



Career & Technical Education

By Dr. Denise Jonas, Director of Career & Technical Education

February is CTE Month “Be a CTE Champion” February 2022

CTE Month® is an annual national public awareness campaign to celebrate the accomplishments of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, instructors, and students. CTE Month® gives programs the platform and opportunity to demonstrate ways in which CTE contributes to college and career readiness and prepares students for high-wage, high-demand career fields. CTE is for all students, post-secondary, workforce, military, technical training, apprenticeship, and advanced degrees.



“Be a CTE Champion” to promote CTE Month!

Governor Burgum has proclaimed February 2022 as CTE Month in North Dakota. During the month, and throughout the school year, CTE instructors and students are proud to share their stories related to curriculum activities and student accomplishments. Promotional activities, media segments, open house events, project showcases, Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) leadership announcements, and community service projects cover the vast curriculum and co-curricular options available to students.

Participate in the campaign by taking a selfie or having someone take a photo of you/your group holding the [“North Dakota CTE Champion” sign](#).

Follow CTE on Social Media for the News and Activities for CTE Month

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaCTE
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthDakotaCTE>



Career & Technical Education, continued

Awareness and Choice!

At a time when the opportunity for employment is high, unemployment rates are low, and jobs go unfilled in North Dakota (jobsnd.com), the need for a highly skilled workforce is critical. In this moment, the question turns to, “How do students make career decisions?” Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to explore their personal interest in high school on their way to finding their career passion after graduation. Over the next few months, listen for opportunities to learn about CTE programs, including aviation technology, automotive technology, business education, construction technology, family and consumer sciences, health science, information technology, marketing education, automated manufacturing, technology and engineering, and welding. [Fargo Public School’s CTE Programs at a Glance \(Video\)](#)



Career Planning!

Career development counselors and advisors provoke student thinking by using interest inventories, career planning tools, and Career Cluster Pathway exposure through classroom activities and external work experiences. Intentional conversations help students identify their passion to develop career goals, which can lead to high school and post-secondary planning personalized to meet these goals.

[Career & Technical Education / Career Pathways \(k12.nd.us\)](http://k12.nd.us)

According to the Educational Research Center of America (2015). “A large majority of high school students (64%) report the greatest influence on their future careers is their own experiences and interests. This is followed by their father and mother (22% and 19% respectively) and their teachers (11%).” CTE Month is one event intended to promote and increase awareness of career education options. The occasion heightens awareness for students, parents, and the community, and encourages exploratory opportunities to help students make more informed decisions.



Career & Technical Education, continued

So why CTE and CTE Month?

In March 2021, AdvanceCTE released, [“Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career and Technical Education.”](#) It is critical for schools to engage with students and the community partners through CTE to motivate, educate, and prepare our students for the future economy in which they will live and transform. The following guiding principles will drive the future of CTE, how programs are designed, and the way in which students learn:



Principle 1: Each learner engages in a cohesive, flexible and responsive career preparation ecosystem.

Principle 2: Each learner feels welcome in, is supported by and has the means to succeed in the career preparation ecosystem.

Principle 3: Each learner skillfully navigates their own career journey

Principle 4: Each learner’s skills are counted, valued and portable.

Principle 5: Each learner can access CTE without borders.

Ultimately, better informed students, parents, teachers, and communities contribute to better guidance and decision-making for our learners. Check out your school’s CTE programs and activities this month to better prepare your student to **“Be a CTE Champion!”**

