

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Joint Budget Committee, House Education Committee,  
and Senate Education Committee

From: Nancy McCallin, President, Colorado Community College System

Date: February 23, 2012

Re: 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Career Technical Act (CTA) Report for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

This report contains accountability information concerning career and technical education (CTE) in the public schools districts of Colorado for the 2010-11 year. CCCS respectfully submits this report to the Joint Budget Committee and House and Senate Education Committees in compliance with the State Career Technical Act of 2008 (formerly the Colorado Vocational Act of 1970).

The CTE programs offered through Colorado's high schools are an important part of the comprehensive delivery system of CTE in the state. These programs are fundamental to the economic vitality and future development of local communities and the State of Colorado. CTE has strong ties to the community and business and industry. More than 5,000 community and business leaders serve on advisory committees and councils supporting CTE programs.

The general assembly provided \$23,584,498 to assist 155 school districts in funding over 1,200 secondary CTE programs that were reported from the 2010-2011 school year. Statewide, there were just over 112,445 total secondary CTE student enrollments (89,145 individual secondary CTE students) in 159 public school districts, one charter district, four special schools, eight technical centers, five community colleges, one four-year college, and three area technical colleges.

**Students Served:** Of the 112,445 total secondary CTE enrollments, 30% were identified as economically disadvantaged and 12% as disabled. Minority students represented 38% of total CTE students. More than 25,021 students master leadership & workforce readiness skills through participation in nine CTE student organizations as state affiliated members. Thirty-seven percent of the total 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade secondary students in Colorado were enrolled in at least one CTE program in 2010-11. The information above is based on duplicated headcount data. The unduplicated headcount within a career cluster is listed in Exhibit 1.

**Job Placement:** In 2010-11, there were 52,301 total CTE program completions (45,824 individual CTE students). Of the 2008-09 program completers who were seeking employment and who schools were able to contact, 82% of those seeking jobs had obtained employment within a year following program completion. The information above is based on duplicated headcount within a career cluster. The unduplicated headcount data is listed in Exhibit 1.

**Colorado's Investment in CTE:** Over the last 30 years, appropriations for the Career Technical Act have dropped proportionately to the dramatic increase of the actual cost of CTE programs. In 1971-72, the General Assembly provided just over 58 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs (Actual cost: \$11.16 million, state funding: \$6.5 million). In 2010-11, the General Assembly provided 28 percent of the actual cost of CTE programs. (Actual cost from FY11 reported expenses: \$83 million, state funding: \$23.5 million).

**New for 2010-11:** For the first time in 2010-11, districts had the opportunity to claim costs and FTE for middle school approved CTE programs.

CCCS completed design plans on a new online CTA data collection website for secondary districts to begin using in fiscal year 2011-12. This new website will help streamline the CTA reporting process for districts and CCCS.

**Colorado Career Clusters & Pathways:** With the passage of the reauthorization of the federal Perkins Act in 2006, Colorado updated its CTE program areas to reflect the national movement toward Career Clusters and Career Pathways. Colorado grouped the Career Clusters into 6 Industry Sectors that reflect the unique economy of Colorado.

Colorado CTE is designed to help students, young and experienced, choose a career path, pick the learning needed, build the right skills and knowledge, and get into a great job in a field they will love. CTE programs are organized around 17 Career Clusters and 81 Career Pathways opening opportunities for all students to pursue their passion.

Additionally, CCCS approves special programs for at-risk students called Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) programs. And, a few CTE programs, called Multi-Occupational programs, are for small high schools that do not have sufficient enrollment to justify specialized CTE programs.

Exhibit 1 below depicts unduplicated secondary headcount data within each cluster. A student may count in multiple clusters because he/she takes a CTE course in various clusters in an academic year. Many students choose to take more than one CTE class each year and when all of the 2010-11 students are counted in each class, enrollment is at 112,445. When duplication across and within clusters is removed from the data, there were 89,145 individual secondary students enrolled.

After including administrative costs for districts, Colorado spent over \$80 million educating secondary students in CTE programs. This breaks down to an average cost per student FTE of \$8,576 for the 2010-11 year.<sup>1</sup> CTA funding helps to offset one quarter (\$23.5 million) of the cost of these important programs. This investment helps Colorado maintain high-quality career and technical education programs that produce workers who are ready for high-skill careers.

**Exhibit 1: Fiscal Year 2010-11 CTE Student Information**

| <b>2010-11 Colorado Career Clusters</b>            | <b>FY 2010-11 student enrollment (1)</b> | <b>FY 2010-11 student completion</b> | <b>FY 2009-10 students employed (2)</b> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Cluster      | 5368                                     | 3880                                 | 1233                                    |
| Architecture & Construction Cluster                | 6464                                     | 3168                                 | 677                                     |
| Arts, A/V Technology & Communication Cluster       | 6785                                     | 3555                                 | 707                                     |
| Education & Training Cluster                       | 285                                      | 252                                  | 119                                     |
| Energy Cluster                                     | 88                                       | 84                                   | 47                                      |
| Health Science Cluster                             | 1633                                     | 1303                                 | 445                                     |
| Hospitality & Tourism Cluster                      | 8505                                     | 3332                                 | 1192                                    |
| Human Services Cluster                             | 977                                      | 657                                  | 317                                     |
| Information Technology Cluster                     | 1162                                     | 705                                  | 148                                     |
| Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Cluster | 398                                      | 367                                  | 94                                      |
| Management & Administration Cluster                | 37328                                    | 16161                                | 4144                                    |
| Manufacturing Cluster                              | 5746                                     | 2344                                 | 568                                     |
| Marketing Cluster                                  | 9321                                     | 5553                                 | 2080                                    |
| Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Cluster        | 20199                                    | 6770                                 | 2828                                    |
| STEM Cluster                                       | 4031                                     | 2044                                 | 338                                     |
| Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics Cluster  | 2546                                     | 1820                                 | 718                                     |
| <b>Totals</b>                                      | <b>110,836</b>                           | <b>51,995</b>                        | <b>15,655</b>                           |

- (1) Counts are all unduplicated within each cluster, but a student could be enrolled in multiple clusters.  
 (2) Employed includes related to training, unrelated to training, and military service full or part time.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time equivalent (FTE) is one student attending six hours per day for 180 days.