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Nicole Delgado - Assistant Principal  
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Sean Marshall - Assistant Principal  
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Jamie Gilbert - Assistant Principal

Sarah Barlow - Dean of Students  
Robert Kalinowski - Dean of Students  
Laura Church - Office Manager

October 25, 2017

Advance CTE  
8484 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to offer this statement on behalf of the Bonanza High School Fire Science Academy who is an applicant for the Advance CTE Excellence in Action Award.

As a former Bonanza High School educator for eleven years, I had the honor and privilege to watch the Fire Science Academy grow from the beginning to the amazing program it is today. The Fire Science Academy at Bonanza High School provides students a partnership with firefighters from nearby fire stations. Students also learn CPR, first aid, and fire science and technology in the classroom. The fire science program is a three-year program for sophomores, juniors, and seniors and the College of Southern Nevada offers credit for some courses completed in the Academy. The Lead Fire Instructor, Chris Batterman mentors students in the areas of Fire Science on a daily basis. Mr. Batterman is focused on ensuring students are introduced to a career that is oriented toward public safety and to help them develop a concept of public service while learning some of the Fire Science disciplines.

The Fire Science Academy at Bonanza High School provides students the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a firefighter at a young age. Additionally, Mr. Batterman is constantly reforming his educational strategies to optimize student performance. Please give every consideration to the Bonanza High School Fire Science Academy, as they are a much worthy applicant for the Advance CTE Excellence in Action Award.

Sincerely,

Robert Kalinowski  
Dean of Students  
Coronado High School  
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October 18, 2017

Advance CTE  
8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 320  
Silver Spring MD 20910

To whom it may concern:

The Clark County School District (CCSD) Department of Magnet Schools, Career and Technical Academies, and Select Schools is proud to support the Bonanza High School Fire Science Academy as an applicant for the Advance CTE Excellence in Action Award.

As a CCSD Select School, Bonanza High School offers robust, cutting-edge CTE programs to the students in the Las Vegas community. For nearly a decade, the Fire Science Academy at Bonanza has consistently provided high quality, rigorous, and relevant instruction to its students. A well-established partnership with Las Vegas Fire Station 6 has provided numerous cohorts of Bonanza Fire Science students with a myriad of opportunities from station tours to job-shadowing opportunities to hands-on fire scenario simulations using realistic equipment. Academy students utilize the same textbook and materials as firefighters in training, thanks to donations from the community. The program of study is in alignment with college and career standards, offering instruction in fire science and firefighting, including studies in fire protection, chemistry, and fire prevention. Additionally, students may receive course credit from the College of Southern Nevada for some courses completed in the Bonanza Fire Science Academy. Partnerships with City of Las Vegas Fire Stations and the Clark County Fire Department Explorer program align the Academy at Bonanza to workforce and employer needs, creating a pipeline of knowledgeable, experienced, and career-ready students.

The Fire Science Academy at Bonanza HS is one of the district's most valuable and unique CTE options, providing a tangible impact on students, their families, and our community. The CCSD Department of Magnet Schools, Career and Technical Academies, and Select Schools enthusiastically recommends Bonanza HS as a deserving applicant for the Advance CTE Excellence in Action Award.

Sincerely,



Gia Moore  
Director  
Magnet Schools  
Clark County School District

# Cool at School: Fire Science Academy at Bonanza High School

By: Cale Ramaker



**LAS VEGAS** - A unique program is teaching high school students the basics of firefighting. The Fire Science Academy at Bonanza High School represents What's Cool at School.

The academy's first graduating class held their skills competition this week. One of the tasks involved dragging a 135-pound dummy 50 feet.

Two teams, consisting of 12 students each, must show the ability to throw a fire hose, drag a hose, connect a fire hydrant and set up a ladder along a building. The students usually complete the course in less than five minutes.

"This Fire Science Academy is the same thing as a rookie school, except we don't get to do live burns," said instructor Chris Batterman. "They learn from the same text book. Except for the live burns, it is a rookie school in here."

