

# CTE DIRECTIONS

## Career and Technical Education News and Information Educator Edition

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### Message from Mary Shumway and Gary Wixom



Each year when September comes around there is excitement in the air as everyone heads back to school. Elementary, secondary, and college students have the chance for a new beginning and a fresh start at learning. Students and parents of all ages get involved with this process and everyone has a sense of anticipation. A new school year gives everyone an opportunity to think about what they want to accomplish as they add important skills to their educational suitcase. Giving some thought to what you are going to pack in that suitcase this year is a worth taking some time to think about and to set some goals to accomplish.

The media is full of stories about the importance of getting a good education to prepare for the future. Across the country, there is an emphasis on getting all students "college and career ready." Here in Utah, each student will be expected to have a plan on how to become college and career ready that is carefully thought out by the student, a counselor, and a parent. There are many exciting pathways available for students to follow that will prepare for exciting careers, but success in the future requires serious preparation now.

In Utah, students are encouraged to prepare for and take the ACT test in their junior or senior year. This past year 73 percent of the graduating class took the test. The ACT test provides some valuable information concerning the students preparation for being college and career ready. ACT calls these measures "benchmarks" that students should meet to be prepared for success in the future. Students should look at the ACT "scores" as information on how well they are doing with this preparation.

Many factors need to come together to lead students to being prepared for the future. Students should take the right sequence of courses for their chosen pathway. They should be serious about doing their very best work. They should take advantage of career and planning activities that will give them the information to make good decisions.

Working with school counselors, teachers, and parents, **all** students can be prepared for the future.



### Career Highlight – Interior Design



Are you a fan of *Trading Spaces*, or maybe *Nate Berkus*? Then you might enjoy interior design work. Designers are often involved in the entire design process, from discovering the client's needs to formulating and executing a design plan. Designers may specialize in a type of building space (e.g., offices), a specific industry (e.g., healthcare), or a specific element (e.g., lighting). Additional specialties that are becoming popular are "green," "ergonomic," and "elder" design. Designers are sometimes employed by architectural firms or furniture stores, but many are self-employed. Interior design is a highly competitive field. To learn more about what it takes to be successful, check out related information in [Utah Futures](#), and <http://www.ncidq.org/AboutUs/AboutNCIDQ.aspx> or [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_12540\\_become-interior-designer.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_12540_become-interior-designer.html).

### Shelli Barnum – Math-in-CTE

Congratulations to Shelli Barnum, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher at Desert Hills Middle School! Her Math-in-CTE video, featured on the [UtahCTE YouTube channel](#), was part of the [National Research Center for Career and Technical Education](#) (NRCCTE) reports on programs. This video has been shown around the state to Math-in-CTE conferences and at a national conference for state administrators for Family and Consumer Sciences. "All were impressed with Shelli's message and the great job she did with the video. We are so pleased that the NRCCTE has shared her video with all CTE educators across the country," said Pearl Hart, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Specialist. The video can also be viewed on the home page of [NRCCTE](#).



### Janette Shields – National Agriscience Teacher Academy



Janette Shields  
4th from the left on the front row

Congratulations to Janette Shields, Agricultural Education teacher at Tooele High School! Janette was selected to attend the 9th Annual [National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy](#) (NATAA) at DuPont's [Chesapeake Farms](#) in Chestertown, Maryland. She was 1 of 20 teachers (140 applicants within 18 states) in the U.S. who attended the National Agriscience Teacher Academy hosted by DuPont. "The National Agriscience Teacher Academy is a professional development program, in conjunction with the [National FFA Foundation](#) and the [National Association of Agricultural Educators](#) (NAAE), where agriculture teachers learn new inquiry-based teaching techniques to improve science learning. The goal of the program is to incorporate more science into existing curriculums, make learning fun and challenging for students and, as a result, improve student performance in standardized science test scores."

At Tooele High School Janette teaches Biology-Agricultural Science, Equine Science, Veterinary Assistant, and Floriculture and Greenhouse Management. At the academy she was one of the teachers selected from this year's class who will conduct a seminar at the Agriscience Institute during the [National FFA Convention](#) in October. She will also conduct a workshop at the [National Association of Agricultural Educators](#) (NAAE) convention in November. [Read more](#) about the academy.

### College Means 1, 2, 4, or More

The release of the ACT report on the latest group of Utah seniors who participated in testing last year ([original ACT report](#) and [State Office of Education News Release](#)) prompts Utah Career and Technical Education to remind everyone that today's definition of "college" includes **1-year** (certification, etc.), **2-year** (Associate degrees), **4-year** (Bachelor's degrees) or **more** (professional degrees).

More Utah students than ever before took the ACT last year and the average composite score held steady at 21.8. Read more in the [UtahCTE.org College and Career Ready blog](#).



### Class of 2015

Freshman students entering college this fall have no recollection of President George H. W. Bush and were born when Bill Clinton was president. They have always known the Internet and can't image what life was like without it. "Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released the [Beloit College Mindset List](#), providing a look at the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students entering college this fall."

Do you want to know what it was like to grow up for every American generation since 1880? Tom McBride and Ron Nief of Beloit College have published a book titled [The Mindset Lists of American History: From Typewriters to Text Message, What Ten Generations of Americans Think Is Normal](#).

### CTE Publications and Resources



Check out the publications and resources page on [UtahCTE.org](#) for tools that can assist you in promoting your program. There you will find brochures, posters, and videos designed to highlight the CTE Pathways within each of the eight CTE Areas of Study—Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, Information Technology, Marketing, Skilled and Technical Sciences, and Technology and Engineering.

### Calendar

- September 8-18: [Utah State Fair – Little Hands on the Farm](#) – managed by the [FFA](#) state officers– Salt Lake City, UT
- September 8: [Utah State Charter School Board meeting](#) 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT
- September 9: [Utah State Board of Education meeting](#) 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT



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