

# Career-Technical Education Day at the Roundhouse!!

## February 11, 2012



Visit the State Capital of New Mexico and share in our great democracy. Contact your legislator for a face-to-face meeting and prepare a display to present during the day with all who pass through the halls of the Roundhouse! Share your experiences and influences regarding your Career-Technical Education Program!!!

### Don't miss the Friday Evening Event for your students! Make the trip educational as well!

The New Mexico Association of Career Technical Education and NM Career Technical Leadership Program will be co-sponsoring an event just for your students! We will get exciting and knowledgeable speakers who will present ways in which the CTE students of New Mexico can best be utilized in policy making decisions. This time will additionally assist in giving your students tips on how to present themselves to key business people and their own representatives, as well as provide them with an overview of the current bills and legislation.

Join us Friday, February 10th from 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. at The Courtyard by Marriott to prepare your students for the next day!



Reserve your rooms today for **FRIDAY** evening, February 10th, at The Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott. The discounted rate of \$79.00 can be obtained by mentioning NMACTE Legislative Event when you register! Call for reservations today...

Santa Fe Courtyard  
by Marriott  
3347 Cerrillos Road  
(800) 777-3347  
(505) 424-2452  
FAX: (505) 473-5128

*CTE students, to a much greater extent than their non-CTE counterparts, report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college preparedness, work-related, communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school.*



**We need representation  
from your chapter!!!!**



**Contact Carol McAlister at (575) 302-5458 with any questions!**

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## GET THE MOST OF YOUR LEGISLATIVE VISIT!

One of the Career Technical Education's most effective advocacy tools is you! Becoming an advocate for career and technical education (CTE) is one of the most important actions you can take. NMACTE has developed this quick-guide to assist you in your advocacy activities, keep you informed, and promote ongoing support for CTE. With your help, we can ensure the strength and future of career and technical education. Click on any of the links below, to gain important information and assistance:

### **I. Important Sites to New Mexico**

The NM legislative website: <http://www.legis.state.nm.us>

Find your NM House of Representative: <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/lcsdocs/HouseMailingList.PDF>

Find your NM Senator: <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/lcsdocs/SenateMailingList.PDF>

For a complete Bill Analysis, check out the NM State Department of Education website:

<http://www.sde.state.nm.us/lcr/index.html>

### **II. Scheduling Appointments with your Legislators**

Successful organizations are good at effectively communicating and influencing policymakers through education. There are many avenues available for communicating but the key is to know your legislators and for your legislators to know you and your Career Technical Student Organization, CTSO.

Personal visits are an extremely effective means of engaging your legislators on issues of interest to Career Technical Education. Legislative members want to meet and hear from their constituents. On **Saturday, February 11th**, Career Technical Education supporters are headed to "The Round House" to meet members of the New Mexico legislature... Schedule an appointment ahead of time with your representative!

### **III. What We Need for You to Do!**

We need you to set one or more meetings on the morning of Saturday, February 11th. You should contact your Senators or Representatives in advance by phone, and follow up with an e-mail letter confirming the date and time of the meeting. Expect no more than 15 minutes for a typical visit.

The New Mexico Association for Career and Technical Education will host a training session on Friday evening, February 10th at The Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Students will learn and practice proper protocol to use when meeting with their legislators.

### **IV. When Making Your Appointment**

Ask for time with your Member of the Legislature. If he/she is not available, you should set an appointment with his/her Staff. Identify yourself as a constituent in the representative's district.

### **V. Reasons for Appointment:**

Recognizing the Member for his/her support of Career Technical Education is the main purpose for the appointment. Discuss Career Technical Student Organization's importance to the community and the importance of CTSO chapters to the residents, local businesses and the economy. Cite specific examples of your program's success in meeting the particular needs of your area, and emphasize why an investment in CTE is important to your community, state and nation. Be sure to have a business card with your name, address and phone number for follow-up purposes.

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**While working with your local legislature please review the following talking points the students may wish to bring up with their policy maker.**

