

# CTE WORKS!

Career and technical education (CTE) engages students and prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries and occupations.

CTE is associated with higher levels of student engagement<sup>1</sup> and reduced rates of dropout.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the **average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators** – students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area – is **96%**<sup>3</sup> compared to the national rate of 85%.<sup>4</sup>

## CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CTE concentrators are slightly **more likely** than non-concentrators **to enroll in post-secondary education and are just as likely to earn a degree or certificate.**<sup>5</sup>



High school CTE concentrators are **more likely** than non-concentrators **to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings** 8 years after graduation.<sup>6</sup>

## CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION

Despite millions of job openings around the country, **74% of employers report a persistent mismatch** between the skills they need and the skills workers have.<sup>10</sup>

CTE IS GOOD FOR **STUDENTS**, GOOD FOR **BUSINESSES** AND GOOD FOR **COMMUNITIES!**

The United States is facing a **projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled workers** by 2030.<sup>11</sup> Some key industries and occupations facing talent shortages include:

- Health care<sup>12</sup>
- Manufacturing<sup>13</sup>
- Infrastructure<sup>14</sup>
- Operations and logistics<sup>15</sup>
- Information technology<sup>16</sup>
- Education<sup>17</sup>

A majority of U.S. workers, both employed and unemployed, report seeking additional career development or reskilling opportunities.<sup>18</sup> And **more than half of Americans** looking to develop job skills **prefer CTE-related programs and credentials.**<sup>19</sup>



## CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS

Postsecondary CTE programs lead to careers in high-demand occupations. About **77% of employers from in-demand industries report hiring an employee because of knowledge and skills gained from their CTE experience.**<sup>7</sup>

Associate degree holders in CTE fields like architecture and engineering, health practitioner, skilled trade and computer occupations can **earn more than \$2 million over their lifetimes, up to \$2.8 million** – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor's degrees.<sup>8</sup>

**Adults who earn short-term credentials** through integrated basic skills and technical training programs are **more likely to enroll** in postsecondary education.<sup>9</sup>

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## Citations

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