



**Nationwide, CTE programs are changing, evolving and innovating.**

CTE creates an environment of opportunity and possibility within our nation's schools and colleges: Increasing the relevance and impact of students' education. Improving graduation rates in high school and college. Actively involving students in choosing their pathways to success in college and career.

Improving incomes through higher education and greater skills. And ultimately providing a skilled, sustainable workforce to enhance the performance and global competitiveness of American business and industry.

Capitalizing on the promise and potential of CTE requires commitment and involvement from a number of sectors: Policy and funding support from federal, state and local sources. Engagement of business and industry. Leadership in secondary and postsecondary institutions. Talented teachers and faculty. Advocacy among students, parents and communities. It all matters. It all makes CTE work for all of us.

Leading change. Transforming expectations. Making the difference.

**This is CTE. It's working!**

**CTE's Vision Principles**

- CTE is critical to ensuring that the United States leads in global competitiveness.
- CTE actively partners with employers to design and provide high-quality, dynamic programs.
- CTE prepares students to succeed in further education and careers.
- CTE is delivered through comprehensive programs of study aligned to The National Career Clusters™ Framework.
- CTE is a results-driven system that demonstrates a positive return on investment.



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The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) was established in 1920 to represent the state and territory heads of secondary, postsecondary and adult career technical education (CTE) across the nation. NASDCTEc, through leadership, advocacy and partnerships, aims to support an innovative CTE system that prepares individuals to succeed in education and their careers—and poises the United States to flourish in a global, dynamic economy.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS  
STUDENT SUCCESS  
COLLEGE & CAREER  
LEADERSHIP  
ECONOMIC VITALITY  
RATES  
HIGHER GRADUATION  
HIGH-DEMAND  
LEADERSHIP  
RIGOR  
SKILLED  
SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE  
WORLD CLASS  
LEADERSHIP  
GLOBAL  
COMPETITIVENESS  
RELEVANCE  
ECONOMIC VITALITY  
STUDENT SUCCESS  
HIGH-DEMAND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
HIGHER GRADUATION  
RATES  
LEARNING  
LEADERSHIP  
TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE  
CAREER PREPARATION  
HIGHER GRADUATION RATES  
OPPORTUNITY INNOVATION RELEVANCE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITY  
COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS  
INNOVATION  
ECONOMIC VITALITY  
RELEVANCE  
RIGOR

Learning that works for America  
**CTE™**

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Innovation. Economic Vitality. Student Success.  
 Career Preparation. Technical Knowledge.  
 Leading Change. Transforming Expectations. Making the Difference.

**CTE works for postsecondary placement.**  
 70% of students concentrating in CTE areas stayed in postsecondary education or transferred to a 4-year degree program (compared to overall average state target of 58%).<sup>1</sup>



**CTE works for America's jobs of tomorrow.**  
 Experts project 47 million job openings in the decade ending 2018. About one-third will require an associate's degree or certificate, and nearly all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE.<sup>2</sup>

## CTE: Learning that works for America.

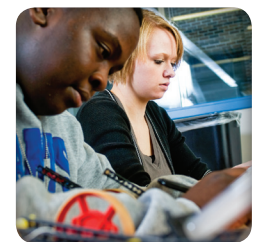
Career Technical Education (CTE) is helping our nation meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement and global competitiveness.

Some 13 million students are enrolled in CTE programs—encompassing every state—in nearly 1,300 public high schools and nearly 1,700 two-year colleges.

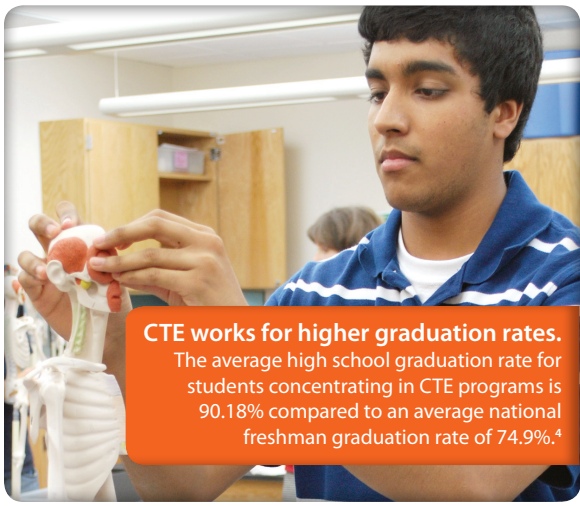
CTE is organized by a national framework called Career Clusters™. This framework presents a complete range of

related career options to students, helps them discover their interests and passions, and empowers them to choose the educational pathway that can lead to success in high school, college and their chosen career.

