

# CTE Monthly

July 2012

## CTE Quick Facts

### Did you know?

- Health care occupations, many of which require an associate degree or less, are expected to make up 8 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.
- STEM occupations such as environmental engineering and science technicians require an associate degree and will experience faster than average job growth.
- 27 percent of people with less than an associate degree, including licenses and certificates, earn more than the average bachelor degree recipient.

## Career Spotlight



The Education and Training career pathway prepares students for a host of opportunities in this high-demand field, including positions as school administrators, teachers, support staff, librarians, coaches, school psychologists and others.

A persistent demand for educators continues despite declining state budgets; this means imminent cuts to benefits and pay for many school districts with increasingly heavy workloads for teachers. However, as the economy improves, job opportunities in Education and Training are expected to increase by 14 percent through 2018.

The Education and Training career pathway plays a very important role in educating learners of all levels and, therefore, requires a highly educated workforce. More than nine out of 10 jobs in this area will require at least some postsecondary education and training, and 80 percent of all jobs in Education and Training will require a bachelor degree or better by 2018.

A stellar example of a career and technical education (CTE) program that prepares students in the Education and Training pathway is the [Teacher Academy of Maryland \(TAM\)](#). The TAM addresses the state's shortage of qualified teachers by creating a pipeline from secondary to postsecondary education for those interested in teaching and training. Students begin a program of study in 10th grade, take courses in areas such as instruction and development, and complete an internship. The Academy prepares students in education and training so they are ready to pursue careers in social work, sociology, counseling and more.

The Academy also partners with Towson University to market, implement and improve the Education and Training Program of Study.

## Common Career Technical Core Unveiled

CTE State Directors unveiled the Common Career Technical Core (CCTC), a shared set of high-quality CTE standards, in June. The CCTC is a state-led initiative to ensure that CTE programs are consistent and high quality across our nation.

"Career Technical Education State Directors have put to action their vision for all CTE programs to meet consistent and rigorous standards by coordinating the development of the Common Career Technical Core," said Dr. Patrick Ainsworth, President of the [National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium](#) (NASDCTE) and California CTE State Director.

Forty-two states, Washington, D.C. and Palau participated in the development of the CCTC, a multi-step process that incorporated input at various stages from approximately 3,500 individuals representing K-12 education, business and industry, and higher education from across the nation. The CCTC includes a set of standards for each of the 16 Career Clusters™, a framework that organizes CTE by industry. It also includes a set of Career Ready Practices that address the knowledge, skills and dispositions that are important to becoming career ready.

States may voluntarily adopt the CCTC, which will complement and support other comprehensive college and career ready standards, such as the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and mathematics.

## Perkins Level-Funded in Senate Spending Bill

On June 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill by a vote of 16-14 along party lines. The bill provides \$158 billion for a range of federal Labor-HHS-Ed programs and includes level funding for Perkins! While we are still in the early stages of the appropriations process, this is a very positive sign that Congress recognizes the value and importance of CTE.

In another victory, the committee also included a proposal in the bill to change the name of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education to the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education. This is an issue that the [Association for Career and Technical Education](#) has been working on for a number of years.

Another positive development included in the bill was an amendment, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), that restores Pell Grant eligibility for students qualifying under the "Ability to Benefit" provision in the Higher Education Act, which targets students without a high school diploma or its equivalent who demonstrate college readiness, who are participating in career pathway programs.

## School Spotlight

### Sierra College

The [Sierra Community College District](#) covers over 3,200 square miles and offers a range of associate degrees and certificates, including skills certificates requiring fewer than 18 units. Program completion takes between one and four semesters, with courses offered in tradition, online, TV and hybrid formats. Twenty-six CTE programs are offered that directly relate to industries and labor needs within the Sierra District, owing to the school's partnerships with economic and development agencies, local businesses and Chamber of Commerce organizations.

The Environmental Studies and Sustainability program at Sierra College provides students with an interdisciplinary base to address issues of environmental health, sustainability and global stewardship. Students learn theory; principles from a range of scientific fields, including the physical, life and social sciences; as well as practice in technical skills used for ecosystem assessment and solar energy. The program has been designed to meet the lower division requirements for environmental studies and environmental science majors at transfer institutions. According to its website, Sierra College is ranked first in Northern California for transfers to four-year universities within the state.

Students can also earn the photovoltaic skills and photovoltaic advanced skills certificates, providing them with the knowledge and skills required to obtain employment as photovoltaic system installers and technicians. Emphasis is placed on the critical skill competencies recommended by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners for entry-level photovoltaic systems work.

In addition to facilitating transition to four-year institutions and the workplace, Sierra College helps students move from high school to postsecondary with its 2+2 Articulation Program, which is designed to help secondary students make a smooth transition to college without having to retake coursework. Students who complete an articulated course while attending high school can be awarded college units and be released from prerequisite requirements for sequential courses.

### Student Spotlight



As a graduate of Robert Morgan Educational Center in Miami, Anne-Marie Morgan has gained an understanding of the agriculture industry that is helping her as she pursues a degree in equine facility management and equine entrepreneurship at Lake Erie College. She credits her career choice to her involvement in career and technical education.

The program gave her hands-on experience that other educational courses lacked. Anne-Marie appreciates her agricultural education teacher, Ms. Troutman, and credits her as a source of inspiration.

If she had the chance to discuss the importance of CTE with a policymaker, Anne-Marie would stress CTE's ability to give students real-world and hands-on experience. She would also advocate CTE's development of students to be both productive members of the workforce and valuable members of society.

Anne-Marie has been recognized for her passion for CTE and her involvement in [National FFA](#) with several awards such as the FFA State Degree Award. In addition, she was the State Vet Assisting Career Development Event Champion for 2008-2009. In 2009, she received the Academy Award for Veterinary Assisting.

### Sens. Blumenthal and Kohl Honored as CTE Stars

Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Herb Kohl (D-WI) were honored with the Stars of Education Award, Distinguished Service: Congressional for demonstrating a high level of national leadership, vision and achievement in CTE. The NASDCTEc Board of Directors presented the awards in June at the National Career Clusters™ Institute in Washington, D.C.

The award is given to members or former members of Congress who have demonstrated their support for CTE through meritorious contribution, innovative or unique achievements, expansion of the impact of or investment in CTE on students, and/or evidence of superior performance.

"Now more than ever, Career Technical Education needs the support from leaders such as Senators Richard Blumenthal and Herb Kohl, who both have advocated for funding and legislation that helps to prepare students for college and careers through quality CTE programs," said Dr. Pat Ainsworth, President of NASDCTEc and California CTE State Director.

"CTE State Directors appreciate their commitment and hard work on the very important issue of shaping the future for our nation and providing students with the best opportunities."

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*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.*