

JROTC & CTE:

A Conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Barrow

What is JROTC?

The U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is one of the largest character development and citizenship programs for youth in the world. The National Defense Act of 1916 established organized JROTC programs at public and private educational institutions.

What is CTE?

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers.

How does JROTC relate to CTE?

Cadets are prepared to enter the workforce having learned critical essential skills needed by today's industry and business leaders. These include time management, working as part of a team, communication skills (verbal and nonverbal), decision making skills, leadership, followership, discipline, financial management and mission accomplishment. These skills are highly sought after by employers.

What should CTE educators know about JROTC?

JROTC students are highly motivated, disciplined, and well versed in leadership skills. They are taught leadership attributes of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Cadets function best as part of a team. They are frequently asked to make decisions based on a certain set of facts and know the importance of time management and the need to treat others with respect and dignity. These employability skills are essential to ensuring our nation's students are career ready.

As a JROTC adviser, what should someone know about CTE?

Career and technical education is a natural fit for JROTC. Cadets who decide to join one of the military services have a tremendous advantage over someone who has not taken JROTC. In the same ways as a welding course prepares students to become an apprentice in the shipbuilding industry, JROTC can do the same for potential members of the Armed Forces. The nature of the program helps prepare anyone for almost any career because of the tremendous emphasis we place on essential work skills.

Example of Success: Alabama State

Alabama's State Department of Education placed the Mobile County JROTC program under the "Government & Public Administration" cluster. In that capacity, CO-OP and internship programs were established in several school districts where cadets work with Government Officials in a variety of fields. In addition, Alabama allocates Federal Perkins dollars to JROTC programs as well as State Funded CTE Operations & Maintenance dollars to support the programs. Furthermore, Alabama recognizes the JROTC Completion Certificate as a Business & Industry credential and counts it when determining College and Career Readiness assessments of schools and districts. The certificate can lead to an automatic promotion at least one (possibly two) grades higher should that individual join a military service.



**Q&A with U.S. Army
Lieutenant Colonel, Robert F. Barrow.**

After serving tours of duty in Germany & North Carolina, Lieutenant Colonel Barrow retired from the Army in 2002 and immediately assumed duties as the Senior Army Instructor for the Junior ROTC program at LeFlore High School in Mobile, Alabama. After teaching in the classroom for eleven years, he was selected for his current position as the Director of Army Instruction responsible for supervising all JROTC programs in the Mobile County Public School System.