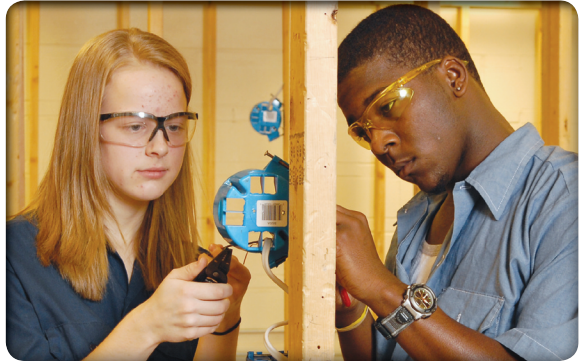
CTE is developing America's most valuable resource—its people; helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience they need to prepare for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers—and keep America working—in every sense of the word.



**CTE works to reduce high school dropout rates.**  
 High-risk students are 8 to 10 times less likely to drop out in 11th or 12th grades if enrolled in a CTE program compared to general education.<sup>3</sup>



**CTE works for higher graduation rates.**  
The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90.18% compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 74.9%.<sup>4</sup>



# CTE Learning that works for America.



## CTE: Learning that works for business and industry.

The baby boomers are leaving America's workforce—with 10,000 turning 65 every day for the next 19 years.<sup>5</sup> CTE is preparing a highly skilled, sustainable workforce with the technical expertise, work ethic and employability skills that American business and industry need to remain globally competitive. Internships, work-based learning, apprenticeships and cooperative education programs are bringing students and potential employers together—and driving innovation and world-class performance.

## CTE: Learning that works for our economy.

CTE is developing a productive workforce ready for the careers of today and tomorrow through technical knowledge, innovation, skill development and entrepreneurship. CTE is generating higher personal income through lifelong education and preparation for high-skill, high-demand and high-paying positions. It all adds up to a better educated, better paid workforce—and that means a more robust economy across the entire nation.

## CTE: Learning that works for student achievement.

CTE helps students understand the relevance and value of their core academic courses in math, science, English and social studies—and how to apply them to solve real-world problems. Making that connection leads to better academic performance and a more engaging and meaningful educational experience. Through Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs\*), students learn to collaborate, cooperate, communicate and compete—important skill sets to be successful in the workforce.

\*CTSOs include Business Professionals of America, DECA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)-Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), Future Educators Association (FEA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), National FFA, National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS), National Young Farmer Educational Association, Skills USA and Technology Student Association (TSA).

## CTE: Learning that works for career and college readiness.

Career exploration is an important component of CTE. CTE students are more informed and more focused when they enter postsecondary education. That can help save tuition money and accelerate entry into the workforce. Through Career Clusters™, students can identify careers that match their interests and passions—and craft the most effective and efficient educational pathways through high school and postsecondary education to achieve their goals.

## CTE: Learning that works for our schools and colleges.

Leadership and innovation are changing the way CTE programs are delivered across the country. Using Career Clusters™ as the national framework, CTE programs are being transformed to drive American competitiveness and innovation. From dual-credit courses to career academies, CTE programs are finding new, exciting ways to enhance student experiences and further integrate secondary and postsecondary education for optimum value and success.

## CTE: Learning that works for our communities.

CTE is preparing our next generation of skilled workers, technology innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders in America's rural, suburban and urban communities. Through CTE, students become more aware of the many career options available to them, including starting their own enterprises. CTE improves the return on our investment in education at the local, state and federal levels—developing a more highly educated workforce with better skills, technical expertise and great ideas. CTE provides the “know how” and the “how to” for America's future—from coast to coast, from border to border.

### What careers are part of CTE?

CTE prepares students for careers across the entire economy. Below is a listing of the sixteen Career Clusters™ that form the national framework for CTE. Career Clusters™ may be adapted by states to meet their business, industry and economic development priorities.



The sixteen Career Clusters are:

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2010report/fy2010-apr.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce via Harvard's Pathways to Prosperity report, p. 29, <http://cew.georgetown.edu>

<sup>3</sup> Kulik, James, Curriculum Tracks and High School Vocational Studies (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1998)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, Report to Congress on State Performance, Program Year 2007-2008*, Washington, DC

<sup>5</sup> Passel, Jeffrey S. and Cohn, D'Vera, Pew Research Center, *U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050*, Washington, DC, 2008