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

This We Believe...

Career and Technical Education is for every student!

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