



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

May 2026

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 Week/Day

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8, and Teacher Appreciation Day is May 5. As we celebrate teachers across the state, we thank each teacher for their dedication to the teaching profession and for the positive impact they have on students. During the month of May, we encourage you to spotlight the remarkable educators in your schools who go above and beyond for their students.

#ThankATeacher

CTE students thank teachers who have inspired and encouraged them in their career choice.

Ainslee: Future Welder

“Jason Bingham, who teaches welding at Box Elder High School, has truly made a big impact on me. He is an excellent teacher who inspired me to pursue a career in welding. As a teacher, he has been very supportive about my pathway to becoming a welder and helped me as much as he can to reach my goal.”

Anna: Future Fashion Designer

“I was in 9th grade when I started to realize I wanted to complete the Fashion Apparel and Textiles Pathway. The teacher who helped me on my journey was Mrs. Ostler. She was such an amazing teacher. Her love for sewing and child development was obvious. It is because of her classes that I realized I wanted to become a fashion designer.”

Kendra: Future Phlebotomist

“Deveny Pace is an educator who was especially influential in my career choice. She is a great teacher and helped me discover phlebotomy and how it would be a good career choice for me.”

Taylor: Future Elementary School Teacher

“My career choice was greatly influenced by many educators in my life, but the one who had the biggest impact was my second-grade teacher. I’ve always had a love for teaching and helping others, and she truly recognized that in me. I’ve always believed that teaching is a way of giving others the tools to grow and achieve, and my second-grade teacher saw that spark in me.”

Thaddeus: Future Engineer

“Christopher Davidson not only taught me engineering and mechanical concepts through his classes, but he also taught me team building and professional skills that I use daily.”

Zachary: Future Machinist

“Mr. Jensen had the biggest impact on my career choice. He encouraged my study of the machining field, guided my future education, answered my questions, and encouraged me to compete in competitions that I felt unprepared for. He was always there ready to help, offer advice, and guide me as I worked through my questions to come to the correct conclusion.



Ryan Rarick: ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Ryan Raick of Washington School District who won ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year.

BACKGROUND: Over his career, Ryan has taught 7th grade ELA, high school English, ECE, Teaching as a Profession, and a range of CE courses (English 1010, English 2010, Humanities, Literature, Education 1010, and Education 2500). He also serves as the State Communications Director for Educators Rising Utah and co-hosts the Teacher Fellows Podcast, amplifying teacher voices statewide. His work as an instructional coach focuses on supporting early year teachers through evidence-based practices, high-quality instruction, and collective teacher efficacy. His commitment is also reflected in his PhD work through Utah State University where he is studying Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on instructional coaching and teacher self-efficacy.

CAREER: Ryan Rarick is a teacher, instructional coach, CTSO advisor, and program designer who dedicates his career to strengthening Utah's teacher pipeline and elevating the quality of CTE instruction. A high school English teacher turned administrator turned CTE Education Pathway instructor and Learning Coach at Career Tech High in Washington County, Ryan supports early-career and pre-service educators through innovative work-based learning initiatives connecting students to meaningful careers in education.



STUDENT SUCCESS: Ryan, with support of school and district leadership (as well as his Education colleague Ana Victoria Madrigal), built a comprehensive Education Pathway pipeline model that begins with Early Childhood Education and Teaching as a Profession coursework. Students in their sophomore and junior year work in the on-site preschool, gaining hands-on instructional experience. As seniors, they are hired through a first-of-its-kind program in Utah to work as paid paraprofessionals in local elementary schools while simultaneously earning high-school credit. Those who remain employed after graduation qualify for the Grow Your Own Grant, providing significant financial assistance toward college tuition. These students transition into the district's SEE Program, through Utah Tech University, which hires pre-service teachers to work in schools before placing them as student-teachers. By college graduation, these students will accumulate two years of preschool experience, up to four years as paraprofessionals, and complete their student teaching, entering the profession with unmatched classroom experience and a robust professional network.



PROFESSIONAL GOALS: Ryan's professional goals center on expanding Utah's work-based learning opportunities, strengthening educator recruitment, eliminating teacher shortages, and building sustainable systems that inspire future teachers.

@UtahCTE Social Media Highlights

- Partnering with Guide Dogs of America and Tender Loving Canines, students in Nebo School District raise puppies and train them as service dogs <https://tinyurl.com/8jtrijux>.
- The Utah State Board of Education selects YouScience to deliver statewide college and career readiness platform <https://tinyurl.com/2ee5xh9m>.
- Utah to launch statewide career-planning platform <https://tinyurl.com/yc3jxwhb>.
- Weber School District celebrates CTE accomplishments <https://tinyurl.com/tcn38h3v>.
- Congratulations to Jessica Knotts, of Maple Mountain High School, who has been named National FCCLA Mentor Adviser of the Year for the state of Utah <https://tinyurl.com/3ze9n9cn>.

Calendar:

May 7: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

May 14: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 10008 Creek Run Way – Sandy, 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.

This newsletter will not be published in June, July, and August. In September, this newsletter will return highlighting resources to assist you in promoting your CTE programs. Have a great summer! Stay safe.

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