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, as well as 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields.
- 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® 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.

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: $3,770, on average, in 2020-2021.
- 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.
- Individuals with associate degrees in CTE fields of study can earn $10,000 more per year than those with associate degrees in other fields.

CTE Works for Business
CTE addresses the needs of industries and helps close the skills gap.
- More than half of the nation’s fastest-growing occupations require education below a bachelor’s degree, as do half of all STEM jobs.
- Health care occupations are projected to grow 15% by 2029, adding more than 2 million new jobs.
- Many of the almost 17.2 million workers employed in infrastructure jobs are nearing retirement.
- 89% of manufacturers face talent shortages, with 60% reporting a high or very high impact on productivity.

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.
- Oklahoma’s economy reaps a net benefit of $3.5 billion annually from graduates of the CareerTech System.
- Colorado Community College System alumni in the workforce contribute $5.1 billion annually to the state economy.

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.
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 94%, compared to an overall graduation rate of 85%.
- High school graduates who earn CTE credits are about as likely to enroll in postsecondary education as the overall student population.

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.
Endnotes

8. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Three Educational Pathways to Good Jobs: High School, Middle Skills, and Bachelor's Degree, 2018.
9. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, The Overlooked Value of Certificates and Associate's Degrees: What Students Need to Know Before They Go to College, 2020.