

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education News and Information Educator Edition

October 2011

Message from Mary Shumway and Gary Wixom



As CTE educators you understand how student participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is an important component of a CTE Pathway. Each CTSO is an essential leadership organization where students gain personal and leadership skills, making them more employable, preparing them to become productive citizens, and assisting them in assuming positive roles in the home and community.

In July, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) released a paper illustrating how students participating in a CTSO strengthen their career readiness. [Expanding Career Readiness Through Career and Technical Student Organizations](#) outlines how CTSOs provide students with opportunities to learn three skill sets, which business and industry say are necessary in today's workforce. These skills are:



1. **Academic skills** – Students explore career-related tasks aligned with state academic standards.
2. **Technical skills** – Students who participate in professional development activities and competitive events gain enhanced job-specific knowledge and skills critical to future careers.
3. **Employability skills** – Students develop critical workplace skills through teamwork, decision making, critical thinking, leadership, community awareness, career awareness, and personal and social development.

Research has shown that participating in CTSOs has a significant impact on students' overall career readiness:

- Students who participate in CTSOs demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students.
- According to the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, participating in leadership and professional development activities in a CTSO raises students' educational aspirations.
- Students who participate in school organizations in 10th grade have higher high school grade point average and are more likely to be enrolled in college at 21 than other students.

[DECA](#), [FBLA](#), [FCCLA](#), [FFA](#), [HOSA](#), [Skills USA](#), and [TSA](#) are all making a positive difference in the lives of our students! In Utah, 18,573 secondary students participate in a CTSO and more than 1.5 million students participate in a CTSO nationwide. These students are doing amazing things and are having a positive impact in their school and community. Encourage your students to become a member of the CTSO associated with the CTE Pathway they are pursuing. Being involved in a CTSO will not only benefit their life but the lives of those around them.

Throughout the month of October CTSOs will be holding their Fall Leadership Conference. Encourage your students to tell us about the Fall Leadership Conference they attended and about what their chapter has planned for the year. Email stories and calendar items to UtahCTE@schools.utah.gov.

Thank you to the CTSO advisors who dedicate many hours in providing these leadership opportunities for students. You do make a difference in the lives of CTE students.

Career Highlight – Wind Energy

Milford High School has garnered a good share of attention for the great work they are doing to introduce wind power to students in their classrooms and beyond. What job opportunities can students interested in wind energy expect? Generally, jobs will fall into four broad categories, with a range of education/training requirements:

1. **Professional** – Workers in this category typically have Bachelor's degrees or higher and work as engineers or scientists (e.g., Electrical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Wildlife Biologist).
2. **Construction** – Workers are needed to build and repair roads, buildings and other structures. (Occupations include Laborers, Electricians and Construction Equipment Operators).
3. **Production** – These workers operate machines and other equipment to assemble goods and distribute energy – for example, Machinists, Machine Tool Operators, and Assemblers.
4. **Transportation** – Truck Drivers and Crane Operators are the most common occupations in this category. Wind energy is a growing source of renewable energy, and may also be a great source of an exciting career!



Read the feature article in "techdirections" magazine titled "[Introducing Wind Power: Essentials for Bringing It into the Classroom](#)" written by Andy Swapp, Technology and Engineering teacher at Milford High School. [Watch](#) how Andy Swapp and his students brought wind power to Milford, Utah.

State of Education Address:



Superintendent Larry K. Shumway will deliver the State of Education Address on October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodrow Elementary School. His address will be broadcast live on KCPW (88.3 FM and 105.3 FM) and streamed on the Internet at [KCPW.org](http://kcpw.org) or <http://connect.schools.utah.gov/address/>.

[Read](#) *The Vision and Mission of Utah Public Education* in Promises to Keep. [Promises to Keep](#) is a statement of vision and mission for Utah's system of public education. The statement relies on the language of the Utah Constitution for its central premise. It is intended to provide focus to the work of the State Board of Education, the Utah State Office of Education, and all school districts, local boards of education, and charter schools within the general control and supervision of the Board.

FFA Members and the Utah State Fair

Did you attend the Utah State Fair last month? Can you say "AGRI-Culture?" Hundreds of thousands of people attended the Utah State Fair and 16,767 children visited the "Little Hands on the Farm" exhibit. FFA state officers worked hard during the summer to plan and prepare the "Little Hands on the Farm" exhibit. FFA members managed the exhibit which provides an agricultural literacy experience for thousands of children, their parents, and grandparents. This interactive experience was especially for children ages 2 to 10. Kids (and their parents) gained a better understanding of the farm to grocery store process, as they became "Little Hands on the Farm!"



CTE Publications - Distribution

This month the following two publications will be distributed to your districts via the CTE Pathways Coordinators.

1. [Utah Pathways: Connecting High School to College and Career Parent-Student Guide](#) booklet (Grades 8 and 10).
2. [Utah High School to College and Career Pathways Student Guide](#) 16 panel foldout (Grade 8).

The [Utah Student Guide to Career Planning](#) has been updated to reflect 2008-2018 occupational data. You can [view](#) the updated copy online.

Calendar

October 4: SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference – Davis Conference Center – Layton, UT	October 13-14: DECA Fall Leadership Conference – Park City, UT
October 5-6: FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference – Provo Marriott Hotel – Provo, UT	October 14: Utah State Charter School Board meeting – Tuacahn High School – Ivins, UT
October 7: Utah State Board of Education meeting 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT	October 15: TSA Fall Leadership Conference – Jordan Applied Technology Center – West Jordan, UT
October 10-11: HOSA Fall Leadership Conference – Provo Marriott Hotel – Provo, UT	October 19-22: National FFA Convention – Indianapolis, IN
October 11: State of Education Address – Woodrow Wilson Elementary School – Salt Lake City, UT	October 25-26: FBLA Fall Leadership Conference – Provo Marriott Hotel – Provo, UT
October 11: FFA Field Day – Snow College – Ephraim, UT	

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