



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

October 2025

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.

Utah Durable Skills

In today's rapidly evolving job market technical skills alone are often not enough. Employers consistently emphasize the need for graduates who can lead teams, solve complex problems, communicate effectively, and adapt to new technologies and work environments. Utah CTE wants to ensure that students are not only technically proficient but also possess the invaluable durable skills that will set them apart from their competition in the workforce.

Each month in this newsletter, Utah CTE will share a durable skill with practical ideas about how they can be taught in the classroom and their importance. This month we highlight the adaptability skill.

Adaptability is a crucial skill. The ability to recover from setbacks, adapt to stressors, and persevere is vital for our students' success in a rapidly changing workforce. Your leadership is essential in helping your teachers effectively integrate adaptability into their CTE programs. To support their success, we encourage you to:

- **Champion the "Why":** Reinforce to your teachers why adaptability is critical for student employability and career longevity.
- **Share Practical Ideas:** Provide opportunities for teachers to explore and discuss the practical classroom strategies we'll be sharing (e.g., scenario-based learning, "pivot" projects, troubleshooting).
- **Foster a Growth Mindset:** Encourage a school or program culture where learning from challenges and continuous improvement are valued. Encourage integration between classroom teachers and WBL coordinators.
- **Identify Support Needs:** Gather feedback from your teachers on what professional development or resources they need to confidently teach and measure adaptability.
- **Advisory Boards:** Showcase the six Utah Durable Skills in your next advisory board meeting. Ask your industry professionals how adaptability is a useful skill in their industry, and ask for examples of how they have used adaptability in the past week/day? In what ways would industry partners want students to exhibit adaptability based on industry practices/standards?



Advice to Students

Utah high school seniors were asked, “What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school? Cole gives this advice.

Cole: Future Automotive Technician



“I would highly recommend taking CTE courses while in high school. I have had many great experiences and am so thankful for the relationships and the knowledge I have gained. CTE courses give you the chance to gain real-world skills that you can carry with you beyond the classroom. The experience of learning by doing is incredibly rewarding.

“The CTE program creates a sense of community. You’re not just learning skills, you’re building relationships with your peers and instructors, all while preparing yourself for a successful career. So, if you’re looking to gain valuable skills, have fun while doing it, and work with some of the best educators around, take CTE classes. What makes CTE courses stand out is the amazing teachers. They’re not just instructors; they’re mentors who genuinely care about your success. These teachers bring years of experience to the classroom, and they know how to make even the most complex concepts easy to grasp. They understand the importance of hands-on learning and are always there to guide you through challenges, offering advice and encouragement every step of the way.”

New State Education Specialist

We are pleased to announce that Tomas Villegas has joined our team. Tomas brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in education to the state Utah CTE team.

Tomas Villegas – Postsecondary Perkins Education Specialist

Tomas brings a wealth of experience working with both degree-granting and technical colleges here in Utah. He’s deeply committed to making a positive impact on postsecondary education and is well-versed in a wide range of CTE programs. His thoughtful approach to program development and his experience with aligning curriculum with labor market needs will be a tremendous asset to Utah CTE.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree from Utah State University, Tomas began his career in higher education, where he gained extensive experience in human resources, training management, and curricula development. Over his career, he has received multiple awards for his contributions to organizational development and educational innovation.

Beyond his qualifications, Tomas is someone who truly connects with people. He’s a strong communicator, a collaborative partner, and someone who brings both seriousness and heart to the work. In his own words, he’s “really excited to do some meaningful and impactful things in the world of CTE.”



@UtahCTE Social Media Highlights

- Save the Date: On October 9, 2025, Evergreen Junior High will host their annual STEM Night. There will be interactive STEM booths, a drone light show, and food trucks. The event is free and will be held at Evergreen Junior High—3401 South 2000 East, Millcreek, UT—from 6:00-8:30 PM.
- Nearly 1 in 4 Utah students were chronically absent during the 2024 school year. Has your school joined the Utah State Board of Education Statewide Attendance Challenge? Help build a culture where every day counts. Learn more about the challenge at <https://tinyurl.com/bddu9h9j>.
- The NASA TechRise Student Challenge is open for entries. The challenge is for students to design an experiment to test on a suborbital flight. Winning teams will be awarded \$1,500 to build their experiment. Pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/4nfxpe8r>. Proposals are due by November 3, 2025.
- Jordan School District CTE celebrates careers in agriculture highlighting different career opportunities that extend beyond working with animals <https://tinyurl.com/2j8pyjx7>.

Calendar:

October 2: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

October 9: [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.

