

# WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?



**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.



**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 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 associate 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>



**LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE AT [ACTEONLINE.ORG](https://acteonline.org)**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09), Base-year, 2013 Update, and High School Transcript File; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2015–16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16).

<sup>2</sup> Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Consolidated State Performance Report, 2010–11 through 2017–18; U.S. Department of Education, NCES, HSL:09, Base-year, 2013 Update, High School Transcript, and Second Follow-Up.

<sup>3</sup> Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. (2020). *The overlooked value of certificates and associate's degrees: What students need to know before they go to college*; Schneider, M. (2013). *Higher education pays*; College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall 2020 Enrollment data and IPEDS 2020 Institutional Characteristics data.

<sup>4</sup> Construction Industry Resources as cited in Ngo, M. (2021). *Skilled workers are scarce, posing a challenge for Biden's infrastructure plan*. New York Times; Korn Ferry. (2018). *Future of work: The global talent crunch*; Strack, R., Carrasco, M., Kolo, P., Nouri, N., Priddis, M., & George, R. (2021). *The future of jobs in the era of AI*; Wellener, P., Reyes, V., Ashton, H., & Moutray, C. (2021). *Creating pathways for tomorrow's workforce today*.

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



**Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**

**Architecture & Construction**



**Arts, A/V 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**

