

# CTE Monthly

March 2014

## CTE Quick Facts

### Did you know?

- ▶ The U.S. gains a present value of \$1.1 trillion in added income over the course of community college students' working careers.<sup>i</sup>
- ▶ Sixty percent of high school CTE students plan to pursue a career related to the field they are studying.<sup>ii</sup>

## Sens. Baldwin, Begich Recognized as CTE Policymakers of the Year

At ACTE's [National Policy Seminar](#) earlier this month, Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Mark Begich (D-AK) were recognized as Policymakers of the Year.

Sen. Begich is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and has been a strong supporter of federal funding for Perkins. He is the sponsor of the [Counseling for Career Choice Act](#), and introduced [two bills](#) in 2013 aimed at professional development for CTE educators ([Professional Development for Educators Act](#)) and the modernization of CTE facilities ([Career and Technical Education Facilities Modernization Act](#)).

Throughout 2013, Sen. Baldwin has been a leader on CTE issues as a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. She is the sponsor of the [Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation \(GREEN\) Act](#). In addition, ACTE worked with Sen. Baldwin to [introduce an amendment](#) as part of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to incorporate career readiness measures on state and school report cards.

<sup>i</sup> American Association of Community Colleges and Economic Modeling Specialists Intl., [Where Value Meets Values: The Economic Impact of Community Colleges](#), 2014.

<sup>ii</sup> National Research Center for College and University Admissions, [ACTE Annual Research Report: CTE Works!](#), 2014.

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

<sup>iv</sup> The World Bank, [Health expenditure, total \(% of GDP\)](#).

<sup>v</sup> Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, NRCCTE and NASDCTEC, [Career Clusters: Forecasting demand for high school through college jobs: 2008-2018](#), 2011.

<sup>vi</sup> Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, [Healthcare](#), 2012.

## Career Spotlight



percent of Health Science occupations fall within the health care industry—a portion of the American economy which accounts for roughly 18 percent of the nation's entire GDP.<sup>iv</sup> Overall this Career Cluster is expected to grow by 23 percent between 2008 and 2018.<sup>v</sup>

Given that this Career Cluster is so large and is projected to increase substantially in size over the next few years, the educational demands of Health Science occupations are an increasingly important harbinger for the educational requirements of the American economy for the coming decades. It is projected that by 2020, about 82 percent of jobs in this Career Cluster will require some form of postsecondary education.<sup>vi</sup> About one-third of this demand for postsecondary education will stem from occupations requiring more than a high school diploma, but less than a bachelor's degree.

The Health Science Career Cluster<sup>®</sup> is the fastest growing Career Cluster and is expected to continue on this current trajectory well into the next decade.<sup>iii</sup> An aging population with increased access to and demand for health care will likely drive these trends for the foreseeable future. Eighty-five

CTE programs throughout the country are helping to prepare students of all ages to address the growing demands in this Career Cluster.

The [Early College Health Sciences Academy](#) (ECHSA) located in El Dorado, Kansas, is one such program. A partnership between Butler Community College and Rose Hill High School, the program offers students the ability to get a head start on their postsecondary education and career in the health sciences field. Students earn enough college-level credit through ECHSA while still enrolled in high school to finish a significant portion of an associate's degree or enter a bachelor's degree program with college junior status.

Besides facilitating the transition from high school to the postsecondary educational world, ECHSA also prepares its students for the world of work. Students who complete the program receive their Certified Nursing Assistant credential in addition to becoming CPR and First-Aid certified. The program is still relatively new, but its success to date has been impressive—100 percent of ECHSA students from the most recent school year earned postsecondary credit and the same percentage went on to pursue further education at that level.

## Perkins CTE Funding Letter—Signatures Needed!

Please join Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Jim Langevin (D-RI), the co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Career & Technical Education (CTE) Caucus, in sending a letter to the House Appropriations Committee requesting \$1.131 billion for funding the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) in the FY 2015 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Perkins Act is the principal source of federal funding for secondary and postsecondary CTE programs, supporting high schools, tech centers, community colleges, employers and CTE students nationwide.

