



ACTE published a new “[CTE Works!](#)” fact sheet that provides an evidence-based overview of CTE’s impact on student achievement; education and employment outcomes; and the skills gap and economy.

Research shows that CTE students excel in high school and postsecondary education. The average high school graduation rate of CTE concentrators is 94% – 9 percentage points higher than the overall U.S. graduation rate – and CTE concentrators are just as likely as non-concentrators to earn a postsecondary degree or certificate.

The benefits of CTE extend into employment. For instance, associate degree holders in CTE fields like engineering, IT, health care and skilled trade occupations can earn up to \$2.8 million over their lifetimes – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor’s degrees.

Additionally, filling roles in CTE fields is critical to supporting the economy. Over the next decade, the United States faces a projected shortage of 6.5 million skilled workers.

We encourage CTE supporters to share this fact sheet with students and families; federal, state and local education and workforce leaders; policymakers; and the media to convey the value of CTE along with our “[What is CTE?](#)” infographic that introduces people new to CTE to its scope and benefits.

**WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?**

92% of high school students and 69% of college and adult students are engaged in CTE, learning skills in the classroom and on the job.<sup>1</sup>

CTE is delivered at comprehensive and CTE-dedicated high schools, magnet schools, area technical centers, community and technical colleges and some four-year universities.

CTE students earn industry certifications and licenses, postsecondary certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and higher.

CTE is good for students, good for businesses and good for communities.

CTE high school students are college and career ready – 94% graduate high school and most enroll directly in college.<sup>2</sup>

CTE associates degrees can pay \$10,000 more per year than associate degrees in other fields – and can even pay more than bachelor's degrees – while limiting student debt!<sup>3</sup>

CTE is the answer to the nation's projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled workers, including infrastructure, health care and manufacturing workforce shortages.<sup>4</sup>

**CTE PREPARES THE WORKFORCE ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS.**

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, AV Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE AT [ACTEONLINE.ORG](#)

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[pdf](#)

**CTE WORKS!**

Career and technical education (CTE) engages students and prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries and occupations

CTE is associated with higher levels of student engagement<sup>1</sup> and reduced rates of dropout.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators – students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area – is 94%<sup>3</sup> compared to the national rate of 85%.<sup>4</sup>

CTE concentrators are slightly more likely than non-concentrators to enroll in post-secondary education and are just as likely to earn a degree or certificate.<sup>5</sup>

**CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

High school CTE concentrators are more likely than non-concentrators to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings 8 years after graduation.<sup>6</sup>

Postsecondary CTE programs lead to careers in high-demand occupations. About 77% of employers from in-demand industries report hiring an employee because of knowledge and skills gained from their CTE experience.<sup>7</sup>

**CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS**

Associate degree holders in CTE fields, like architecture and engineering, health practitioner, skilled trade and computer occupations can earn more than \$2 million over their lifetimes, up to \$2.8 million – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor's degrees.<sup>8</sup>

Almost half of adults who complete programs that integrate basic skills education with technical training earn a postsecondary credential, compared to only 17% of adults in other basic skills programs.<sup>9</sup>

**CTE IS GOOD FOR STUDENTS, GOOD FOR BUSINESSES AND GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES!**

**CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION**

Despite millions of job openings around the country, 74% of employers report a persistent mismatch between the skills they need and the skills workers have.<sup>10</sup>

The United States is facing a projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled workers over the next decade.<sup>11</sup> Some key industries and occupations facing talent shortages include:

- Health care<sup>12</sup>
- Manufacturing<sup>13</sup>
- Infrastructure<sup>14</sup>
- Operations and logistics<sup>15</sup>
- Information technology<sup>16</sup>
- Education<sup>17</sup>

A majority of U.S. workers, both employed and unemployed, report seeking additional career development or reskilling opportunities.<sup>18</sup> And more than half of Americans looking to develop job skills prefer CTE-related programs and credentials.<sup>19</sup>

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[pdf](#)

# FUTURE EVENTS

## Upcoming Conferences

WA-ACTE, Sections, Region V, and National ACTE Conferences

**Save the date!**

**Registration Coming Soon!**

**WA-ACTE Summer Conference**

**August 7-10, 2022**

**The Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane**

## Call for Presentations

Due May 2, 2022



## Washington ACTE Membership Webpage

Renew your membership for WA-ACTE, Sections, and/or National ACTE.

Advocate for your CTE interests

and achieve your career goals by ensuring your membership is current.

[Join or Renew Membership Dues with a Check or Purchase Order](#)

[Join or Renew Membership Dues Online with a Credit Card](#)



## Wash. district offers innovation center

A new innovation center in Yakima, Wash., which opened in the fall, offers three career pathways for students in seventh through ninth grade. Officials say the school is tailored to students' interests and intended to help students succeed.

## Wash. schools prepare students for agriculture careers

Students in some Washington state communities soon will have more opportunities to prepare for careers in the agriculture field. The West Valley School District, for example, is preparing to start a new agriculture and robotics pathway program.

# TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



## 2022 Educator Award Enter Today and Win \$1000!

**WIN \$1,000** and a trip for two to the Home Baking Association Annual Meeting in Stowe, Vermont.

**WANTED** Winning baking lessons, activity or service projects.

**EDUCATORS** in classrooms, preschools, community programs, clubs, camps, leader training for Pre-K to 12th grade are eligible.

**ENTRY DEADLINE** is March 31.



Each year the Home Baking Association awards outstanding educators in classrooms and communities who engage individuals, families and communities with the many educational benefits baking provides for personal, family or professional development. [ENTER TODAY](#)

### [New Student Video Contest](#)

ACTE, host of CTE Month, and NASA HUNCH are excited to announce the 2021–22 student video challenge, showcasing CTE and project-based learning programs in high-demand career fields on Earth and in space. This year’s theme is “How Can Space Exploration Solve Climate Change?” Students are asked to showcase CTE courses and careers to help us understand and provide solutions to global warming and climate change. The deadline to submit a two-minute video is **April 1**.



[CTE Month & NASA HUNCH Student Video Challenge - ACTE \(acteonline.org\)](https://acteonline.org)