Career and Technical Education in Arkansas

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered in both comprehensive high schools and through secondary area career centers, which offer supplemental high-cost programs that smaller schools are unable to afford and are sponsored by two-year colleges, education services cooperatives and high schools.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through the community college system and three technical institutes.

In school year 2017-2018, Arkansas served 141,736 high school CTE participants, 18,079 high school CTE concentrators, 24,728 postsecondary CTE participants and 18,112 postsecondary CTE concentrators.

In Fiscal Year 2019, Arkansas received an estimated $13,035,734 in federal Perkins funding—$720,000 more than in 2018.

Exemplary CTE Programs in Arkansas

- In fall 2018, the University of Arkansas (UA) Cossatot expanded its Industrial Maintenance program to serve high school and college students. The UA Cossatot Lockesburg Industrial Maintenance Institute (LIMI) can serve as a model for a successful collaborative effort among higher education, K-12 institutions, local industries and state agencies.

The UA Industrial Maintenance programs are housed in a newly renovated facility, with courses for high school students offered during the day and postsecondary programs offered in the late afternoon and evening. Through LIMI, high school students benefit from college-level training, leading to industry credentials. Multi-craft courses are offered in pairs for nine weeks so that, in two years’ time, students will have covered 32 industrial maintenance modules. Participation qualifies students to apply for paid internships with Tyson Foods.

The LIMI project is supported by UA Cossatot, the Arkansas Department of CTE, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, Tyson Foods, AEP SWEPCO, Domtar, Ash Grove Cement, Weyerhaeuser, Domtar and De Queen Mena Educational Cooperative.

Industrial maintenance workers in Arkansas can earn $65,000 to $75,000 per year, according to the Arkansas Office of Skills Development. (Information from UA Cossatot)

In school year 2017-2018:
- 97 percent of high school CTE concentrators graduated
- 97 percent went on to postsecondary education, the workforce or the military

In school year 2016-2017:
- 89 percent of postsecondary CTE students met performance goals for technical skills

Data from the Arkansas Department of Career Education and U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education