



# CTE TODAY!



## What is Career and Technical Education?

- Encompasses 94 percent of high school students and 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields<sup>1</sup>
- Includes high schools, career centers, 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
- Integrates with academics in a rigorous and relevant curriculum
- Features high school and postsecondary partnerships, enabling clear pathways to certifications and degrees
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, high-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 a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers.**

## CTE Works for High School Students

*High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates.*

- 81 percent of dropouts say relevant, real-world learning opportunities would have kept them in high school.<sup>2</sup>
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to a national adjusted cohort graduation rate of 80 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- More than 75 percent of secondary CTE investors pursued postsecondary education shortly after high school.<sup>4</sup>

## CTE Works for College Students and Adults

*Postsecondary CTE fosters postsecondary completion and prepares students and adults for in-demand careers.*

- 4 out of 5 secondary CTE graduates who pursued postsecondary education after high school had earned a credential or were still enrolled two years later.<sup>5</sup>
- According to research in Texas, Colorado and Virginia, graduates with technical or applied science associate degrees out-earn bachelor's degree holders by \$2,000 to \$11,000.<sup>6</sup>
- 27 percent of people with less than an associate degree, including licenses and certificates, earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient.<sup>7</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>8</sup>
- In Washington, for every dollar invested in secondary CTE programs, taxpayers receive a \$9 return on investment.<sup>9</sup>
- In Tennessee, CTE returns \$2 for every \$1 invested. At the secondary level, CTE program completers account for more than \$13 million in annual tax revenues.<sup>10</sup>

## CTE Works for Business

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

- The skilled trades are the hardest jobs to fill in the United States, with recent data citing 1,019,000 jobs open in the trade, transportation and utilities sector and 315,000 jobs open in manufacturing.<sup>11</sup>
- Health care occupations, many of which require an associate degree or less, make up 12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.<sup>12</sup>
- STEM occupations such as environmental engineering technicians require an associate degree and will experience faster than average job growth.<sup>13</sup>
- Middle-skill jobs, jobs that require education and training beyond high school but less than a bachelor's degree, are a significant part of the economy. Of the 55 million job openings created by 2020, 30 percent will require some college or a two-year associate degree.<sup>14</sup>

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## Endnotes

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9. Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, *CTE 2015 Dashboard*.
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