

CTE Monthly

June 2013

CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

► The average high school graduation rate in 2008 for students concentrating in CTE programs was 90 percent, compared to an average nationwide graduation rate of 75 percent.ⁱ

► In a study of freshman students, 60 percent who had participated in at least one high school work-based learning activity and 64 percent who participated in two or more activities had a college GPA above 3.0, compared to 58 percent of the entire cohort.ⁱⁱ

Area CTE Centers: Cost-effective Way to Conquer the Skills Gap

NASDCTEc recently released a publication on [Area CTE Centers: Conquering the Skills Gap through Business and Industry Collaboration](#).

Area CTE centers directly link education with the needs of local economies across the nation. Though not recognized as often as other institutions, such as community colleges, over 1,200 area CTE centers are operating in the U.S.ⁱⁱⁱ

Area CTE centers provide opportunities for students to learn skills and technical training that local high schools often cannot provide. By design, area CTE centers connect students with relevant skills they need to access employment. Likewise, area CTE centers are designed to facilitate connections with local businesses and industries. By further embracing area CTE centers, locals could help limit the impact of the skills gap, providing students with the skills needed to attain jobs and provide employers with the highly-skilled workers they are seeking.

[Read more](#) about how area CTE centers operate and the innovative work that area CTE centers are doing in Oklahoma and Ohio.

i U.S. Department of Education 2007-2008 data, NASDCTEc analysis.

ii Swail et al., [Work-Based Learning and Higher Education: A Research Perspective](#), Educational Policy Institute, 2004.

iii NASDCTEc, [Area CTE Centers: Conquering the Skills Gap through Business and Industry Collaboration](#), April 2013.

iv Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, NRCCTE and NASDCTEc, [Career Clusters: Forecasting demand for high school through college jobs: 2008-2018](#), 2011.

v Ibid.

vi Canyons Technical Education Center, ["Dallas Robinson, KISSTIXX co-creator, pays visit,"](#) November 30, 2012.

Career Spotlight



CareerClusters®
PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Business Management & Administration

Management and Administration Career Cluster®—which includes career pathways in human resources, management, marketing, business analysis and other areas—is expected to grow by six percent by 2018, providing ample job opportunities for students receiving education and training in this area.^{iv}

[Canyons Technical Education Center](#) (CTEC), a CTE school in Sandy, Utah, is preparing students for further education and careers in business. In Utah, experts project a 19 percent increase in jobs available in this area—13 percent higher than the national average—and CTEC's programs link with local businesses and industry to meet this demand.^v

Students in the Business Leadership program at CTEC receive work experience in a simulated business environment that allows them to create business plans, improve their employability skills and earn CTE and academic credit. Students also have the opportunity to complete up to 12 concurrent enrollment college credits and attend professional seminars. One former CTEC student recently returned to the school to speak about his appearance on the ABC television show, *Shark Tank*, which successfully launched his lip balm business.^{vi} CTEC and other CTE programs in the Business Management and Administration Career Cluster® are instrumental in preparing students for successful careers and postsecondary experiences in a business environment.

Support the GREEN Act

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) urge support for the Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation (GREEN) Act (H.R. 2368), sponsored by Congressman Jerry McNerney. The GREEN Act authorizes \$100 million in competitive grants to develop CTE programs of study curriculum focused on emerging careers and jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation.

Additionally, the bill encourages the development of CTE facilities that are energy efficient and promotes the use of renewable energy practices. Please contact Congressman McNerney's office to sign on as a cosponsor of the GREEN Act, or contact ACTE Legislative Liaison [Mitch Coppes](#) for more information.

School Spotlight

Lake Travis High School

At [Lake Travis High School](#) (LTHS) in Texas, career-focused institutes are partnering with businesses to develop the future workforce.

In the school's Institute of Math, Engineering and Architecture, students progress through a rigorous academic and technical curriculum, including Project Lead the Way pre-engineering courses, and participate in internships, job shadowing and site visits to facilities such as National Instruments. LTHS's Independent Study Mentorship Program enables students to work yearlong with mentors at businesses of their choosing; industry partners include ESPN as well as architecture and engineering firms. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications and articulated credits with Austin Community College and Texas State University–San Marcos.



Photo courtesy of [Lake Travis High School](#).

Much of the expansion and integration of the engineering program at LTHS was made possible by a grant from Siemens Building Technologies, which fostered the Institute, provided business and industry externships for teachers and connected students with the professional science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) community.^{vii}

Student Spotlight

Brielle Austin, a recent graduate of Marlboro High School in New York, reports gaining valuable skills through her participation in the pre-nursing program at [Orange-Ulster BOCES CTE Center](#). Brielle learned a lot from the hands-on, clinical training experiences available to her. In addition, the math, reading and writing embedded in the program through research projects, essays and other activities enhanced her learning.



Photo courtesy of [Orange-Ulster BOCES CTE Center](#).

According to her instructor, Brielle has taken excellent care of her patients. She has also participated in food drives, American Red Cross support and Adopt-A-Patient activities. Brielle made the honor roll every quarter she was at the center and also earned extra credits toward graduation.^{viii}

CTE Rigorous and Relevant, Survey Finds

ACTE is proud to announce [results from its annual, nationwide survey of CTE students and educators](#), conducted in partnership with the National Research Center for College and University Admissions™ (NRCCUA®). Findings demonstrate the effectiveness and relevancy of CTE for students, as well as CTE educators' dedication to integrating and aligning CTE with academics and with business and industry needs, despite stagnant funding.

Student Findings:

- 66 percent say they are learning skills to get a job in the future
- More than half plan to pursue a career related to their CTE area of study, particularly in engineering
- 45 percent of students taking CTE say they get the chance to work as a team and interact with employers and community leaders
- Students interested in science and engineering careers are more likely to say that CTE courses provide them with higher levels of academic skills

Educator Findings:

- 95 percent of educators report integrating CTE with core courses
- About three-quarters of educators work with business and industry to help ensure their CTE programs are relevant
- 9 out of 10 rely on the federal Perkins Act to support their programs
- 94 percent report that CTE funding has decreased or remained stable in recent years^{ix}

vii ACTE, [Business-education Partnerships in CTE: Driving American Competitiveness](#), 2013.

viii Orange-Ulster BOCES CTE Center, [Success Stories](#).

ix ACTE and My College Options®, [CTE Works! 2013 Results from a National Survey](#), 2013.



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This newsletter is a collaborative publication of the Association for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. It aims to keep Congress informed about CTE events, data, best practices and student success stories.