

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education News and Information Student Edition

January 2012



Message

What will the future bring? That question is something that we all think about from time to time. We live at a time of turmoil both within the country and internationally. The news is full of discouraging predictions about the future. With all the doom and gloom in the press, it would be easy to become discouraged about our own future. On the other hand, if we just look around, we soon discover that it is a great time to be alive. Technological advances have made life easier and more interesting, and those advancements will continue to come and be a part of our lives changing how we live, learn, and interact with our environment.

As we start into a new year we are often focused on making resolutions, setting goals, deciding to take a different path. The year 2012 will continue to be challenging, but can also be the beginning of new hopes, dreams and accomplishments. Now is a great time to set additional goals for career advancement. The rate of unemployment continues to be a challenge for the nation around 9 percent and even here in Utah it is still around 6 percent. The prediction is that those rates will be with us for the next couple of years. But did you know that there are many great paying jobs that are going unfilled today because there are not skilled workers to fill them. Actually the future for job growth here in Utah is pretty bright.

According to the [Career Clusters Forecasting Demand for High School through College Jobs, 2008-2018](#), the fastest growing job clusters in the nation are Information Technology, Health Sciences, and Human Services. Of all the states, Utah is third in the growth rate for Information Technology. Utah is second for the growth rate for Health Sciences, and Human Services. Each of these Career Clusters provide higher than average wages. So, how can you get one of these jobs? By following one of the Programs of Study that are available in these Career Clusters. You can explore these [Career Clusters](#) and also check out the great information available, to help you focus on a particular program of study, on [UtahFutures.org](#).

To get a good paying job in the future, you will have to have specific skills that you can get by following a Career and Technical Education Pathway while in high school and then moving on to certificate, or degree training at a college or university. The possibilities are unlimited—just set your sights high and move forward.

Career Highlight – Video Game Developers: Working Hard So You Can Play!

Video game development is a big business, employing over 32,000 workers in 34 states. No matter what the final platform, developing a game consists of similar steps and requires workers with some common skills. For example, Ben Bell of Salt Lake City (executive producer of The Sims 3 Pets) suggests that the ability to work well as part of a team is imperative. The ability to **communicate** with fellow workers, to **adapt** to changing needs, and to **work well under pressure** are also important. Some of the major occupations found in this field include:

- **Designers** – the video game “dreamers,” including content designer, game mechanic designer, and writers (especially for role-playing games). There are no specific educational requirements for video game designers, but experience in other game design roles is helpful, as is knowledge of computer software.
- **Programmers** – the video game coders, they build video games line by line in computer-programming languages. Specialties include artificial intelligence programmers, graphics programmers, network programmers, physics programmers, tools programmers, and more. Most programmers have college degrees in computer science or computer engineering. They must be skilled in programming languages and operating systems used in game development.
- **Artists** – these are the workers who create the visual style for the game. Some artists use traditional methods (e.g., freehand drawing), but many make use of modern tools such as 3D modeling and motion-capture technology. Most artists in this field have attended art school, but the most important asset will be the portfolio that the artist creates to showcase his or her experience and talent.

For more information, read the full article in the [Occupational Outlook Quarterly](#), and check out the [Entertainment Software Association](#).



CTE Month – February 2012

Plan now to join the 14.4 million secondary and postsecondary CTE students nationwide in celebrating [Career and Technical Education](#) (CTE) during the month of February. This year's theme is [Career and Technical Education: Preparing Students for College and Career!](#) Schools can pick a day, a week, or the entire month to spotlight CTE programs.

[Resources](#) are available to assist in your school and classroom celebration. Promote CTE by participating in statewide activities throughout the month. CTE Month activities include:

- > CTE Moment
- > CTSO Events/Activities
- > Career Day
- > Job Shadow Day
- > Entrepreneurship Week
- > Social Media Advocacy Day



Details about CTE Month activities will be announced on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visit [UtahCTE.org](#) to join our communities today! Tell us what you plan to do in your school or classroom during CTE Month. Email us at UtahCTE@schools.utah.gov.

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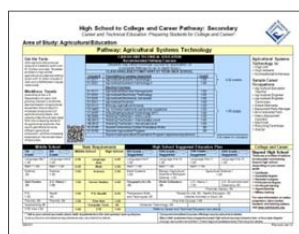
CTE Moments – February 2011

At 10:00 a.m. on February 23, 2011 Career and Technical Education students and staff in secondary schools across Utah were invited to capture a "CTE Moment." The resulting photographs were submitted to CTE staff at the Utah State Office of Education in what – happily – became an onslaught of hundreds of photos depicting students engaged in CTE across the state. "This was an opportunity to showcase our CTE students achieving success in some impressive CTE programs, and turned out to be a lot of fun," said Ann Decker, Internship and Work-Based Learning Coordinator at Timpview High School.



CTE Pathways News

Just in time for fall registration updated CTE Pathways charts are now available on UtahCTE.org. Each Pathway chart shows the required CTE foundation courses, CTE elective courses, and the state graduation requirements, along with workforce trends and sample occupations.



This year each CTE Pathways chart has a new look. Check out each individual CTE Pathway within each of the following eight Areas of Study.

[Agricultural Education](#)

[Business Education](#)

[Family and Consumer Sciences Education](#)

[Health Science Education](#)

[Information Technology Education](#)

[Marketing Education](#)

[Skilled and Technical Sciences Education](#)

[Technology and Engineering Education](#)

"The CTE programs at my high school were a huge part of my inspiration to become an automotive technician. I took an automotive class every year that I was in high school. I have learned a lot. . . I have gained not only automotive skills but I have also gained a sense of self-confidence. If it had not been for my automotive class and my wonderful instructor I would not have the same, if any, career goals I have today." Chelsie Swanger, a graduate of Olympus High School.

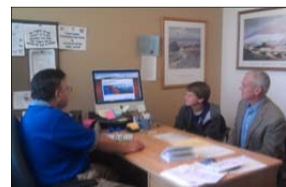
Talk to your school counselor about the courses you need to take to fulfill your graduation requirements and to become a CTE Pathway completer.

SEOP: Plan for College and Career Ready

The parent/student meeting with a school counselor is a key activity that is part of the individual planning component of the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program (CCGP). Sometimes referenced as an "opportunity to celebrate the student," the focus is definitely on *you* and the progress you're making toward your education and occupation goals.

Find out when your SEOP meeting is scheduled, and take advantage of the time to celebrate your achievements! If you have a favorite "SEOP moment" to share, please email us at UtahCTE@schools.utah.gov.

Read the [blog](#) about Steven Shumway's SEOP experience.



Calendar

January 20: FBLA Central Region Competition – UVU – Orem, UT	January 30 – February 3: FCCLA SAMMS – Orlando, FL
January 23: First day of the Utah Legislature ; Capitol	January 31: FBLA Northern Region Competition – WSU – Ogden, UT
January 23-24: FFA Competitions	January 31: FBLA Southern Region Competition – SC – Richfield, UT
January 27: FBLA Metro Region Competition – UVU – Orem, UT	

Career and Technical Education: Giving Students the Edge
 Join CTE on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) at UtahCTE.org

