

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education News and Information Student Edition

September 2011

Message

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 you to being prepared for the future. You should take the right sequence of courses for your chosen pathway. You should be serious about doing your very best work. You should take advantage of career and planning activities that will give you 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.

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. For those students who scored 21.8 or above, congratulations! For those who scored lower, here is some information to encourage you. Read more in the [UtahCTE.org College and Career Ready blog](#).



CTE Pathways

What are your interests? Do you like to take care of animals? Do you like to create spreadsheets? Do you like to cook or bake? Do you like to learn about medical devices? Do you like to play or develop video games? Do you like to set new trends? Do you like to use all kinds of tools? Do you like to learn about technology?



Take a quick survey, located on page 2 and 3 of the [Utah Student Guide to Career Planning](#), to help you discover how your interests relate to the CTE Areas of Study, then check out the CTE Pathways associated with those areas.

So, what [CTE Pathway](#) are you pursuing? Visit with your school counselor to map out a sequence of courses for your chosen pathway. CTE offers Pathways to YOUR future; *get started!*

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](#).

Calendar

September 8-18: [Utah State Fair](#) – [Little Hands on the Farm](#) – managed by the [FFA](#) state officers – Salt Lake City, UT

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