

# CTE DIRECTIONS

## Career and Technical Education News and Information Educator Edition

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### Message from Mary Shumway and Gary Wixom



We are nearing the end of another school year and our efforts naturally concentrate on getting students ready for their next step in their educational plan. For many that next step may be very clear and to some it may be like looking into a frosted mirror. Across the country, educational leaders are exploring new approaches to helping students focus on the future. Everyone agrees that the future for students nearing graduation from high school should include plans for some postsecondary training in order to qualify for the jobs of the future. Yet, many students are still not making that important transition in their educational plan.

The national high school graduation rate has slipped in recent years, despite all of the efforts on the national and local levels to increase the number of students graduating from high school and then moving on to some postsecondary training.



According to the Educational Research Center in Bethesda, MD, the percent of students earning a standard diploma in four years shifted from 69.2 percent in 2006 to 68.8 percent in 2007. Here in Utah that graduation percentage may be higher, but we are still losing ground with only 36 percent of students in the age range of 18 through 24 attending college. When you look at these statistics broken out by race and ethnicity, the percentages are even lower.

So, what is the answer? We want our students in Utah to gain independence and move forward to obtain a career that will sustain them for the future. One effort underway that has promise is the "career pathways project". Career Pathways are being developed to help guide students towards a specific profession by clearly identifying the sequence of courses that are needed at both the secondary and the postsecondary level. Programs of Study are being implemented in many parts of the country and the early indication is that students following a "rigorous program of study" graduate at a higher rate from high school and transition at a higher rate to college.

Let's be sure to give Utah's students the best chance for success in the future, by making sure that they have great information to help them choose their direction. Knowing what direction they should go will give them a head start on getting there. As Dr. Seuss said:

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.  
You're on your own.  
And you know what you know.  
You are the one who'll decide where to go.*

### Career Highlight – Summer and Part-time Employment

Though the weather might not reflect the reality that summer is on its way, Utah students continue to count down the days to the end of this school year. For many, summer brings the opportunity to find work and build up a bit of cash to purchase costly items or to carry them through the next school year. To help your students find jobs that offer opportunities for learning life skills and acquiring hands-on experience, click on the "Educators" tab at <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov/index.htm>.

Two industries – "Accommodation and Food Services," and "Retail Trade" employ the largest numbers of 16- to 19-year-olds. These industries often have temporary or seasonal work openings – entry-level jobs with entry-level skill requirements. Job opportunities available to youth under 14 years of age are limited by law, but increase for youth ages 14-15 and 16-18. The Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) publishes *Trendlines*. The May-June issue traditionally focuses on the "Job Outlook for College Grads and Summer Youth." Look for the latest edition here: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/>.

According to DWS, the occupations that offer highest wages for "inexperienced workers" include:

Construction Laborer (\$9.10/hr)  
Farmworker/Greenhouse (\$7.60/hr)  
Landscaping Worker (\$8.00/hr)

Office Clerk (\$8.20/hr)  
Receptionist (\$7.90/hr)  
Vehicle Cleaners (\$7.30/hr)

### Central Region

On Tuesday, April 12, students in the Central Region gathered together to participate in a Career Day event highlighting Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways. The event was held at the Sevier Valley Center in Richfield where 1,300 students explored numerous careers by participating in hands-on activities. Students had the opportunity to explore 20 of the 52 careers featured at the Career Day event. Local businesses set up interactive booths/displays where students were able to "try on a career," working hands-on using tools and equipment. Upon arrival each student received a "CTE Pathways Passport" to record each career they explored. Students had a wonderful time exploring careers and participating in hands-on activities with local businesses.

**"I love Career Day and all the hands-on experiences." – Mallory Roberts**



Read about the activities students participated in with the help of local businesses. **(ADD blog link to READ)**

### Wasatch Front North Region

On Friday, April 15, over 400 students in the Wasatch Front North Region participated in a Health Career Pathways Fair. The theme of the event was "Explore the Possibilities." Students heard from professionals in the healthcare field describe how their education and the experiences they had in high school helped prepare them for a career. They encouraged students to get good grades and find meaningful work experiences or internships to help with future program/scholarship applications. Students had the opportunity to attend three hands-on workshops in the areas of EMT/Paramedic, Nursing/CNA/MA, Dental Assisting/Hygiene, Surgical Technician, Pharmacy Technician, and Respiratory Therapy. Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, Davis Applied Technology College, and Weber State University had representatives at the event to talk with students about postsecondary opportunities at their high school, highlighting the healthcare careers that are in high demand, have high wages and require high skills.



### Virtual Healthcare Interactive – VHI

On Wednesday, March 30 Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school students across the state, interested in healthcare careers, participated in a [Virtual Healthcare Interactive](#) live broadcast, in partnership with the Utah State Office of Education and Intermountain Healthcare. Participating high schools were linked to the Utah State Office of Education via EdNet. Students participated in a 2-hour event where they viewed a taped surgery/procedure and directly communicate with the surgeons/physicians, using real-time technology. The healthcare topic this year was maternal and infant health. Students watched a vaginal delivery and a caesarean delivery of newborns.

"I got to see things you would only see while having the job. I got to see how I reacted when seeing the inside of a human body and the surgery and I took it very well. It was so interesting! [This event] helped me see how intense and real working in the healthcare field is, but I also saw the amazing benefits that both the professionals had. It got me really excited." – *Sidney Maxey*

### CTE Summer Conferences

Are you registered for the [57th Annual CTE Summer Conference](#)? Early registration is \$40.00 and ends Friday, May 13. [Register online](#).

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