

Press contact: Katie Fitzgerald
kfitzgerald@careertech.org or 301-588-9630

Program press contact:

William J. Pete Knight High School Receives the Excellence in Action Award for its Innovative Digital Design and Engineering Academy

April 5, 2018 – [Lancaster, California] – Today, the Digital Design and Engineering Academy at William J. Pete Knight High received the prestigious Excellence in Action award from Advance CTE. This award honors innovative and effective Career Technical Education (CTE) programs across the nation. Digital Design and Engineering Academy exemplifies excellence in providing relevant work-based learning opportunities through sustained partnerships with education, community and industry leaders; integrates rigorous academics; meets college and career readiness standards; and has demonstrated substantial evidence of student success and achievement.

The Digital Design and Engineering Academy received the award in the *Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Career Cluster*®. They are dedicated and passionate about creating seamless transitions to postsecondary and career. Learners can earn college credit through articulation agreements with postsecondary partners. The Academy also benefits from partnerships with industry leaders, which result in internships with Northrop Grumman, Edwards Air Force Base, the Air Force Research Laboratory, Lockheed Martin and NASA.

Academy students took the lead in developing a partnership with Grid Alternatives, a non-profit organization that brings reliable energy to communities that are not on the electrical grid through solar power technology. The Academy students assisted a school in Nicaragua with no access to power and plan to travel to Puerto Rico in summer 2018 to help with recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria.

The Academy continues to produce positive student outcomes. Last year, 85 percent of graduates enrolled in postsecondary education and every student participated in work-based learning opportunities.

"The Digital Design and Engineering classrooms intentionally cultivate a sense of wonder, the excitement of discovery and the satisfaction of trying hard," said Ed Dennis, Deputy State Superintendent and Oregon Department of Education.

"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 excellence leads to strong learner outcomes, creating opportunities for a lifetime of career and education success. Today's honorees serve as national models of what high-quality CTE looks like and can achieve."

Representatives accepted the honor at an award ceremony as part of the Advance CTE Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. Learn more about the Digital Design and Engineering Academy and the Excellence in Action award [here](#).

###

About Advance CTE

Advance CTE: State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work is the longest-standing national non-profit that represents State Directors and state leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories. Established in 1920, Advance CTE supports visionary state leadership, cultivates best practices and speaks with a collective voice on national policy to promote academic and technical excellence that ensures a career-ready workforce.