

CTE WORKS!

Career and technical education (CTE)

engages students and prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries and occupations

CTE is associated with higher levels of student engagement¹ and reduced rates of dropout.² In fact, the **average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators** – students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area – **is 94%**³ compared to the national rate of 85%.⁴

CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CTE concentrators are slightly **more likely** than non-concentrators **to enroll in post-secondary education and are just as likely to earn a degree or certificate.**⁵



High school CTE concentrators are **more likely** than non-concentrators **to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings** 8 years after graduation.⁶



Postsecondary CTE programs lead to careers in high-demand occupations. About **77% of employers from in-demand industries report hiring an employee because of knowledge and skills gained from their CTE experience.**⁷

CTE IS GOOD FOR **STUDENTS**,
GOOD FOR **BUSINESSES**
AND GOOD FOR **COMMUNITIES!**

CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION

Despite millions of job openings around the country, **74% of employers report a persistent mismatch** between the skills they need and the skills workers have.¹⁰

The United States is facing a **projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled workers** over the next decade.¹¹ Some key industries and occupations facing talent shortages include:

- Health care¹²
- Manufacturing¹³
- Infrastructure¹⁴
- Operations and logistics¹⁵
- Information technology¹⁶
- Education¹⁷

A majority of U.S. workers, both employed and unemployed, report seeking additional career development or reskilling opportunities.¹⁸ And **more than half of Americans** looking to develop job skills **prefer CTE-related programs and credentials.**¹⁹

CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS

Associate degree holders in CTE fields like architecture and engineering, health practitioner, skilled trade and computer occupations can **earn more than \$2 million over their lifetimes, up to \$2.8 million** – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor's degrees.⁸

Almost half of adults who complete programs that integrate basic skills education with technical training **earn a postsecondary credential**, compared to only 17% of adults in other basic skills programs.⁹

