

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education News and Information Student Edition

December 2011



Message

A new national report, [Developing Human Capital: Meeting the Growing Global Need for a Skilled and Educated Workforce](#), highlights the value of Career and Technical Education in today's market. Feel free to read the full report, but here are key points that may be of special interest to you.

- Some industries are severely challenged by a lack of adequately trained technicians. CTE is in a prime position to coordinate efforts of education and business/industry to prepare students for the demands of an increasingly high-tech and competitive global economy.
- Workers with technical credentials have the potential to outpace the wages of those with bachelors' degrees in some areas.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that 71 percent of "growth" jobs will require some type of postsecondary credential.

The bottom line is that as a CTE student, you have the opportunity to achieve the marketable skills that will you achieve success in the 21st century workplace. Continue to participate and succeed!

For more information about the benefits of Career and Technical Education, read 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.

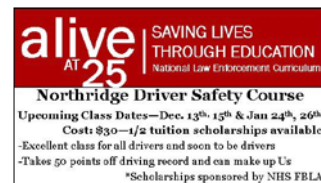
Are you in a [Technology and Engineering Pathway](#)? Tell us how this program has changed your life and prepared you for life after high school—[college and career](#). Send your stories to UtahCTE@schools.utah.gov.

If you are not in a Technology and Engineering Pathway, but would like to be, talk to your school counselor about the [PLTW program](#) in your 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



[CTE Changed My Life!](#)

By Jameson Osmond, DECA State President



Are you a member of a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO)? Send your stories to UtahCTE@schools.utah.gov.

Calendar

December 2-3: FFA Utah Leadership Conference I, Richfield, UT

December 9-10: FFA Utah Leadership Conference II, Provo, UT

December 15: [Supercomputing Competition application](#) due

December 19 – January 3: Christmas holiday break (dates vary by [school district](#) and [charter school](#))

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