

CTE Monthly

March 2015

CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to a national adjusted cohort graduation rate of 80 percent.ⁱ
- More than 75 percent of secondary CTE investors pursued post-secondary education shortly after high school.ⁱⁱ

Congress Recognizes CTE Month

February is [CTE Month](#), and this year the Senate unanimously passed [Senate Resolution 94](#): a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month. Because of this success and the floor speeches given by Congressmen Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Glenn Thompson (R-PA), both chambers of Congress have been formally made aware of CTE Month and the benefits of CTE.

The resolution was introduced by Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), co-chair of the [Senate CTE Caucus](#), and co-sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

Thank you to those Senators and Representatives who have supported and continue to support CTE!

i U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education data; Civic Enterprises et al, [Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic: Annual Update](#), 2014.

ii U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics data, as cited in the [National Assessment of Career and Technical Education: Interim Report](#), 2013.

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

iv Ibid.

v CTE Trailblazers, [Employment Projections for Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, 2010-2020](#).

vi NASDCTEC, [2014 Excellence in Action Award Winner: Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Cluster](#).

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Career Spotlight



Career Cluster, which incorporates diverse occupational fields such as emergency first responders, attorneys and judges, is essential to safeguarding the public and ensuring the judicial system functions at peak performance.

According to a Georgetown University report, occupations in this Career Cluster are projected to grow by 14 percent between 2008 and 2018.ⁱⁱⁱ By 2018, 83 percent of jobs within the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Cluster will require at least some postsecondary education or training.^{iv} Between 2010 and 2020, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has projected that there will be over 1.7 million job openings in this dynamic area, with the top three occupations being security guards, police officers and lawyers.^v

The Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster[®] is composed of a large variety of occupations that are critical to maintaining the rule of law and ensuring public safety and security. This

The [Jack E. Singley Academy](#) in Irving, Texas, exemplifies some of the most important elements of a strong CTE program, offering integrated and rigorous academic and technical curriculum along with boasting a wide array of employer and external partnerships. In particular, the Academy's [School of Law and Public Service](#) offers students a promising career pathway in legal studies—a program the Academy notes can lead to a number of well-paying, highly-skilled occupations such as law clerks, court reporters, lawyers and judges.

The School of Law and Public Service has a robust advisory committee of local employers and participation from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the Irving Police Department, the Irving Fire Department and even the U.S. Air Marshals. As a result, the school affords students the opportunity to earn dual credit in criminal justice, under the instruction of actual police officers in the Irving PD, which articulates to local community colleges.^{vi}

Sign On to House, Senate Letter Supporting Perkins

Members of Congress who support CTE will have the opportunity to sign letters urging a strong investment in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bills.

The deadline for signatures in the House is **Monday, March 23**, and you can contact either [John Busovsky](#) in Rep. Glenn Thompson's (R-PA) office or [Sam Morgante](#) in Rep. Jim Langevin's (D-RI) office. The deadline in the Senate is **Wednesday, March 25**, and you can sign on by contacting [James Mikolowsky](#) in Sen. Richard Blumenthal's (D-CT) office.

School Spotlight

Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy

The [Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy](#) (GWAMA) in Texas opened fall 2013 to educate 11th- and 12th-graders interested in intensively exploring the fields of welding, precision metal manufacturing, robotics and electronics.

GWAMA provides students with rigorous manufacturing classes and an enrichment/professional development day each week. Students acquire skills in manufacturing productions operations and facilities maintenance and have the opportunity to intern with local business partners. In addition, they graduate with dual-credit college hours transferrable to Texas State Technical College and, if they enter the workforce, can expect starting wages of \$13/hour.

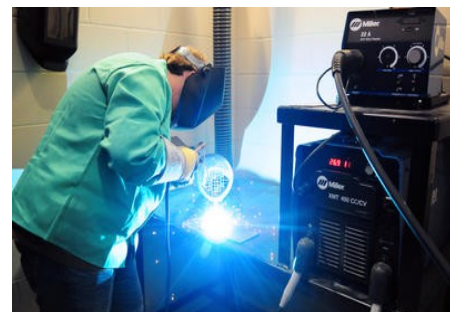


Photo from GWAMA website.

The academy is supported by many local manufacturing businesses that offer curriculum support, mentorships, internships and equipment. In addition, Waco ISD was awarded a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance GWAMA. This year, the academy is expanding by 12,000 square feet to accommodate more students.^{vii}

Business Partner Spotlight



As President and CEO of [Realityworks, Inc.](#), Timm Boettcher has led the development of new products that provide hands-on experience in career preparation areas such as family and consumer sciences, health education, business management, entrepreneurship and welding. Under Boettcher's leadership, the company's products have been adopted by 62 percent of U.S. school districts and in more than 90 countries.

In 2011, Boettcher saw the need for business leaders to advocate for CTE as a critical piece in preparing tomorrow's workforce to meet industry demand. With the support of ACTE, Boettcher founded the [Industry Workforce Needs Coalition](#) (IWNC), a group of American business leaders who have the common goal of strengthening and raising awareness for CTE in the United States.

Boettcher has presented workforce development strategies on the national level for Harvard's Pathways to Prosperity and to the U.S. Department of Labor. He chairs the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board; has established and led the Innovation Foundation of Western Wisconsin; has served as President to the Board for the Eau Claire Economic Development Corporation; and provides guidance to the International Business Programs Advisory Council of the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.^{viii}

Employers Value Applied Learning

According to an Association of American Colleges & Universities [survey](#), employers strongly support applied learning as valuable preparation for the workplace and think that college graduates need more preparation in this area.

For instance, 80 percent of employers responded that it was very important for recent college graduates to demonstrate the ability to apply learning in real-world settings. However, only 23 percent think that grads are very well prepared to do so. In addition, most employers are somewhat or much more likely to consider a hire who has completed a work-based learning experience or a senior project.

Employers also responded that they value written and oral communication, teamwork skills, ethical decision making and critical-thinking skills, which is consistent with other survey findings. Unfortunately, they rated grads' preparedness in these areas lower than students rate themselves.^{ix}

CTE programs excel at building students' academic, technical and employability skills through strategies such as applied learning. In addition, CTE students are significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report developing problem-solving, project completion, research, math, work-related, communication, time management and critical-thinking skills during high school.^x Support for CTE is support for applied learning and 21st-century skills that prepare students for college and careers.

vii GWAMA [website](#); Waco ISD, [Manufacturing Academy receives funds for growth](#); Waco ISD, [Waco ISD celebrating expansion of manufacturing academy](#); additional information from GWAMA staff.

viii ACTE, 2015 [ACTE Business Leader of the Year: Timm Boettcher](#).

ix Hart Research Associates, *Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success* [presentation](#).

x Lekes et al., *CTE Pathway Programs, Academic Performance and the Transition to College and Career*, National Research Center for CTE, 2007.



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