

Career and Technical Education in West Virginia

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools; county CTE centers, which are secondary schools that provide supplemental CTE programs to students from sending high schools within the county; and multi-county CTE centers. At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the state's community and technical colleges. County CTE centers also provide postsecondary CTE instruction.
- Learn more at <http://careertech.k12.wv.us> and www.acteonline.org/WestVirginia.

In school year 2015-2016, West Virginia served **65,808** CTE high school students and **20,633** CTE postsecondary students.

In Fiscal Year 2016, West Virginia received **\$8,428,617** in federal Perkins funding—the same as in 2015 and almost \$900,000 less than in 2010.

Exemplary CTE Programs in West Virginia

The West Virginia Department of Education is working to get students ready for their futures—whether their goal is college or the workforce. **Simulated Workplace** changes the traditional classroom to a student-led company. It is engaging, exciting and provides students the opportunity to gain not only high-level technical skill sets but also the skill sets necessary to be successful: leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, positive work ethic and more.

In 2016, after four years of piloting the Simulated Workplace program, the West Virginia State Board of Education passed Policy 2510, which requires all state-approved four-course CTE programs of study to adopt the Simulated Workplace classroom model for the third and fourth concentration courses. Simulated workplaces: 1. place business/industry processes directly into CTE; 2. provide students an understanding of all aspects of an industry and how their performance impacts a company's bottom line; 3. present curriculum in a relevant and purposeful manner; and 4. provide all students the opportunity to experience "real world" expectations, to earn industry-recognized credentials that lead to gainful employment and to be college and career ready. In 2017, NOCTI assessments became required for all CTE completers.

Business and industry experts sat down with the state Department of Education to design the Simulated Workplace model, including protocols related to safety and professionalism. Industry is also part of technical business teams that act as inspectors of the Simulated Workplace companies, reviewing the skill sets being taught in each area, evaluating the equipment, interviewing CTE instructors and students, and reviewing the company's performance data (attendance, industry credentials earned, safety policies, etc.).

In a recent student survey, students rated their overall satisfaction of the Simulated Workplace at 98 percent. When a student was asked, "Do you understand what the simulated workplace is trying to do?" the student responded, "Oh, yes ma'am, you are not just preparing us for the next four years; you are preparing us for the next 40 years."
(Information from the WV Department of Education)

In school year 2015-2016:

- **99** percent of West Virginia CTE high school students graduated
- **88** percent met performance goals for technical skills
- **85** percent of West Virginia CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills