

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, career and technical education (CTE) offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for true career readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, students in CTE programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, CTE provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, enabling them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursue established programs of study and career pathways; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, leaders from business and industry report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, and information technology; and

**WHEREAS**, CTE prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring that employers have access to a qualified workforce is a crucial step in ensuring productivity among the business and industry communities as well as continued American economic growth and global competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, The Smith-Hughes Act, the first act of Congress to provide funding for CTE, was signed into law 101 years ago and we celebrate how far CTE has come to become a powerhouse of America's economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 1-28, 2018, to be

### *Career and Technical Education Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to become familiar with the services and benefits of CTE programs and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.

Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2018

  
Governor Jay Inslee

