Press contact: Katie Fitzgerald  
[kfitzgerald@careertech.org](mailto:Kfitzgerald@careertech.org) or 301-588-9630

Program press contact:

**Irving High School Honored with National Excellence in Action Award**

**April 9, 2019 – [Irving, TX] –** Today, School of Aviation at Irving High School received the prestigious Excellence in Action award, which recognizes the best Career Technical Education (CTE) programs of study across the nation. School of Aviation was one of eight programs selected as an [Excellence in Action](https://careertech.org/excellence-action-award) award winner based on its track record of providing clear pathways into college and careers, rigorous academic and technical coursework, strong partnerships with education and industry leaders, and meaningful work-based learning experiences that offer opportunities for career exploration and subject-matter mastery.

Irving High School’s School of Aviation received the award in the Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Career Cluster® from Advance CTE as a result of their commitment to preparing learners in a high-demand sector through real-world, hands-on experiences, industry-recognized credential attainment opportunities and dual enrollment offerings. Last year, all learners graduated high school and 94 percent enrolled in postsecondary education. 60 percent of learners in the program also earned an industry-recognized credential. Representatives accepted the honor at an award ceremony as part of the Advance CTE Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.

“The aviation industry is an economic driver for the Dallas-Ft Worth metro area, and Irving ISD’s School of Aviation is preparing learners to meet the ever-growing need for pilots and aviation techs through our programs of study which prepare students with the academic and technical skills they need to be successful in the aviation industry,” said Shawn Blessing, Director of Career and Technical Education, Irving Independent School District. “Because of our location, our students have the opportunity to learn from industry experts, and see equipment and facilities first-hand through our partnerships with leading companies in the aviation industry. Learners graduate from high school prepared with all of the information they need to reach their goals as pilots, or aviation techs.”

“The programs of study that we are honoring today all share a steadfast commitment to the highest expectations for CTE," said Kimberly Green, Executive Director of Advance CTE. "This dedication to quality and equity ensures each learner has access to opportunities that prepare them for future success in their education and career of their choice. Today's honorees serve as national models of what high-quality CTE looks like and can achieve."

Printable profiles of each winner are available on Advance CTE’s [website](https://careertech.org/excellence-action-2019).