February 25 is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month,® an annual public awareness campaign to acknowledge the accomplishments of CTE programs and their impact on students, businesses, and communities. It is sponsored by the American Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), which developed CTE Month, with more than 20,000 members, ACTE is the leading voice of CTE, with a focus on education and workforce development policies and practices. ACTE is also a vital partner of the Education Data Warehouse (EDW), a network of high school graduation and postsecondary education. This year’s CTE Month includes activities and events for all stakeholders and for the general public.

To celebrate CTE Month, ACTE will release a new report titled “New reports examine trends and equity in high school CTE.” This report examines the state of CTE in high school, including recent trends and equity considerations. It also includes insights from data-driven research, best practices, and successful examples from around the country. The report will be available for free on the ACTE website and will be shared widely through social media and other channels.

Join ACTE for “Celebrating CTE Month with ACTE’s 26 Days of CTE!” This initiative will feature a series of webinars and articles highlighting the impact of CTE on students, businesses, and communities. Each day, ACTE will feature a different topic, such as equity in CTE, workforce development, and student success. These resources will be shared through ACTE’s social media channels and will also be available on the ACTE website.

In addition to the CTE Month activities, ACTE will also release a new infographic summarizing the findings of a recent study on the impact of CTE on student outcomes. The study found that CTE programs were associated with higher rates of high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment, as well as improved labor market outcomes. This research highlights the importance of CTE programs in preparing students for success in the workplace.

For more information about CTE Month and ACTE’s activities, visit the ACTE website or follow ACTE on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Learning from the past: The evolution of vocational education

In this Q&A, MDRC’s Center for Effective CTE speaks with a historian of vocational education about how the field has evolved over the past to build equitable CTE programs for today.

Two new reports from the Career & Technical Education Policy Exchange examine workforce and equity in CTE high school programs. These reports include state-level data on CTE participation and equity in states like Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

RESOURCES

High School Students and Career and Technical Education

This national study conducted by the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Appalachia examines the relationship between student participation in CTE and high school graduation. The study found that students who participated in CTE had higher rates of high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment. This study highlights the importance of CTE programs in preparing students for success in the workplace.

Spotlight on CTE

Join our conference session to learn about our series of free, self-guided training modules designed to help CTE practitioners and state department of education staff strengthen their capacities to access, understand, conduct, and use CTE research and data. These modules will cover topics such as collecting and analyzing data, understanding research methodologies, and applying research findings to practice.

Events

February 28: Practitioner Training Modules: Understanding and Using CTE Data
March 21-23: ACTE's National Policy Seminar
March 23: Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Conference
April 23: New Evidence on the Effectiveness of Career and Technical Education

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For more information about CTE data and research, visit the Career and Technical Education Research Network website or contact the lead of the CTE Research Network.