

What Colorado Leaders

Are Saying About

Career and Technical Education

“Since becoming Governor, I have made education policy one of the highest priorities of my administration, as I believe strongly that the development of a highly educated workforce is a fundamental element of the expansion and vigor of the state’s economy. Critical to this relationship is Career and Technical Education (CTE).”

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor, State of Colorado

“Today’s Career and Technical Education is not your mother’s old manual labor vocational education track. CTE careers that used to require little education have now evolved into very technical professions that require mastery of higher level skills and the capacity for critical thinking and problem solving. Salaries for CTE careers compare favorably with many 4-year college degree professions, giving students greater choice and options in choosing a career path. We, therefore, must make sure that students graduate from high school prepared for whatever post secondary career they choose.”

Sue Windels
Chairman, Senate Education Committee

“Having served as the Chief Academic Officer of the Department of Higher Education, I firmly believe that, if we are going to realize Governor Ritter’s goal of doubling the number of postsecondary degrees and certificates earned by our students then we have to get serious about encouraging and expanding innovative policies and programs, like those in CTE.”

Matt Gianneschi
Senior Policy Analyst for Education

“As a state we need to train our own residents to provide the workforce needs for our state. We shouldn’t be importing people to take good paying Colorado jobs. Career and Technical Education is that training ground.”

Jim Isgar
Colorado State Senator

“Career and technical education plays a vital role in allowing students to learn, apply their skills, and become productive members in society. This is an essential option for students today.”

Nancy Todd
Colorado State Representative

“The Colorado workforce will have to be better educated and more technically competent than ever if we’re going to have the quality of life we want for the state and our families. Career and technical education is an absolutely essential part of the overall educational strategy for the state to meet its goals.”

David E. Skaggs, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Higher Education

“Contrary to what many may view as the old vocational track, today’s career and technical programs are increasingly complex and challenge all students at the highest level, no matter what they are planning after high school. In an increasingly global economy where knowledge is the new currency, CTE lays a foundation for one of the most concrete pathways toward post-secondary learning and access to rewarding jobs.”

Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education

“In my view, we must depart from our 1950’s education system and move to one that can better prepare students for the future workforce, citizenship and self-fulfillment. Career Technical Education can help us meet the challenge of competing in the new world economy and of preparing students for success in their futures.”

Jane W. Urschel
Associate Executive Director
Colorado Association of School Boards

“The Colorado economy is a knowledge-based economy. This means “knowledge” along the continuum of educational choices. As we watch a host of companies seeking not just four year college graduates but technically trained and capable workers, our attention to career and technical education must increase. A seamless pipeline of workers, with multiple educational options, will keep Colorado competitive in this new technological era.”

Tom Clark
Executive Vice President,
Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

“Career and technical education is a critical component of Cherry Creek Schools’ efforts to prepare all students for post-secondary success.

Having the opportunity to explore and gain experience in a variety of career and technical fields gives our students an advantage when it comes to applying for jobs or pursuing higher education in their chosen field.”

Dr. Monte Moses
Superintendent
Cherry Creek Public Schools

“The key to a successful and productive society demands an educated workforce. Because we have moved to a global economy, our students no longer compete for jobs only with others in the United States but with students all over the world. Career and Technical Education programs are preparing students to compete in a 21st Century global marketplace.”

John Barry
Superintendent
Aurora Public Schools

“CTE imparts important academic, technical and workplace behavior skills that are valued by employers and that highlight the relevance of school to students.”

Scott Wylie
President & Chief Executive
First Western Bank & Trust

“Career Technical Education is the “gold standard” for 21st Century Learning and Success. As we develop an economy increasingly rooted in “gold-collar” careers, Career Technical Education engages students in the meaning of learning and starts them - very practically - on their individual pathways to success.”

Gully Stanford
Director
College In Colorado

“Unlike vocational education of years past, CTE classes require students to work with their heads as well as their hands. The goal is to prepare students who have a choice of either attending college or entering the workforce after high school so that they will be able to maximize their potential under either scenario.”

Tim Taylor
President, Colorado Succeeds

And, a final thought from California:

“I love career tech, love it!”

Arnold Schwarzenegger
2007 State of the State Speech
Governor, State of California