

# Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) produces gains in academic achievement and earnings and represents a significant contribution to the education of America's youth and adults in preparation of a skilled workforce. Research indicates:

## CTE Students Achieve Academic Success

- CTE students are less likely to drop out of school
- CTE concentrators take more and higher level math than their general track counterparts
- CTE students increase their 12th grade test scores by about 8 scale points in reading and 11 points in math
- Students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs have significantly higher student achievement in reading, mathematics and science than do students at schools with less integrated programs

**27,000 teachers  
and administrators**

## CTE Students Experience Increases in Earnings and Improved Employment Outcomes

- A year of technically oriented coursework at a community college increased the earnings of men by 14% and women by 29%
- CTE graduates are 10-15% more likely to have a job, and earn 8-9% more than graduates of academic programs
- Secondary students who graduate with a career and technical education concentration are **two times** more likely to be employed while pursuing postsecondary

**9,400 postsecondary  
institutions**

## CTE Students Achieve Postsecondary Success

- CTE students are more likely than their general peers to obtain a degree or certificate within **two years**
- CTE students are more likely to be employed while in high school

**16 million high school  
and college students**

### CTE SUBJECT AREAS

Agricultural Education  
Business, Marketing &  
Computer Education  
Family & Consumer Sciences  
Health Science Technology  
Scientific, Engineering &  
Industrial Technology

## Occupational Outlook

- Nearly one-third of the fastest growing occupations will require an associate degree or postsecondary vocational certificate
- 18 of the 20 fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education
- 13% of manufacturing industry respondents report severe shortages and 68% indicate moderate shortages of qualified workers
- The renewable energy and energy efficiency industry could generate more than 17% of all anticipated US jobs (37 million) by the year 2030

**11,000 high schools**

## Research Sources

American Manufacturing Workforce 2005 Skills Gap Report, Association for Career and Technical Education, American Solar Energy Society & Management Information Systems, Inc., Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Gates Foundation, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Russell Sage Foundation