"I've always wanted to be a firefighter since I was three or four," said Bonanza High School junior Travis Reitz. "I get experience here. When I do apply when I'm eighteen, I'll have a little bit of an upper hand."

The academy started three years ago. More than 100 students are in the program. It includes plenty of classroom work. Staying physically fit and maintaining good grades are also essential to completing the program.

If you have a program you want featured on What's Cool at School, [visit our website](#) or [e-mail us](#).

You can also [vote for your favorite program](#) featured on What's Cool at School. Each month, 8 News NOW will award \$250 to the program with the most votes.



# CTE Monthly

October 2013

## CTE Quick Facts

### Did you know?

▶ 83 percent of chronically absent students say they would attend school more regularly if they could see a clear connection between the classes they take and the job they want.<sup>i</sup>

▶ CTE students were significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report developing problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management and critical-thinking skills during high school.<sup>ii</sup>

### Sign On to USDA CTE Culinary Exemption

New rules proposed by the USDA will require all foods sold in schools to meet strict nutritional standards beginning in 2014. Though intended to target snack foods sold in vending machines, a la carte lines and school stores, these regulations could have a harmful effect on students in CTE culinary programs that operate student-run cafés, bakeries and catering businesses. Many culinary programs depend on the revenue generated through food sales to offset their operating costs. Imposing restrictive nutritional requirements on these programs could limit their capacity to provide students with hands-on learning in culinary career fields. The co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional CTE Caucus, Reps. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) and Jim Langevin (D-RI), are currently circulating a letter to Secretary Vilsack requesting an exemption from these regulations for CTE culinary programs.

To become a co-signer of this letter or if you have questions, please contact [Sam Morgante](#) in Rep. Langevin's office or [Matthew Brennan](#) in Rep. Thompson's office.

i Get Schooled, [Skipping to Nowhere: Students share their views about missing school](#), 2012.

ii Lekes, N., et al., [CTE Pathway Programs, Academic Performance and the Transition to College and Career](#), National Research Center for CTE, 2007.

iii Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, [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](#), May 7, 2012.

vi Ramaker, C., and Mutchler, M., [Cool at School: Fire Science Academy at Bonanza High School](#), *8NewsNow*, March 22, 2013.

vii Hunewill, R., and Cullum Boffelli, T., [Public Safety: One Program We Can't Live Without!](#) *The Reflector* 61(1):5, Nevada Department of Education Office of CTE.

viii Mosier, J., [Fire science classes give Bonanza students a head start on careers](#), *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, November 8, 2011.

## Career Spotlight



**CareerClusters<sup>®</sup>**  
PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

### Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

emergency first-responders, attorneys and judges, is critical to safeguarding the public and ensuring the judicial system functions normally.

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

Yet, the unique needs of local economies will often dictate which occupations are the most needed in a particular region. For instance, in the southwestern region of the United States, wildfires are an increasingly large concern for communities where dry environments can catch fire and spread quickly. [Bonanza High School](#) in Clark County, Nevada, has created a Fire Science Academy to prepare its students to enter into the Emergency and Fire Management Career Pathway. In partnership with the Las Vegas Fire Department (LVFR), students have the opportunity to earn state certifications in fire science. This certification allows students to enter into "rookie school" (the fire department's training program) with many of the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful. LVFR also provides guidance in the development of curriculum for the program, and local fire stations donate much of the equipment used in the academy.

School officials hope to expand the program to include additional college credit and training certified by the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System. According to the course's instructor, Chris Batterman, high school students in the Fire Science Academy are acquiring knowledge and skills that are directly aligned to the needs of the job. He explained that, "This Fire Science Academy is the same thing as a rookie school, except we don't get to do live burns ... [high school students] learn from the same text book [as rookie school students]." <sup>vi</sup> Batterman also shared that the program is a terrific example of nontraditional participation, with female students accounting for 60 percent of those enrolled.<sup>vii</sup> As one student put it, "It's a good program to go into even if you don't want to go into the [fire] department. It keeps you well-rounded, makes you more aware of situations around you and kind of keeps your community safe."<sup>viii</sup>

## AFT President Promotes Perkins and CTE

On October 10, AFT President Randi Weingarten addressed an audience of CTE advocates at a United Federation of Teachers meeting in New York, calling for high-quality CTE as a way to retool schools and focus students on today's needed careers. She said policymakers need to fully fund the Perkins Act and voiced strong opposition to proposals that would redirect federal Perkins formula funds to competitive grants.

