Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Iowa

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, some of which partner with local community colleges.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through area community colleges, with each school serving a multi-county area that may vary in size from four to 12 counties.

CTE Highlights in Iowa

- Indian Hills Community College has one of the nation’s premier Laser & Optics Technology Programs. Graduates are in high demand and are now working at companies such as Northrop Grumman, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and over 140 different companies nationwide. Job placement averages between 95-100% in fields such as medical, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, military, and research and development.
- The Linn-Mar Agriculture Education program is a progressive program that offers a multitude of Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) courses ranging from animal science to natural resources, and biotechnology to food science. Students earn credit in research and development and put STEM concepts into real-world contexts to facilitate student learning. Students create science fair projects, participate in FFA activities in leadership development and have Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) that develop their career skills through work-based learning events.
- Hampton-Dumont’s Prostart program is a unique fit for this North-central Iowa town comprised of approximately 1,275 students in grades Pre-K through 12. The skills practiced in the program benefit more than those looking for a career with a culinary skill set because of its strong management focus. Now in its sixth year in Hampton, the school has participated in the state competitions each year. The teams have brought home trophies in the top three twice and have competed in the national competition. The program includes a student-run restaurant and a take-and-bake program.

Student Performance (2018)

- **89%** of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- **92%** of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- **87%** of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- **91%** of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

Labor Market Trends

- **56%** of Iowa’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only **50%** of the state’s workers are trained at the middle-skill level.
- The **top 5** industries for “good jobs” that pay a median income of $55,000+ **without a bachelor’s degree** are production, management, office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, and sales.