



## Career and Technical Education Learning That Works for America

### *Platform Statements*

**CTE FACT:** During 2009–2010, Virginia students taking one or more courses in Career and Technical Education (CTE) exceeded 591,000. These students are exposed to core academic skills AND specific occupational skills. Each course in CTE links academic and occupational standards in classroom activities and reinforces achievement of Virginia’s Standards of Learning. More than 45 percent of CTE completers (students who have met the requirements for a CTE concentration or specialization and all requirements for high school graduation) earned an Advanced Studies Diploma.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Get the word out that CTE prepares students for success in both career and college through contextual learning and meeting the academic standards that reflect the goals and interests of all learners. Encourage counselors, parents, and students to learn more about CTE programs. Be a spokesperson for a statewide marketing campaign for CTE. In Harvard’s *Pathways to Prosperity* report, experts project that “the U.S. economy will create some 47 million job openings over the 10-year period ending in 2018. Nearly two-thirds of these jobs will require that workers have at least some post-secondary education.” Nearly all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE.

**CTE FACT:** Virginia’s Workplace Readiness Skills (required in all CTE courses) are an increasingly clear priority for employers. Virginia faces the great challenge of creating a skilled workforce equal to the demands of a global economy. America has become a knowledge-based economy that has created millions of new jobs in industries that did not exist a generation ago. These jobs demand highly educated and skilled workers.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Publicly support the need for the Workplace Readiness Skills. Solicit support from business and industry and seek their endorsement of the Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth assessment.

**CTE FACT:** Nationally recognized industry credentials, state licensures, or certifications were earned by more than 29,000 Virginia CTE students during the 2009–2010 school year. The 2006 report by *Business 2 Business* states that by 2020 there will be a shortfall of approximately 14 million skilled workers.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Support and communicate with your constituents the crucial, economic need for a highly skilled, sustainable workforce, and explain how secondary CTE programs create the foundation for the next generation of technology innovators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders in Virginia’s rural, suburban, and urban communities.

**CTE FACT:** Virginia’s CTE programs provide multiple avenues for students to earn credentials, continue their education after high school, and document their skills for employers. More than 73 percent of CTE secondary completers enrolled in postsecondary education and advanced training during the 2009–2010 school year.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Endorse and encourage expansion of CTE credentialing for students, and provide funding to assist with the cost of assessments.

**CTE FACT:** The current Virginia Standards of Quality state “...Career and technical education programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist” (Code of Virginia 22.1-253.13:1B).

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Take this one step further – require that performance on CTE credential exams be included in the Standards of Accreditation.

**CTE FACT:** Governor's Career and Technical Academies in Virginia are programs designed to expand options for students to acquire STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) literacy and other critical skills, knowledge, and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage, and high-skill careers in Virginia. Governor's Career and Technical Academies can be viewed as the practical complement to Governor's Schools. All programs include opportunities for internships, job shadowing, mentorships, projects, and/or service learning.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Enhance support by promoting the expansion of the Academies, celebrating their achievements, and encouraging additional school divisions to submit proposals for new Academies.

**CTE FACT:** For many years, CTE has ranked in the top ten listing for teacher shortages in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Education's data analysis shows that Career and Technical Education ranks fourth in 2011–2012 List of Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Encourage four-year colleges and universities to recruit and offer teacher education programs. Propose that the VCCS develop and adopt a teacher training transfer module, which will provide students a smooth, automatic transition from community college to a four-year institution where they can complete their teacher education program requirements.

### **Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education**

#### **Affiliated Associations**

Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators  
Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators  
Virginia Association of Marketing Educators  
Virginia Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences  
Virginia Association of Trade and Industrial Education  
Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education - Special Needs Division  
Virginia Business Education Association  
Virginia Health and Medical Sciences Education Association  
Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association

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