



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

April 2025

Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

Special Populations Best Practice – Foster Care Youth

As we continue to highlight evidence-based practices, this month we highlight the special population of foster care youth. Foster care youth is defined in Perkins V as youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system. CTE policies and programs support foster youth as they do all special populations because these learners are much less likely than their peers to graduate from high school. In addition, students in foster care are also less likely to pursue postsecondary education and in turn struggle to find a fulfilling career.

In these evidence-based practices, foster care youth are benefited with the following strategies:

- Proactive communication between student, counselor, and a CTE educator.
 - Additional communication with caregivers goes a very long way to encourage and support these students.
- Self-disclosure of a former foster care youth can open the door for scholarships and other resources at the postsecondary level.
- There are many needs for foster care youth. Partnering with DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) can open the door to appropriate support structures for learning and support of other needs such as transportation, housing, financial aid, and more.



We encourage you to:

- Discuss what you want to do and seek out a DCFS foster care case representative to discuss potential resources that are available.
- Read the Advance CTE publication [Supporting Foster Youth in Career and Technical Education](#).
- Review the USBE/CTE special populations webpage <https://www.schools.utah.gov/cte/specialpopulations>.

CTE Educators in the News

Rebecca Haacke, FCS teacher at West Field High School, was featured on FOX 13 Cool School. Her colleagues say she goes above and beyond daily to prepare students for food competitions and the real world <https://tinyurl.com/5dd4eyfb>.

Jim Cook, automotive teacher at Ogden High School, is the recipient of the World Class Technician Award <https://tinyurl.com/5hya9rzw>. Awarded by the Auto Care Association in partnership with the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, Jim is one of 2,375 technicians who have earned the highly respected status of “World Class Technician.”

Denise Hevner, welding teacher at Highland High School, has been nominated for the prestigious NHL Most Valuable Teacher Award (MVT). The NHL MVT award recognizes teachers who make a difference in the lives of their students.

Randall Kammerman, Herriman High School business and marketing teacher, was named Most Valuable Educator by the Utah Jazz <https://tinyurl.com/54hw28ch>.

Advice to Students

Utah high school seniors were asked, “What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school?” Nathan and Abbey give this advice:

Nathan: Future Physical Therapist

“Take your own route. Just because one person is doing something does not mean that you should do it too. Take CTE courses for your own success and take into account timing, hard work, and personalization. Taking CTE courses will help you get ahead in almost every aspect of schooling and will save you plenty of time and money. Once you find a CTE class that interests you it will lead you to dive into many more of these great classes. CTE will better prepare you for your future. Right out of high school you will have college credit and will be ready for the next step in taking harder classes and getting a degree.”



Abbey: Future Food and Beverage Manager

“Take CTE courses to try things you never thought you could do. Stretch yourself beyond your comfort zone, because it is worth it. Even if you are taking something you didn’t think you had many strengths in participate and include yourself as much as you possibly can. When I first joined Prostart® I was quiet and introverted, and while I still am, I have learned to stand up for myself, to become a great leader, and to work well with others. Taking CTE classes has changed my perspective on life for the better. I am infinitely grateful for CTE classes and the teachers at my school.”



@UtahCTE Social Media Highlights

- Watch as Superintendent Farnsworth interviews Candace Wilson, ProStart® director at Westlake High School, as they discuss Westlake’s national culinary success in ProStart® competitions <https://tinyurl.com/f8ps86j2>.
- Listen to @jordandistrict Supercast Episode 286 as Superintendent Godfrey tours a construction site where CTE students are building a tiny home <https://tinyurl.com/mn23b66f>.

Calendar:

April 3: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

April 10: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

[Utah CTE Calendar](#) | [ACTE Calendar](#)

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.