The deadline to join the letter is **Monday, March 31, 2014**. Please contact either [Matthew Brennan](#) in Rep. Thompson's office or [Sam Morgante](#) in Rep. Langevin's office to sign on today!

## School Spotlight

### Wichita Area Technical College

[Wichita Area Technical College](#) (WATC) in Kansas delivers a high-tech, high-wage, high-demand career pipeline for students. The school offers more than 75 programs in such fields as aviation, health care, manufacturing, business and design. Programs are developed and implemented in collaboration with local employers through Industry Advocate Teams. In addition, flexible course offerings and support systems are key to student success. WATC was named one of the nation's top 120 community colleges by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program for 2013.

The National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), WATC's main campus, fuses Kansas' aviation experience and expertise with cutting-edge instructional techniques and technology. Through a 224,000-square-foot facility, strong FAA involvement and a partnership with Wichita State University's National Institute for Aviation Research, NCAT delivers training for a wide range of careers critical to aircraft manufacture such as FAA-approved Airframe and Powerplant mechanics, as well as other occupations in aerostructures, avionics and composites. Credentials awarded include technical certificates and associate of applied science degrees. WATC is the lead for the National Aviation Consortium, a \$14.9 million project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop industry-standard aviation manufacturing training curricula with other colleges and The Manufacturing Institute. Wichita-area leaders in aviation support this project, including Spirit Aerosystems, Beechcraft and Cessna.<sup>vii</sup>



Photo courtesy of  
Wichita Area Technical College.

### Teacher Spotlight

Tara Berescik of Grahamsville, New York, is the winner of the 2014 ACTE Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by Cisco. Berescik is an agricultural educator with [Tri-Valley Central School District](#). She was one of five regional finalists competing for the national title of 2014 Teacher of the Year, which recognizes educators who have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and novel programs that are serving to improve and promote CTE.

An agricultural educator and FFA adviser at Tri-Valley School District for the past 13 years, Berescik's hands-on teaching style has provided her students with remarkable experiences. For example, students in her floral sciences classes conduct experiments on home-grown flowers and learn how to run their own floral business. In addition, students collaborate with the NYC Reservoir System to learn about water quality control. Berescik has arranged field trips to Ireland, Australia and Costa Rica to study international agriculture.



One of Berescik's former students who has gone on to pursue a career as an agricultural education instructor said, "Tara dedicates her life to her students and does whatever it takes to ensure their success. For Tara, her dedication to her students lasts around the clock, every day."

### NYC CTE Students Graduate at Higher Rates; Community College ROI

Students attending CTE-focused high schools in New York City are more likely to graduate than their peers, according to a [publication](#) from the Community Service Society of New York.

This effect is even stronger when looking at newer CTE schools created since 2003; students attending these schools are 18 percent more likely to graduate than their peers in non-CTE schools. Black and Latino male students show particular gains when it comes to graduation rates.

The authors conclude that more CTE-focused schools are needed in New York City, since more than 800 students per year are not enrolled in these schools despite ranking them as their top choice. Unfortunately, these students who wanted to go to a CTE school but were not able to typically have poor graduation outcomes.<sup>viii</sup>

In addition, the U.S. economy gained more than \$800 billion in added income in 2012 from community college alumni employed in the U.S. workforce, according to a [recent publication](#) from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Student return on investment was \$4.80 and taxpayer return on investment was \$6.80 for every dollar spent on community college education.<sup>ix</sup>

vii Wichita Area Technical College [website](#); additional information from WATC staff.

viii Treschan and Mehrotra, [Challenging Traditional Expectations: How New York City's CTE High Schools Are Helping Students Graduate](#), Community Service Society, 2014.

ix American Association of Community Colleges and Economic Modeling Specialists Intl., [Where Value Meets Values: The Economic Impact of Community Colleges](#), 2014.



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