## **The Importance of Career Technical Education (CTE)**

- CTE provides effective and proven links to skills-building opportunities and improved academic and employment outcomes.
- CTE students participate in more rigorous academic coursework, such as higher levels of math and science, as compared to non CTE students.
- CTE students increased their 12th grade test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress by about 8 scale points in reading and 11 points in math, as compared to non CTE students.
- Students who completed a rigorous academic core coupled with a career concentration have test scores that equal or exceed "college prep" students. These dual-concentrators are more likely to pursue postsecondary education, have a higher grade point average in college and are less likely to drop out in the first year.
- CTE graduates are 10-15% more likely to be in the labor force, and earn 8-9% more than graduates of academic programs.
- Students who took four high school CTE courses showed an average increase in earnings of \$1,200 immediately after graduation and \$1,800 seven years later. High-risk students are 8 to 10 times less likely to drop out in the 11th and 12th grades if they enroll in a CTE program rather than a general program. CTE students are less likely than general-track students to fail a course or to be absent. CTE concentrators were more likely than their general peers to obtain a degree or certificate within 2 years, despite the fact that CTE concentrators were more likely to be employed while in school.
- Employers across the nation continue to need well-trained workers with good skills: Nearly 75 percent of employers report severe conditions when trying to hire qualified workers, 40 percent say that applicants are poorly skilled, and 30 percent say that applicants have the wrong skills for available jobs. The education and training supported by CTE programs are vital to addressing this skills gap.
- Employment growth in occupations requiring a vocational associate's degree (30%) is projected to be more than double overall employment growth (14%) through 2008. Nearly one-third of the fastest growing occupations will require an associate's degree or a postsecondary vocational certificate.
- Career and technical education prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers. These careers may require varying levels of education – from high school and postsecondary certificates to two- and four-year college degrees. Career and technical education is offered in middle schools, high schools, two-year community and technical colleges and other postsecondary schools.
- The subject areas most commonly associated with career and technical education are: Agriculture (careers related to food and fiber production and agribusiness); Business (accounting, business administration, management, information technology and entrepreneurship); Family and Consumer Sciences (culinary arts, management and life skills); Health Occupations (nursing, dental, and medical technicians); Marketing (management, entrepreneurship, merchandising and retail); Technology (production, communication and transportation systems); and Trade and Industrial (skilled trades such as automotive technician, carpenter, computer numerical control technician).
- According to U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), most high school students take at least one career and technical education course, and one in four students take three or more courses in a single program area. One-third of college students are involved in career and technical programs, and as many as 40 million adults engage in short-term postsecondary occupational training.

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## WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

- Career and technical education (CTE) prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers and further educational opportunities. These careers may require varying levels of education—including industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary certificates, and two- and four-year degrees.
- CTE is offered in middle schools, high schools, area career and technical centers, community and technical colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.
- The most recent Report to Congress on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act revealed that approximately 14 million students participated in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs during the 2007-2008 school year.
- According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), almost all high school students take at least one CTE course, and one in four students take three or more courses in a single program area. One-third of college students are involved in CTE programs, and as many as 40 million adults engage in short-term postsecondary occupational training.
- CTE is at the forefront of preparing students to be "college- and career-ready." CTE equips students with:
  - *core academic skills* and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities
  - *employability skills* (such as critical thinking and responsibility) that are essential in any career area
  - *job-specific, technical skills* related to a specific career pathway
- Within CTE, occupations and career specialties are grouped into "Career Clusters." Each of the 16 clusters is based on a set of common knowledge and skills that prepare learners for a full range of opportunities.
- Further specialization is achieved through comprehensive Programs of Study, which align academic and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative sequence of secondary and postsecondary courses, and lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.
- Career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) are an integral part of CTE. CTOS prepare young people to become productive citizens and leaders in their communities by providing unique programs of career and leadership development, motivation, and recognition for students enrolled, or previously enrolled, in CTE programs.

### CTE Increases Student Achievement:

- A ratio of one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school. (Plank et al, "Dropping Out of High School and the Place of Career and Technical Education," 2005.)
- 81 percent of dropouts said that "more real-world learning" may have influenced them to stay in school. (Bridgeland et al, "The Silent Epidemic," 2005.)
- The more students participate in CTOS activities, the higher their academic motivation, academic engagement, grades, career self-efficacy and college aspirations. (Alfeld et al, "Looking Inside the Black Box: The Value Added by Career and Technical Student Organizations to Students' High School Experience," 2007.)
- Students who complete a rigorous academic core coupled with a career concentration have test scores that equal or exceed "college prep" students. These dual-concentrators are more likely to pursue postsecondary education, have a higher grade point average in college and are less likely to drop out in the first year. (Southern Regional Education Board, "Facts About High School Career/Technical Studies.")
- CTE students are significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school. (Lekes et al, "Career and Technical Education Pathway Programs, Academic Performance, and the Transition to College and Career," 2007.)

### CTE Meets Individual and Community Economic Needs:

- According to the BLS, of the 20 fastest growing occupations, 10 require an associate's degree or less. Furthermore, of the 20 occupations with the largest numbers of new jobs projected for 2018, 13 require on-the-job training or an associate's degree.
- More than 80 percent of respondents in the 2005 National Association of Manufacturer's Skills Gap Report indicated that they are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers overall—with 13 percent reporting severe shortages and 68 percent indicating moderate shortages. CTE plays a vital role in helping American business close this gap by building a competitive workforce for the 21st century.
- A person with a CTE-related associate degree or credential will earn an average of between \$5,000 and \$15,000 more a year than a person with a humanities or social sciences associate degree—and those with credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare can average almost \$20,000 more a year. (Jacobson et al, "Pathways to Boosting the Earnings of Low-Income Students by Increasing Their Educational Attainment," 2009.)
- According to the state of Washington, for every dollar spent on secondary CTE students, federal and state governments will receive seven dollars back in social security, Medicare, and federal and state taxes. (Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, *Workforce Training Results-2006*, January 2007.)

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. For more information visit ACTE's Web site at [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org) or call 800-826-9972.