



CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

May 2021

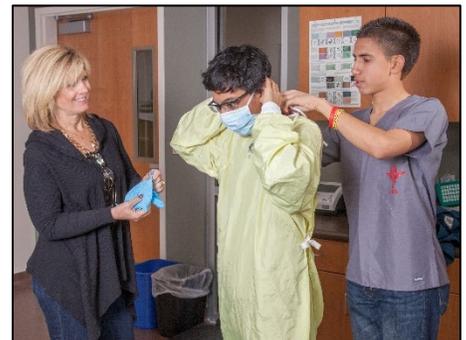
Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

Teacher Appreciation Week: #ThankATeacher

A Message from Thalea Longhurst, State Director of Career and Technical Education

May 3-7 is Teacher Appreciation Week and Tuesday, May 4 is National Teacher Day. The Utah State Board of Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) department recognizes Teacher Appreciation Week with gratitude and respect for Utah's educators.

Now, more than ever, we are grateful for the efforts of every CTE teacher in Utah. Your dedication to your students during another difficult school year is appreciated. You continue, every day, to inspire students to strive to do their best and to be their best. You have modeled the expectation that they can do difficult things during an unusual school year. We know the school year has been hard on you professionally as well as on your families and in your personal lives. We hear about your incredible efforts, innovations, and new practices as you encourage and teach your students while keeping them safe. You are creating new systems and practices that will continue to provide benefits in the future as education shifts because of the good things we have learned during the pandemic. Your flexibility in moving to virtual activities and events is also appreciated.



We will continue our efforts to support you and provide your districts and schools with the resources you need to continue to provide high quality CTE to Utah's students. We extend our appreciation to each of you. Thank you for all you do!

Shawn Allen: Future Software Engineer



"I cannot express enough gratitude for Mr. White, my computer teacher. He has been a mentor to me in my advancement in computer science. When I was in his class, I realized for the first time that this was what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be a software engineer! Mr. White made his classroom a fun learning environment; one where skills were enhanced and where those who were ahead could help those who were not. Mr. White put a lot of responsibility on our shoulders. In certain scenarios he expected us to learn on our own like they do in industry. This taught me how to learn on my own and helped me develop the skills and resources to teach myself, while he still provided help when we needed it."

Sayde Swenson: Future Elementary Education Teacher

“The teacher who has inspired me the most to pursue an elementary education degree is my kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Holt. Throughout my school years, I have always looked back on Mrs. Holt amazed at all the things she was able to teach me in one year. In seventh grade, when I realized I wanted to be an elementary school teacher I thought of Mrs. Holt and admired her. I wanted to be just like her. In high school, I started taking classes to help me to learn about my future career choice. As I took these classes and learned about how hard teaching can be, and the tools needed for it, my appreciation for her grew. This year, I have had the amazing opportunity to intern in her class and I have gained enormous amounts of knowledge from her, about teaching and about her career. I hope to one day teach like Mrs. Holt and to make an impact on my student’s lives, just like she has done for me.”



Ivan Sheffer: Future Nurse



“Mrs. Fletcher was my anatomy and physiology teacher. She made the class super interactive and enjoyable. She sparked my interest in the different fields of health science. I loved attending her classes every day, because of all the wonderful opportunities to learn and expand my knowledge. She included countless activities of hands-on learning that allowed the class to interact and learn at a much deeper level. She has become a very good friend of mine. With her prompting and guidance, I have chosen to immerse myself in the medical world. I will be forever grateful for her and the things she has taught me.”

Ryen Hansbrow: Future Secondary Teacher

“The photography teacher at my high school, Mr. Isley, taught me that you can often combine things that you’re passionate about into one career. I had been struggling with what future path I wanted to take because I wanted to be a photographer as well as a teacher. I then looked at how passionate Mr. Isley was about photography, as well as teaching, and realized I wouldn’t have to choose. There was a way I could combine both paths I wanted to take. In class, by showing pictures of the places he’s been and the adventures he’s gone on, he really sparked something in me that I wanted to try out photography. His passion for photography developed into a passion of my own. I am inspired to be a Mr. Isley to other students, encouraging them to find something that they’re passionate about and turn it into a career reality.”



[What is your CTE story?](#)

Ambry Smith: Future Cosmetologist

“Both my cosmetology teachers, Kim Deherrera and Suzette Clarke, were very influential in my career choice. They helped me express my creativeness in a way I can make a career for myself. I have learned so much from their stories of their experience they had when they were my age while learning how to perfect their craft in cosmetology school. They have shown me many techniques and skills they have learned over years of practice and being in this industry. I also was greatly influence by my CAD teacher, Cody Valdez, so much so that it almost made me want to pursue a career in CAD mechanical design. He always made the class fun and interesting, while keeping it very educational.”



Wells Thompson: Future Electrician



“Mr. Tyrell Stephens was very influential in my career choice simply because he was the one who introduced me to the electrician trade. He did a good job at teaching us the different components of wiring and supplying power to a specific object. When he learned that I was very interested in electrical work, along with a few other kids, he extended the unit and made a game out of the assignments. This was really fun and useful, because I improved on wiring and gained experience with wiring lights and switches as well as outlets. He figured out what the students wanted and went further by giving us more time with the unit and making a game out of it. After this class ended, Mr. Stephens has continued to help me with my future by referring me to some of his friends who are electricians and giving me some information on good places to be employed. I am very thankful for his part in my decision to pursue a career as an electrician and the work he put into the class.”

Haley Bryant: Future Physician Assistant

“One instructor who was influential in my career choice was my introduction to physical therapy and exercise science/sports medicine teacher, Mr. Giove. From the start, he was always the teacher to give out advice and teach his students about how to become the best we could be. As he would teach, he would always find a way to incorporate the lesson we were learning and apply it to our future lives. Because of his wisdom, I was able to learn from him and take his advice on what career and life choices would be the most beneficial to me. As an aspiring health sciences student, Mr. Giove helped me choose my future plan by providing me with the resources needed to get a professional job and giving me knowledge of what I know in introduction to physical therapy and exercise science/sports medicine. If it weren't for Mr. Giove, and his CTE class, I wouldn't have a clue as to what my future would look like. My gratitude goes out to him.”



Calendar:

May 6: [Utah State Charter School Board](#) Meeting – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

May 13: [Utah State Board of Education](#) Meeting – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

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



The [CTE Directions](#) newsletter will be on hiatus during June, July, and August. The newsletter will return in September with resources to assist you in promoting your CTE programs. Have a great summer! Stay safe. Stay healthy.

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