

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education News and Information Educator Edition

December 2011

Message from Mary Shumway and Gary Wixom



A national report, recently released by McGraw-Hill's Adult Education and Workforce Initiatives, [Developing Human Capital: Meeting the Growing Global Need for a Skilled and Educated Workforce](#), underscores the value of Career and Technical Education in today's market. The report notes that CTE is in a position to maximize the efforts of educational institutions and business/industry as they work cooperatively to prepare students – and adults – for the demands of an increasingly high-tech and competitive global economy. Authors point out that some industries are severely challenged by a lack of adequately trained technicians. Another reality is that a bachelor's degree no longer guarantees job security or income growth. In fact, workers with technical credentials have the potential to outpace the wages of those with just a high school diploma, but also those of some bachelors' degree holders.



What are the **implications for CTE programs in Utah**? We must:

- Continue to **work with business and industry** partners to ensure alignment of our programs with their needs;
- Communicate the value of CTE to **policy makers** to ensure adequate resources;
- Assure that **students and their parents** understand the value of participating in **CTE Pathways** to achieve the associated marketable skills that will help them achieve success in the 21st century workplace.

For more about how Career and Technical Education positively impacts students' lives, read the full text of this message on the [Utah CTE blog](#).

Career Highlight – Careers in Sales

Sales jobs can offer opportunities to people who have a wide range of interests, strengths and experience. For example, if you're interested in science, you might combine that interest with a knack for persuading people to build your career as a [technical and scientific products sales representative](#). If you have strong math skills, you might do well as a [financial services salesperson](#). Though not all sales occupations are high paying, for some workers, sales can be a rewarding, lifelong career. Median annual salaries vary widely – from \$40,030 for [real estate sales agents](#) to \$87,390 for [sales engineers](#). Wages vary according to individual skills and experience, as well as on the basis of the products or services being sold. Entry level sales occupations can help you develop "people skills" and can also help you develop knowledge about the products or services being sold. Some sales occupations require licensing.

For additional information about sales occupations, check out the article "[Paid to persuade: Careers in sales](#)" featured in the Occupational Outlook Quarterly. Also, review the [Sales and Service Marketing Pathway](#), and get all the details about specific sales occupations by consulting [UtahFutures.org](#).

A Note of Caution: When you're looking for a sales job, beware of scams. Always verify that a company is legitimate before providing any personal information. "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Shop Class Still Valuable!



Darrell Andelin, Technology and Engineering Specialist and Dave Milliken, Skilled and Technical Sciences Specialist at the Utah State Office of Education where recently interviewed by Mary Richards at KSL about the value of shop class. Nationwide shop classes may be dwindling, but in Utah CTE strongly believes that shop classes are critical in today's society and economy. "It's very important in today's society that students are technology-literate, and use it effectively," said Darrell Andelin. "We try to keep abreast of what is going on in industry. We work with industry in advisory committees; we use national standards when we can," said Dave Milliken. Read the complete story [here](#).

"Utah still believes in comprehensive secondary education. Shop related programs exist in almost every public junior high and high school. We are fortunate to have two universities, Utah State University and BYU, which provide training for both men and women to enter this teaching discipline. Other teachers come from industry with nationally recognized certifications and years of professional experience. Utah students are very fortunate to have these educational opportunities available in their local school. This is not the norm in some parts of the country," said Darrell Andelin, Technology and Engineering Specialist.

Engineering Highlight – Two Rivers High School

Congratulations to Two Rivers High School, in Weber School District, who was recently named a "Model School" for their leadership in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education, for the 2010-2011 school year, by [Project Lead the Way](#) (PLTW). They were one of 16 schools nationwide to be recognized with this award and the only school selected in Utah. Read the press release [here](#).

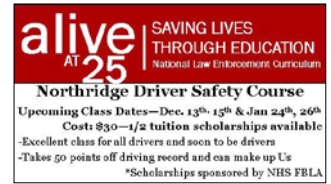
Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative STEM education curricular programs nationwide. PLTW pre-engineering classes provide students the opportunity to find out what is involved in various engineering fields, to learn and use the design process, and to apply mathematics used by engineers to solve problems. PLTW courses are offered in high schools throughout the state. At Two Rivers High School the Engineering program is in its eighth year. The program began in 2004 with two teachers offering two courses to 134 students. Now the program has five teachers, with multiple PLTW certifications, offering seven courses to 386 students—grades 9-12.



"Not enough can be said about how awesome these students are! Yes, it's hard. And yes, it is SO worth it to stay the course! No one who has returned to visit with me has ever had anything but positive things to say about their high school engineering experience," said Holly Barker, Engineering teacher at Two Rivers High School.

CTSO Highlight – Northridge FBLA

Northridge High School FBLA has taken on a project to promote safe driving in their community. They have launched an effort to have students stop texting while driving, as well as act more responsible behind the wheel and as a passenger. "Alive at 25" is a driver's safety course taught by Layton City Police Officers. Northridge High School FBLA wants to encourage all students to take the course. "Our FBLA student officers will be promoting the course at our feeder junior high schools at the December parent teacher conferences, as well as at our high school's parent teacher conferences," says Cathy Bell, Business/FBLA/Math teacher. Northridge High School will see an advertisement for the class, created by our FBLA student officers, as well as other forms of publicity. The "Alive at 25" course costs \$30. However, the FBLA student officers felt the cost would prevent students from taking the course, so they raised enough money to pay half the cost for the first 80 students who apply. Anyone age 15-24 is eligible to take the "Alive at 25" course. Register for the course and apply for the half-tuition scholarship in the main office at Northridge High School. Classes are from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m.



Utah CTE Blogs You May Have Missed

[Utah FFA: We Believe](#)

By Madison Peterson, FFA State Reporter



[Digital Business Applications Course](#)

By Laura deShazo, Business Teacher, Murray High School



[CTE Changed My Life!](#)

By Jameson Osmond, DECA State President



Meet Tara Bell – New CTE Health Science Education Specialist



Career and Technical Education (CTE) welcomes Tara Bell to the Utah State Office of Education. Tara is the new Health Science Education Specialist in CTE, replacing Thalea Longhurst who was recently promoted to CTE Program and Financial Accountability Coordinator—replacing Marv Johnson who retired in July.

Tara began her teaching career at Ben Lomond High School, in Ogden School District, and later moved to Fremont High School, in the Weber School District. At both schools she taught a variety of Health Science Education courses including: Introduction to Health Science, Medical Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, Advanced Health Science, Biology, and Health. While at Fremont High School Tara became the CTE Coordinator and the district Health Science Specialist. During the past four years she has been at Bonneville High School where she has been the CTE Coordinator.

"We are excited to have Tara as part of the Career and Technical Education team at the State Office of Education. Tara has worked at both a state and national level with health science education and brings with her a wealth of experience. Her knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm will be a great asset to the Health Science Education program throughout the state," said Thalea Longhurst.

Tara Bell can be reached at 801-538-7843 or at tara.bell@schools.utah.gov.

National CTE Newsletter

The Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) issues a monthly newsletter. In the newsletter you will find CTE facts, data, career, school, and student spotlights, and CTE program contributions from around the country. Read the November issue [here](#).



Calendar

December 2: Utah State Board of Education meeting 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT	December 9-10: FFA Utah Leadership Conference II, Provo, UT
December 2-3: FFA Utah Leadership Conference I, Richfield, UT	December 15: Supercomputing Competition application due
December 8: Utah State Charter School Board meeting 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT	

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