-CTE model, which uses highly integrated CTE and academic teaching methods and courses, scored significantly higher on two national math assessments than students using traditional teaching methods.
- A ratio of one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school.

Career Spotlight

Health Science

The Health Science industry provides vital services that keep American citizens healthy, and the demand for highly skilled health professionals continues to grow. Over the next decade, the number of Americans over age 64 will grow from 40 million to 55 million. Additionally, millions of new Americans will enter the health care system. As a result, the Health Science sector shows potential to create more than 5 million new jobs during this time.

New job openings in Health Science will require workers who are highly skilled and knowledgeable. Over one-third of these positions will require some college or an associate degree. CTE programs offer career pathways in Health Science that lead students to occupations such as registered nurses, dental hygienists, occupational therapists, radiologists and veterinarians. These career pathways culminate with industry-recognized certificate or credential attainment.

CTE programs across the nation are preparing students to meet the demands of Health Science jobs. Meridian Medical Arts Charter School in Meridian, Idaho, for example, prepares secondary students for certificate attainment and further education in the Health Science sector. One hundred percent of seniors from the class of 2010 passed industry-standard certification classes in Health Information and other health-related areas. Not only does Meridian equip its students with high-demand skills, but the school also focuses on strong academic preparation. In 2008-2009, Meridian reported a 94 percent graduation rate. Additionally, about 9 out of 10 Meridian students met proficient levels on math and reading/language arts state tests.

"EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S JOBS" ACT WILL HELP STUDENTS BECOME COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

As Congress considers how best to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) have partnered to introduce important legislation to help more students become college *and* career ready.

The legislation, H.R. 3154 and S. 1686, was introduced on October 12 as the "Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act." It would allow school districts to use Title I ESEA funds to better integrate academics with CTE through coursework and networks of schools, encourage school districts to align secondary and postsecondary education, and leverage a variety of school, employer and community partners.

The Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act reflects school improvement initiatives such as career academies and the Linked Learning movement in California. Benefits of these programs include a more educated and stable workforce, a greater ability to attract new business to communities, reduced dropout rates, increased graduation rates, greater earnings among graduating students, and increased readiness for college. Please support this bill!

Thank You for Supporting Perkins!

Perkins funding was maintained in both the House and Senate Appropriations bills! Thank you for all of your work to protect funding for this important education investment. We urge you to continue to make Perkins and CTE a priority as 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

Edison Academy

The Edison Academy, located in Alexandria, VA, is one of five academies in the Fairfax County Public School system. Housed in Thomas A. Edison High School, the Academy offers advanced, technical and specialized courses in career fields such as International Studies, Business, Engineering or Scientific Technology. Students attending the Academy come from "sending schools" and usually take four classes at their home school while earning one, two or three credits at Edison. Programs at Edison Academy prepare students for success in both college and careers. The Academy offers nearly 40 national certifications of proficiency in career fields as well as dual enrollment programs with Northern Virginia Community College, which allows students to earn college credit while still in high school.

A major part of Academy programs is work-based learning, which provides students hands-on work experience in a number of different areas. For example, the culinary students and the hotel marketing students have put their cooking and hospitality skills to good use by assisting the Society of Government Meeting Professionals at their monthly meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, VA. The landscape design, HVAC, electrical engineering, and animal science students have regular job shadowing opportunities with the Mount Vernon Estate Maintenance Department in areas such as Operations Manager, Maintenance Supervisor, Animal Husbandry Specialist, and Horticulturalist; some students even earn paid internships! The construction and electrical engineering students get hands on experience by wiring brand new homes under the supervision of master electricians; students in the animal science program provide regular grooming services to the community, and the cosmetology students provide hair and nail services to clients. Such quality instruction and real-world learning opportunities have led students at Edison to success in a number of areas: at state skills competitions, Edison students have taken home awards in culinary arts, electricity and HVAC events, and the Cosmetology program has achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Virginia Cosmetology License Exam for five years in a row!

Student Spotlight

DECA alum and former California DECA state president **Diane Keng** graduated from Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, California. One news channel called her the "Miley Cyrus of Silicon Valley." She's been featured in the local media, in The Wall Street Journal, on Yahoo! and on AOL. In 2010, she put in a lot of work to building buzz around her third startup company—MyWeboo.com, a Web site that aggregates multiple social media accounts into one. She used her DECA experience and marketing courses to help her as a teen entrepreneur, first as a t-shirt company owner, then as a market researcher for the teen demographic, and now as a techie.

She attributes DECA to helping prepare her for college and a career. "Without DECA, I wouldn't even be an entrepreneur," Keng said. "That's how significant DECA is to my life. It opened my eyes because I wasn't forced to memorize facts from a textbook. DECA is about applying your knowledge, which I believe is key to truly learning something." Diane is now attending Santa Clara University majoring in computer engineering and pursing an MBA.

OECD Report Finds Value in CTE Programs

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) annual ***Education at a Glance*** report takes a global look at the human and financial resources invested in education, how education and learning systems operate and evolve, and the returns to educational investments. This year's report reveals several striking statistics on the economic necessity of postsecondary education. On average across OECD countries, a person with a college-level education can expect to earn over 50 percent more than a person with a high school education. Moreover, during the depths of the global downturn in 2008-09, unemployment rates among those with postsecondary education stayed at or below 4 percent, while unemployment rates among those with only a high school education reached over 10 percent. The report also found that young, vocationally-educated individuals have substantially higher employment rates (8.5 percentage points) than their counterparts with a general education, indicating that investment in vocational education is money well spent in most countries.

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