

CTE Monthly

July 2014

CTE Quick Facts

Did you know?

► CTE concentrators improved their 12th grade NAEP scores by eight points in reading and 11 in math, while students who took no CTE courses did not increase their math scores and increased reading by only four points.ⁱ

► More than 70 percent of secondary CTE concentrators pursued postsecondary education shortly after high school.ⁱⁱ

Career Spotlight



CareerClusters[®]
PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Government & Public Administration

and Public Administration jobs are expected to grow by 8 percent between 2008 and 2018, putting it only slightly below the expected national average for employment growth in other sectors during that period.ⁱⁱⁱ If these projections remain on course, just over 2 million people would hold Government and Public Administration jobs by 2018; however, that figure has been depressed by state and local governmental budget cuts during the most recent economic recession.

By 2018, most of the expected employment growth in this Career Cluster will likely come from specialized occupations. For instance, jobs for political scientists are expected to grow by 19 percent between 2008 and 2018 and openings for survey researchers are projected to grow by an impressive 30 percent during that timeframe.^{iv}

The Government and Public Administration Career Cluster[®] encompasses a diverse array of both public and private sector occupations. Although it remains the smallest of the 16 Career Clusters in The National Career Clusters[®] Framework, Government

CTE Prepares the Agriculture Workforce; Webinar TODAY on Industry-based Standards in Programs of Study

ACTE's newest Sector Sheet, [CTE: The Key to Economic Development in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources](#), explores several sub-fields in this sector that are expected to grow by impressive margins through 2018, including forestry and conservation, veterinary fields, environmental engineering, and food and animal technology. The brief also describes how CTE prepares high school, postsecondary and adult students for careers in this sector through Career Clusters, pathways and courses; work-based learning experiences; stackable certificates, industry-recognized certifications and degrees; and career and technical student organization enrichment experiences, such as the National FFA Organization's Agriscience Fair.

This publication joins ACTE's other [Sector Sheets](#) on health care, advanced manufacturing, energy and IT. You can expect more Sector Sheets later this year that address how CTE supports additional industry sectors that define our nation's economy.

In addition, join NASDCTEc TODAY at 3:00pm EDT for a [webinar](#) on the new report, *The Common Career Technical Core, Programs of Study & Industry-Based Standards*, which analyzed a range of industry-based standards to help clarify how they might fit into a program of study undergirded by the Common Career Technical Core standards.

The educational requirements for many positions in the Government and Public Administration Career Cluster will continue to increase in response to the growing complexity of the modern global economy and in conjunction with technological advancements. To this end, 69 percent of jobs in this area will require at least some form of postsecondary education and training by 2018.^v

The [Applications and Research Lab](#) (ARL), located in Howard County, Maryland, is an area CTE center where students have the opportunity to enroll in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Academy, an intensive series of courses that prepare students for future careers in the national security and emergency management fields.^{vi} Students focus on national and global issues as they relate to homeland security and terrorism with an emphasis on how various technologies are employed to meet these challenges, while also learning about the interdependence of local, federal and international law enforcement, intelligence and military agencies.

HEA Priorities; Visiting CTE Programs

As August recess approaches and higher education legislation is being considered, it's a great time for Members of Congress to meet with CTE teachers or visit a postsecondary CTE program back home. ACTE and NASDCTEc are happy to help connect you with educators and programs in your districts and states.

Also, check out ACTE's higher education [policy recommendations](#) to see how the Higher Education Act can better serve short-term CTE programs, nontraditional students and business and industry.

i Department of Education, [National Assessment of Vocational Education](#), 2004.

ii U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, [Postsecondary and Labor Force Transitions Among Public High School Career and Technical Education Participants](#), 2011.

iii Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, NRCCTE and NASDCTEc, [Career Clusters: Forecasting demand for high school through college jobs: 2008-2018](#), 2011.

iv Ibid.

v Ibid.

vi ARL [website](#).

School Spotlight

Brazosport College

A top 10 finalist for the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, [Brazosport College](#) in Lake Jackson, Texas, has helped more than 125,000 students achieve college and career success and contributed to a qualified workforce for Brazoria County since its establishment in 1968. The school offers academic and technical courses leading to certificates, Associate of Applied Science degrees, a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Industrial Management and, starting this fall, a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Health Service Management. Brazosport College's curriculum also facilitates student transfer to four-year schools.



Photo courtesy of Brazosport College.

Among the opportunities available, students at Brazosport College can prepare for a well-paid career in the petrochemical industry through strong partnerships with the region's major employers, Dow Chemical and BASF, and through state-of-the-art facilities such as a chemical processing lab that provides hands-on training in plant operations.

Brazosport College further supports the region through its Center for Business and Industry Training, which offers training in computer and technical/safety skills as well as professional development, and the Small Business Development Center. In addition, the school broadcasts telecourses from the campus to area high schools and the community.^{vii}

Student Spotlight

Sean Martin is a 2010 graduate of the New Media program at [Portland Arts & Technology High School](#) (PATHS) in Maine, where he and his classmates gained skills and experience in graphic design, project design and management, shooting and editing video, broadcasting, sound production, script writing, animation and more. Following high school, Sean attended Southern Maine Community College, graduating in 2013.



Photo courtesy of PATHS.

Prior to completing college, Sean began working as a media manager and production assistant for Animal Planet's *North Woods Law*. He has produced several short films of his own and worked on the film *The Hanover House* as well as on a wide variety of TV shows: Animal Planet's *Puppy Bowl*, Cooking Channel's *Unique Eats*, *Diggers* on National Geographic, *American Idol* and Travel Channel's *The Dead Files*. This summer, Sean is working on a new film, *Black Mass*, starring Johnny Depp and Benedict Cumberbatch. The skills and experience he gained through CTE are helping Sean scale the heights of the TV and film industry.^{viii}

Many Hard-to-fill Jobs in CTE Fields

CTE prepares students for the hardest-to-fill jobs in the nation. According to ManpowerGroup's [2014 U.S. Talent Shortage Survey](#), the top 10 jobs for which employers report they have trouble finding qualified applicants are:^{ix}

1. skilled trade workers
2. restaurant and hotel workers
3. sales representatives
4. teachers
5. drivers
6. accounting and finance professionals
7. laborers
8. IT staff
9. engineers
10. nurses

CTE programs prepare students for these occupations and, through stackable credentials, help youth and adults move up the ladder in these career fields. By growing high-quality CTE programs, the United States could educate more students for postsecondary education and in-demand jobs and better meet employer demand for skilled workers.

vii Aspen Institute, [College Excellence Program: Brazosport College](#); Brazosport College [website](#); additional information from Brazosport College staff.

viii Maine CTE PATHS [website](#); additional information from PATHS staff.

ix ManpowerGroup, [2014 U.S. Talent Shortage Survey](#).



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This newsletter is a collaborative publication of the Association for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. It aims to keep Congress informed about CTE events, data, best practices and student success stories.