CTE-READINESS FOR ALL CAREERS

CTE students gain pathway-specific **TECHNICAL** and **ACADEMIC** skills as well as cross-cutting **EMPLOYABILITY** skills for success in any workplace, in further education and in career awareness and planning. In fact, CTE inspires and motivates students to develop many of the skills that employers most need across jobs and industries.

CTE students are significantly more likely than their peers to report developing problem-solving, project completion, research, work-related, communication, time management and critical-thinking skills during high school.⁴

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The top 3 skills and experiences that students report gaining in their CTE classes are skills to help them get jobs in the future, real-world examples to help them understand academic classes and the chance to work as part of a team.⁵

Students who participate in career guidance and career courses demonstrate greater knowledge of jobs, higher self-esteem and better grades, and are more engaged in career and academic planning.⁶

CTE enables students to master STEM skills and competencies that have value across a variety of industries and careers.³

TOP SKILLS THAT EMPLOYERS NEED: 1

- 1. Professionalism/Work Ethic
- 2. Teamwork/Collaboration
 - 3. Oral Communications
- 4. Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
 - 5. Written Communications
 - 6. Ethics/Social Responsibility
- 7. Information Technology Application
- 8. Lifelong Learning/Self Direction
 - 9. Diversity
 - 10. Creativity/Innovation 11. Leadership

CTE exposes students to rigorous and relevant information-rich content through content-area reading and writing strategies.⁷

Work-based learning helps students apply and extend classroom learning, gain motivation, explore careers and develop critical understanding of the work environment.²



Participation in career and technical student organizations raises students' academic motivation and engagement, grades, career self-efficacy, college aspirations and employability skills.8

- The Conference Board, Corporate Voices for Working Families, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and the Society for Human Resource Management, Are They Really Ready to Work?, 2006 (employer responses for skill needs of new workforce entrants with two-year degrees).
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- Lekes et al., CTE Pathway Programs, Academic Performance and the Transition to College and Career, National Research Center for CTE, 2007.
- 5. My College Options®/ACTE research study, 2017.
- Hughes & Karp, School-based Career Development: A Synthesis of the Literature, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, 2004.
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