



Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy that expands options for learners, empowers them to choose a meaningful and sustainable career, and prepares them with real-world skills for success in college and careers. Through hands-on learning, engagement with industry experts and rigorous academic and career-focused coursework, CTE is learning that works for Iowa’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Iowa

CTE Enrollment¹

98,876

High School

13,441

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

91%

Iowa Average²

97%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Iowa⁴

93%

high school CTE graduates enrolling in college, enlisting in the military or working within six months

42%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

41%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

84%

postsecondary CTE graduates placed in careers or further training within six months

- Fun fact: Iowa's Community Colleges and their students added an estimated \$5.4 billion in income to the state economy in 2014-15.⁵

CTE Works for Iowa’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 56 percent of Iowa’s labor market.
- However, only 50 percent of workers in Iowa are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁷ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 25,066 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Iowa in 2015 – about 38 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁸



In Iowa, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.⁶

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp

³ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/Performance>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/IowaAgg_FactSheet_1415_Final.pdf

⁶ Based on Advance CTE's analysis of fastest-growing occupations by state. This represents occupations with high annual projected job openings that requires an associate's degree and provide an average wage of at least \$34,760. Retrieved from https://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1

⁷ National Skills Coalition. (2017). *State Middle Skills Fact Sheets*. <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/state-policy/states>

⁸ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Advance CTE's analysis of completions component. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>