

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 higher rates of high school completion.² In fact, the **average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators** – students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area – is **96%**³ compared to the national rate of 85%.⁴



CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CTE has statistically significant positive impacts on students' **academic achievement**, **employability skills** and **college readiness**.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



Postsecondary CTE programs lead to careers in high-demand occupations. About **77% of employers from in-demand industries report hiring an employee because of knowledge and skills gained from their CTE experience**.⁷

CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION

Despite millions of job openings around the country, **74% of employers report a persistent mismatch** between the skills they need and the skills workers have.¹⁰

CTE IS GOOD FOR **STUDENTS**, GOOD FOR **BUSINESSES** AND GOOD FOR **COMMUNITIES!**

The United States is facing a **projected deficit of 6 million skilled workers** by 2032.¹¹ Some key industries and occupations facing talent shortages include:

- Health care
- Construction
- Utilities
- Durable manufacturing

CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS

CTE generates **billions of dollars** for state economies and local businesses.¹²

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

Associate degree holders in CTE fields like architecture and engineering, health practitioner, skilled trade and computer occupations can **earn more than \$2 million over their lifetimes, up to \$2.8 million** – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor's degrees.⁹



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Citations

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- ¹¹ Lightcast. (2024). *The rising storm: Building a future-ready workforce to withstand the looming labor shortage*. Retrieved from https://www.datocms-assets.com/62658/1726526804-the_rising_storm_lightcast_final.pdf
- ¹² ACTE. (2023, January). *Investing in CTE yields big returns*. Retrieved from <https://www.acteonline.org/why-cte/what-is-cte/basic-facts/>

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