

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 2024 has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

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, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursue established programs of study and career pathways; and

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

WHEREAS, offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education leads to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

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

WHEREAS, February 23, 2024, marks the 107th anniversary of the signing of the Smiths-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917, which was the first major federal investment in secondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as

Career and Technical Education Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 29th day of December, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

