



Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 2026 is designated as Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona and the National Association for Career Technical Education, highlighting the transformative impact of Career and Technical Education on individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education equips students with essential technical and professional skills through practical, meaningful applications of core subjects like reading, writing, and mathematics, fostering academic success, leadership, and community engagement; and

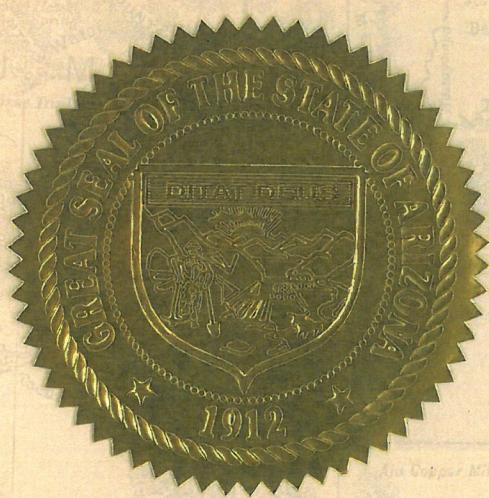
WHEREAS, the collaboration between Career and Technical Educators, business, and industry drives local and national economic growth by preparing students for in-demand careers and strengthening Arizona's workforce; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education provides lifelong learning opportunities, enabling individuals to adapt to evolving workforce needs, achieve career satisfaction, and secure economic independence; and

WHEREAS, the leadership opportunities offered by Career and Technical Education student organizations such as DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA develop future leaders and innovators essential to Arizona's future success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim February 2026, as,

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Hobbs".

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fifteenth day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fiftieth.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Adel T. Fletcher".

SECRETARY OF STATE

CTE WORKS!

Career and technical education (CTE) engages students and prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries and occupations.

CTE is associated with higher levels of student engagement¹ and academic achievement.² In fact, the **average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators**—students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area—is **97%**,³ much higher than the national rate.⁴

CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CTE students are **more likely to attend two-year colleges and just as likely to attend four-year colleges** as their peers.⁵



High school CTE concentrators are **more likely** than non-concentrators **to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings** 8 years after graduation.⁶



Internships, technical colleges and CTE courses are among the best options for learners to **gain skills for career success**, according to hiring managers.⁷

CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION

The United States is facing a **projected deficit of 6 million skilled workers by 2032.**¹¹ CTE can prepare students to enter key industries facing talent shortages, including:

- Health care
- Construction
- Utilities
- Durable manufacturing

93% of U.S. employers recruiting from CTE programs find those programs **beneficial to their bottom line.**¹²

CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS

An increasing number of postings ask job seekers for short-term credentials: **about 1/3 of postings in 2022.**⁸

Undergraduate certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees in CTE fields like health care, business, skilled trades and STEM **lead to higher earnings** for early and mid-career workers.^{9 10}



CTE generates **billions of dollars** for state economies and local businesses.¹³

WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?



CTE is delivered at middle schools, comprehensive and CTE-dedicated high schools, career academies, 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.



8.6 million high school students and **3.3 million** college and adult students participate in CTE, learning skills in the classroom and on the job.¹

CTE is good for students, good for businesses and good for communities.



CTE high school students are college and career ready – **97%** graduate high school and most enroll directly in college.²



Postsecondary credentials in CTE fields—from industry certifications to short-term certificates to degrees—**lead to higher earnings** than credentials in other fields.³



CTE is the answer to the nation's projected deficit of **6 million** skilled workers through 2032.⁴

LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE AT ACTEONLINE.ORG

¹ Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2023-24.

² Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2023-24; U.S. Department of Education, NCES, HSLS:09, Base-year, 2013 Update, High School Transcript, and Second Follow-Up.

³ McLeod, E., et al. (2025). *Bridging the middle skills gap: Connecting a diverse workforce to economic opportunity through certificates and associate's degrees*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce; Morris, C., Cheah, B., & Strohl, J. (2025). *The major payoff: Evaluating earnings and employment outcomes across bachelor's degrees*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

⁴ Lightcast (2024). *The rising storm: Building a future-ready workforce to withstand the looming labor shortage*.

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



Agriculture



Construction



Arts, Entertainment & Design



Management & Entrepreneurship



Education



Energy & Natural Resources



Financial Services



Hospitality, Events & Tourism



Healthcare & Human Services



Digital Technology



Public Service & Safety



Advanced Manufacturing



Marketing & Sales



Supply Chain & Transportation