

CTE Monthly

June 2015

CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

- ▶ On average, those who participate in 100 hours or more of adult basic skills education experience a wage premium of almost \$10,000 more per year.ⁱ
- ▶ Those who participate in at least 100 hours of adult basic skills programs demonstrate greater literacy proficiency.ⁱⁱ

New Publications: CTE Graduation Requirements, College and Career Ready Through CTE

States are increasingly incorporating CTE into graduation requirements to ensure the “career” part of “college and career ready.” A [new brief](#) from NASDCTEc explores common approaches to offering or requiring CTE courses and assessments within a statewide set of graduation requirements, provides illustrative examples of state-level policies and elevates implementation issues for consideration.



In addition, according to [results](#) from the latest ACTE-My College Options® nationwide survey of CTE students and educators, CTE benefits high school students by teaching skills to help them build careers, offering real-world examples that bring academics to life and providing the chance to work as part of a team, among other benefits. Share this new [infographic](#) with your colleagues to introduce them to the benefits of CTE.

Career Spotlight



CareerClusters®
PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Despite the incredible amount of attention that the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) occupations have received from policymakers in recent years, the STEM Career Cluster® is one of the smallest clusters in the national 16 Career Clusters framework. Much of this interest has been spurred by the perception that the United States faces a considerable shortage of STEM workers in the next few years. However, that notion is subject to much debate and is considerably more nuanced than is widely understood.ⁱⁱⁱ Nevertheless, one thing is certain—employers of all shapes and sizes are demanding more STEM-related skills and competencies from prospective employees and those skillsets can be found in every Career Cluster.^{iv} For instance, while only five percent of all jobs in the U.S. are considered STEM occupations, 40 percent of all jobs value STEM competencies and skillsets.^v

As with virtually all other Career Clusters, the demand for education and training beyond a high school diploma is also increasing. By the year 2018, 90 percent of the occupations in the STEM Career Cluster will require at least some form of postsecondary education.^{vi} The wage premiums experienced for many entry-level STEM positions make these increasingly necessary investments in one's postsecondary education well worth it—those who achieve at least a bachelor's degree or higher in a STEM field can expect to earn 26 percent more than their non-STEM peers at the start of their careers.^{vii}

The [Innovation Academy for Engineering, Environmental and Marine Sciences](#) is a magnet program within Foy H. Moody High School located in Corpus Christi, Texas. Using Project Lead the Way as a model, the academy was created six years ago and offers a diverse array of STEM programs and courses such as robotics and 3D design. The Innovation Academy boasts a number of impressive employer partnerships, in particular garnering tremendous support from Citgo. Find more information about the Innovation Academy— [a 2014 NASDCTEc Excellence in Action Award winner— here!](#)

President Obama to Recognize CTE Scholars

ACTE and NASDCTEc applaud President Obama's action last week to [expand the U.S. Presidential Scholars program](#) to recognize student achievement in CTE. His amendment to Executive Order No. 11155, “Awards for Special Capability in Career and Technical Education,” marks the first expansion of this prestigious program since 1979, and comes in response to a letter sent in May 2014 by Sens. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Rob Portman (R-OH), three of the co-chairs of the bipartisan Senate CTE Caucus, which called on the President to acknowledge excellence and leadership among CTE students.

Both organizations thank these Senators for their efforts to strengthen national support for CTE programs, and look forward to partnering with Members of Congress and the Administration to help make CTE a top priority!

ⁱ Reder, [The Impact of ABS Program Participation on Long-Term Economic Outcomes](#), U.S. Department of Education, 2015.
ⁱⁱ Reder, [The Impact of ABS Program Participation on Long-Term Literacy Growth](#), U.S. Department of Education, 2015.
ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [“STEM crisis or STEM surplus? Yes and yes,” Monthly Labor Review](#), May 2015.
^{iv} NASDCTEc, [CTE is Your STEM Strategy](#), December 2013.
^v The Aspen Institute, [From College to Jobs: Making Sense of Labor Market Returns to Higher Education](#), 2015.
^{vi} Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, NRCCTE and NASDCTEc, [Career Clusters: Forecasting demand for high school through college jobs: 2008-2018](#), 2011.
^{vii} Burning Glass, [STEM: Real-time Insight into the Market for Entry-level STEM Jobs](#).

VALENCIA COLLEGE

The inaugural winner of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, [Valencia College](#) in Florida was ranked by *Community College Week* as the second in the nation for number of one-year certificates awarded and the fourth in the nation for number of associate degrees awarded in 2012-13.

Among its 100-plus programs are several in accounting, which is an in-demand career field in Central Florida, with entry-level positions available in for-profit and non-profit organizations. Valencia College offers several accounting certificate programs, leading to an Associate in Science degree in accounting technology, in which students learn accounting principles, theories and procedures, with an emphasis on the latest technology. Students can earn credit for relevant industry certifications, and the school provides a transfer plan to help students progress to a Florida public university. Valencia College also provides continuing education and workforce training programs for accounting and financial services professionals.

The school along with key partners in the community was integral in bringing Verizon's accounting, finance, payroll and back-office operations to Central Florida in 2013. Verizon leaders cited the region's talent pipeline in finance and accounting as a key factor in the move.^{viii}

Student Spotlight

Alison Van Vleck got a start on her career in dental care through [Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center's](#) Dental Assisting Program. In addition to her coursework, she participated in an internship with David L. Jones, DDS & Associates, PC. Alison credits work-based learning with helping her develop professionalism and motivation: "When I stepped foot in a workplace where there were adults, and you have to handle yourself as an adult, that made me grow up and made me motivated to do well in college."



Photo courtesy of the Virginia Department of Education

Alison also earned a certification in radiology through the Dental Assisting Program, which she says made her college radiology course "a piece of cake."

Upon earning her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University, Alison returned to work at David L. Jones, now as a full-fledged hygienist.^{ix}

"CTE is a great example of what works," Writes AFT's Weingarten

The Des Moines Register published an [op-ed](#) recently by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten detailing her support for CTE as a proven strategy to improve student outcomes and strengthen American education. The article comes on the heels of AFT's announcement launching its [Promising Pathways Initiative](#), which will provide \$500,000 to five cities nationwide that have signed a compact to expand CTE programs for the benefit of their students and communities.

"If our nation is going to get ahead and stay ahead, we need to create many paths to good jobs in this 21st-century economy. Career and technical education programs in high schools are promising pathways, giving young people marketable skills and training for well-paying, middle-class jobs," Weingarten wrote.

She also included a clear call to federal policymakers to invest in CTE programs and provide support to professionals who are carrying out critical work to prepare students for success in growing sectors, citing a recent AFT survey that indicated nearly universal support for CTE as a way to increase opportunity for students.

viii ACTE, [CTE: The Key to Economic Development in Financial Services](#), 2015; additional information from the Valencia College [website](#).

ix Adapted from Garabelli, V., [R U College & Career Ready? 2014 Edition](#), Virginia Business Publications LLC, 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.