



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

May 2023

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.

National Teacher Appreciation Day/Week: #ThankATeacher

May 2 is National Teacher Appreciation Day and May 8-12 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Utah CTE gives a shout-out to teachers throughout the state for their commitment to the success of each student. Every day teachers make a positive difference in the lives of students as they support and develop 21st century learners through their dedication, creativity, and innovation. Read what nine high school seniors say about the teacher who influenced their career decision.

Brooke Bodily: Future Chef



"I have an incredible teacher who has been very influential in my career choice. His name is Chef KC Gray. He is the culinary instructor at Murray High School. He has helped me to push myself. Chef Gray purposefully gives me new recipes and techniques to try so I can learn more. He gives me advice on how I can improve my skills. Chef Gray not only helps me in my education but helps me with my personal life. He truly cares about each and every student. He has helped to brighten my day, been someone to talk to, and helped me to create a plan after high school. Chef Gray helped me to see my love of food. He showed me just how capable I am when it comes to culinary arts."

Asher Luke: Future Precision Machinist

"The teacher who has influenced my career choice the most is Cody Burdett. He has led a class that has a safe work environment while allowing freedom for ideas to come to life through the projects you build. Your own spin and creativity can change the set of projects uniquely, and as you get into higher classes you are able to create your own projects from the skills you have been taught through the prerequisite courses. Mr. Burdett's way of teaching has created a great fondness for woodworking so that I want to continue it throughout my life."



Natalia Atkinson: Future Nurse



“While taking medical anatomy and physiology, I had a teacher named Mrs. Abbott who was very influential in my career choice. She was a registered nurse before she was a teacher. She taught me that with a degree in nursing there are so many opportunities and there are so many specialties one can pursue. You can become a teacher or even an educational speaker at conferences. There is always room for expansion in this career. Mrs. Abbott was always very helpful with any questions I had, but she also shared so many stories that continue to inspire me to pursue this career. The stories she told of helping people and the way she describes the ability to help others is something that stays with me and reminds me why I want to pursue nursing.”

Zachary Gray: Future Graphic Designer

“Ms. Powell was my first design teacher and then Mr. Boss really drove it home for me. They taught me how to use Adobe software like Illustrator and Photoshop. They are fun and amazing teachers to work with. They saw I had skills in this field and helped me improve and build off of the skills I already had. I absolutely love to draw, and they showed me how adding the software to my art improved it. I am very thankful they taught me how to transform my art into something cool and understand how to use it to do a job I would enjoy and make money doing it.”



Halee Nielson: Future Digital Marketer



“My teacher Mr. Fuller has helped me accomplish all of the projects and goals I have set since my freshman year. He has helped push me to become the best I can be and has encouraged me to take the next step and go to a tech school. I have always been interested in different digital media and design but never thought I could be the one to create it. These classes have given me a whole new perspective of what I am capable of. During my senior year, Mr. Fuller trusted me with the responsibility of helping the class with what they were learning so I could really master the skills I had learned. He let me learn how to print apparel in the print lab and as a TA I eventually helped train other students on the machinery.”

Alejandro Tolayo: Future Construction Manager

“The person who influenced [my career choice] was Mr. Drury. He is the best construction/woodworking teacher I have ever had. He has given me knowledge that colleges and universities could give me. When I first started building a house, Mr. Drury helped me to understand what to do. I have always loved working with my hands and being in this program has increased my passion for carpentry and woodworking. I just love stepping back and looking at my work. That is the most satisfying thing I have ever experienced.”



#ThankATeacher

Hadlee Taylor: Future Agricultural Economist



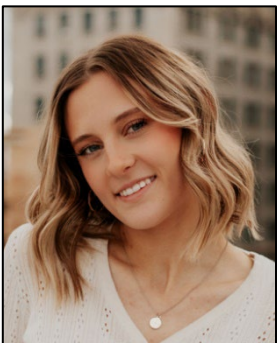
“Jessica Grundy was my teacher for more than half of my CTE classes and she is the reason I got so involved in agriculture. She is a great teacher. She has the most creative ways of teaching animal science and she makes it so easy to learn. She truly cares about each and every one of her students. Every student has a great connection with her and she would help any of us with anything. Ms. Grundy is a very well rounded person in agriculture and she is the reason why I decided to expand my learning and get out of my comfort zone by taking welding and small engine classes. She boosted my confidence and made me feel like I could do it. I thank her every day for pushing me to do so. Because of Ms. Grundy I have found a love and talent for many things I would have never seen myself doing.”

Jaren Woodbury: Future Software Developer

“Mr. Barker has been teaching my CTE computer classes since ninth grade. From Web development to advanced Python, I have learned so much about programming from him. He has set up the perfect environment for me to explore the subjects at my own pace. He gave me opportunities to learn at a higher level and faster pace than I would have in a traditional class. He also gave me the opportunity to help teach and mentor my peers. Mr. Barker has been very dedicated to helping me every time I’ve gone to him with a problem.”



Raelei Beach: Future Elementary Teacher



“Mrs. Backus has been such an influential teacher. She has taught me everything I know about early childhood education. I joined Educators Rising because of her influence. She is kind and treats all of her students with care. I feel safe and comfortable in her classroom. Mrs. Backus is very creative and original and shares that creativity with her class. I think she does a great job of making her students feel seen. She is good at getting everyone involved. Mrs. Backus has done a lot for me. She encourages me to participate and get out of my comfort zone, such as competing in Educators Rising. One time during class, she arranged for a panel of teachers to come and talk about their teaching journey. It was nice to hear what the teachers had to say, how college was for them, and their favorite and least favorite things about teaching. I am grateful for the opportunities Mrs. Backus has given me.”

Calendar:

May 4: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

May 11: [Utah State Board of Education 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.

Utah State Board of Education | Career and Technical Education
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