Weingarten said today's jobs demand that students have both intellectual and manual skills, as she advocated for a focus on quality CTE and definition of the elements of effective CTE programs. She suggested grants be targeted to where programs will be most effective, referenced project-based instruction and laboratories as two items to receive funding and noted that teachers must be honored and respected.

## School Spotlight

### Greenville Technical College

Since it was established in the early 1960s, [Greenville Technical College](#) (GTC) in South Carolina has grown from a small institution to a four-campus system with about 14,000 academic students and more than 20,000 continuing education students. The college was established to help improve the state's economy by producing skilled workers, and Greenville Tech has worked closely with employers to reach that goal ever since.

GTC has participated in the BMW Scholars program since August 2011. This program provides real-world experience by allowing students enrolled in career paths related to manufacturing technology to attend class full-time at local community colleges while working part-time at BMW, rotating through different areas of the production process. During this process, BMW offers tuition assistance toward obtaining a two-year associate degree. While there are no job guarantees, when students finish, they are considered for full-time openings.

The BMW Scholars program allows the company to create a well-qualified workforce. GTC partners with many other companies in a similar manner, including Michelin North America, GE, Bosch Rexroth and ADEX Machining. In addition, the college offers a wide range of programs in engineering, industrial and transportation technology, along with courses in Arts and Sciences, Business and Public Service, and Health Sciences and Nursing divisions along with a Corporate and Career division, which helps more than 400 companies annually with workforce needs.<sup>ix</sup>



Photo courtesy of Greenville Technical College.

## Student Spotlight

Tyler Scott of [Oxford High School](#) in Michigan has been using his experiences in CTE to not only further his education and career but also to help out his school. The computer science student was recommended by CTE educator Karen Cartmill to develop a program for the high school that would track and analyze maintenance requests in the building and the time and money spent by the school's maintenance department. Cartmill, who has a background in computer programming and information systems, called Scott's work "industry level" in an interview with Trevor Keiser of *The Oxford Leader*.



Tyler Scott describes the program he designed to the Oxford Board of Education. Photo taken by Trevor Keiser and used by permission of *The Oxford Leader*.

In addition, Scott and his classmates have also created educational games and shared them with elementary and middle schools. Scott has also taken engineering courses at Lawrence Technical University and competed in programming through the career-technical student organization Business Professionals of America (BPA), placing fifth in the region and 10th in the state.<sup>x</sup>

## Work Experience, Well-rounded Education Are Keys to Success

An [analysis of several polls](#) administered to the U.S. public and to U.S. hiring decisionmakers finds that a well-rounded education, accompanied by work experience, are major factors in career success.

Many respondents were strongly in favor of providing relevant work opportunities for students:

- 89 percent of the general public, and 74 percent of hiring decisionmakers, responded that students with work experience in their field are more successful employees.
- 60 percent of general public respondents stated that someone with no college degree but some work experience would do better in the workplace than a person with a degree but no work experience, and 62 percent of hiring decisionmakers agreed.
- Both sets of respondents agreed that the most important step the U.S. can take to better prepare students is to expand apprenticeship and other professional work programs for college students.

In addition, more than half of the general public and 67 percent of the hiring respondents expressed concern about how well U.S. education is preparing students for the workforce, when compared to China, India and Brazil.

This adds to the mounting [evidence](#) that the public is embracing CTE and work-based learning as integral to workplace success.<sup>xi</sup>

ix Greenville Technical College [website](#); additional information from GTC staff.

x Keiser, T., "OHS student's computer program put to good use," *The Oxford Leader*, June 26, 2013.

xi Northeastern University, [Innovation Imperative: Enhancing Higher Education Outcomes](#), 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.*