



This

We

Believe . . .

Career and Technical Education is relevant to the learner, encompasses rigorous standards, and produces desirable results that meet the needs of the community and global economy.

The Purpose of the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-ACTE) is to provide leadership and services to our members as they prepare students for roles in the workplace and society.

WA-ACTE Believes:

- ◆ **Advocating state and national public policy benefits Career and Technical Education**
- ◆ **Belonging to professional associations is essential to personal and professional growth of Career and Technical Educators**
- ◆ **In encouraging career development and fostering leadership**

*Adopted by the WA-ACTE Executive Board
May 22, 2004*



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Career and Technical Education is for every student!



RELEVANCE

Career and Technical Education programs are academically and technically rigorous.

For today's workforce to become economically self-sufficient there is a common body of knowledge that is necessary. These programs include:

- ◆ An exploration of educational and career opportunities within the career clusters
- ◆ Foundation skills required across the board in all occupations:
 - Academic skills and concepts learned through an applied approach
 - Leadership skills learned through Career and Technical Student Organizations
 - Employability skills learned through classroom and real-world experiences
- ◆ Training in high levels of technical skills
- ◆ Skills required to manage the multiple roles of family, career and community, and to make successful transitions to further education and training and the world of work
- ◆ Opportunities for the student to apply learning in realistic life situations

STANDARDS

High-quality programs result from high standards that are achieved when:

- ◆ There is a rigorous integrated curriculum
- ◆ Curriculum and assessment are aligned with academic and technical standards
- ◆ The community is used for learning
- ◆ Equipment in the classroom keeps pace with rapid technological changes in the work world
- ◆ They are taught by highly-qualified teachers who come from a variety of pathways with experience in the occupations they teach and a high level of content knowledge
- ◆ Professional development is linked to academic and technical content knowledge, experience in the workplace, and proven teaching strategies
- ◆ Program standards are followed, enforced, and kept current
- ◆ Partnerships exist with business/industry and postsecondary to create meaningful roles for the participants and support the operations of successful programs

RESULTS

- ◆ Every Career and Technical Education student receives an education that prepares them for future educational and career success.
- ◆ The result of a Career and Technical Education program should be technical skills certification and/or the successful entry of the student into further education, education AND work, or work.
- ◆ Successful employment in an occupation related to the student's Career and Technical Education program is desirable, but the core knowledge and skills learned must carry across the board.
- ◆ Students who complete an articulated program have a seamless transition to postsecondary education.
- ◆ The success of Career and Technical Education programs is evident through the collection of data.
- ◆ Students are capable of balancing family and career, creating and enjoying a personally-satisfying lifestyle, and being a contributing member of society.

This We Believe...