



# CTE TODAY!



## What is Career and Technical Education?

- Includes 92% of high school students taking part in CTE and 38% concentrating in a CTE program<sup>1</sup>, as well as 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields<sup>2</sup>
- Is delivered flexibly through high schools, area career centers, career academies, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more
- Educates students for a range of career options through 16 Career Clusters<sup>®</sup> and 79+ pathways
- Offers clear pathways to industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees
- Partners with businesses to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, in-demand areas
- Prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand careers in established and emerging industries.

## CTE Works for High School Students

*High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, graduate at higher rates and typically go on to postsecondary education.*

- Participating in CTE is associated with a lower chance of dropping out and a higher chance of graduating on time.<sup>3</sup>
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 95%<sup>4</sup>, compared to an overall graduation rate of 85%.<sup>5</sup>
- High school graduates who earn CTE credits are about as likely to enroll in postsecondary education as the overall student population.<sup>6</sup>

## CTE Works for College Students and Adults

*Postsecondary CTE prepares students and adults for in-demand careers, and allows them to take on less debt.*

- Students can attend public community and technical colleges for a fraction of the cost of tuition at other institutions: \$3,730, on average, in 2019-2020.<sup>7</sup>
- For workers with associate degrees, the percentage of "good jobs"—jobs that pay a median annual income of \$55,000 or higher without a bachelor's degree—grew by 83% between 1991 and 2016.<sup>8</sup>
- Individuals with associate degrees in CTE fields of study can earn \$10,000 more per year than those with associate degrees in other fields.<sup>9</sup>

## CTE Works for Business

*CTE addresses the needs of industries and helps close the skills gap.*

- The nation's five fastest-growing occupations require education below a bachelor's degree<sup>10</sup>, as do half of all STEM jobs.<sup>11</sup>
- Health care occupations are projected to grow 14% by 2028, adding almost 2 million new jobs.<sup>12</sup>
- Many of the almost 17.2 million workers employed in infrastructure jobs are nearing retirement.<sup>13</sup>
- 89% of manufacturers face talent shortages, with 60% reporting a high or very high impact on productivity.<sup>14</sup>

## CTE Works for the Economy

*Investing in CTE yields big returns for state economies.*

- In Wisconsin, taxpayers receive \$12.20 in benefits for every dollar invested in the technical college system.<sup>15</sup>
- Oklahoma's economy reaps a net benefit of \$3.5 billion annually from graduates of the CareerTech System.<sup>16</sup>
- Colorado Community College System alumni in the workforce contribute \$5.1 billion annually to the state economy.<sup>17</sup>

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## Endnotes

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