



CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

April 2024

Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

Melissa Hobbs: Utah April 2024 CTE Teacher of the Month

We are pleased to announce that Melissa Hobbs, Fashion Merchandising, and Interior Design teacher at Northridge High School in Davis School District, has been selected as the April 2024 CTE Teacher of the Month. “Melissa’s dedication to integrating industry-level software into her curriculum and equipping her students with real-world skills sets her apart as an exemplary educator,” said Lola Evans, Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education.

BACKGROUND: Melissa was always interested in becoming a teacher. She wanted to share her passions with others and knew teaching would be the best way to do that. In high school, her math teacher, Mrs. Grose, and her FACS teacher, Ms. Thurgood, inspired Melissa to become a teacher.

EDUCATION: Melissa received her Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences Education from Brigham Young University-Idaho.

TEACHER: Melissa consistently goes above and beyond to create meaningful learning experiences for her students. Her innovative teaching methods and dedication to student success truly sets her apart, positively impacting the lives of the students she teaches.

CLASSROOM: Melissa uses industry-level software to teach students the elements of sketching and computer-aided design (CAD) drawing techniques to create unique designs. The knowledge and skills students learn from this experiential learning prepares them to enter the workforce with experience and confidence. Melissa’s classroom is a positive and enriching learning environment that fosters growth, creativity, and success. It’s a place where students feel empowered to explore, create, and excel.

STUDENT SUCCESS: Melissa has had many students who have pursued a career in fashion design and interior design because of what they learned and experienced in her classes. Melissa instills in her students the importance of lifelong learning and adaptability in today’s ever-changing workforce.



Advice to Students: Utah high school seniors were asked, “What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school?”

Janet: Future Nurse

“As long as I can remember I knew I wanted to become a doctor or a nurse. Once I entered high school, my counselor, to whom I am extremely grateful, introduced me to the health science CTE courses. I am proud to say that I am now a Certified Nursing Assistant.

“Take as many CTE courses during high school as humanly possible. They are very educational and give you a ton of exposure. You will learn so much from these classes and they encourage you to think. Is this what I want to be learning? Do I find any interest in this at all? With the CTE classes available at my high school discerning what I want to do has been much easier. CTE courses are a great way for high school students to explore their interests and gain practical skills that are valuable in the workforce. Talk to your school counselor, or a CTE teacher, to learn about a CTE course and if it can fit into your schedule. Keep an open mind and know that it is okay to make mistakes. Be willing to learn from your mistakes. Use these moments and mistakes as learning opportunities.”



Audrey George: New State Program Specialist



We are pleased to announce that Audrey George has joined our team as the program specialist overseeing the CTE Skill Certification program.

“I grew up in Northern California and moved to Utah after serving a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Portugal and Cabo Verde, West Africa. I graduated from Utah State University in history and taught history at a small private school in Murray for five years. I had a great time there and enjoyed working with at-risk youth. I then transitioned into corrections working for Juvenile Justice Services at their Observation and Assessment unit. From there I moved into Juvenile Probation. I worked as a PO from 2007 to 2022. In the middle of that I moved to the Administrative Office of the Courts where I worked as a Program Coordinator from 2017 to 2020. In that job I had many interesting opportunities to grow and experience things outside of the box. I produced a short film, organized statewide events, and introduced new assessment practices to the Juvenile Court. In 2022 I took a year off to volunteer in Africa. It was an amazing experience and a dream come true. Some things that I love...snakes, being on safari, chocolate, and Dr. Pepper. I am excited to start a new path with the Utah State Board of Education and look forward to getting to know everyone.”

Calendar:

April 4: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

April 11: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

[Utah CTE Calendar](#) | [ACTE Calendar](#)

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.