

## Upcoming Events

- May 27 – CTE 101 Training, Sioux Falls
- June 1-3 – Architecture & Construction cluster standards revision, LATI
- June 8-9 – CTSO Officer Training, LATI
- June 8-18 CASE Course, SDSU
- June 15-17 – Education & Training cluster standards revision, SDSU
- June 15-17 – Information Technology cluster standards revision, STI
- July 27-28 – CTE Summer Conference, Watertown
- July 29 – CTE 101 Training, Watertown

For more events, visit [southdakota.gosignmeup.com](http://southdakota.gosignmeup.com).



# Career and Technical Education

## Should Be the Rule, Not the Exception – by Tim Hodges

It's hard to argue with the success of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, which teach transferable workplace skills and academic content in a hands-on context. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently characterized CTE programs as providing "instruction that is hands-on and engaging, as well as rigorous and relevant." He went on to say that CTE programs "are helping to connect students with the high-demand science, technology, engineering and math fields -- where so many good jobs are waiting." Furthermore, in recognizing CTE month on the House floor, Rep. James Langevin recently stated, "CTE is an investment in the future of our economy, our workforce and our country."

Despite these benefits of CTE, only about one in four students (28.6%) earned five or more CTE credits, according to the most recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Most students have some interaction with CTE during

their high school experience, but few are immersing themselves in CTE programs.

One reason why more students are not pursuing CTE programs is that critics characterize it as a track for students who are less likely to attend college. This line of thinking is detrimental to students, employers and the future of our country. Students should no longer need to decide between college readiness and career preparation -- it's possible and increasingly necessary to achieve both.

A recent Gallup-Lumina Poll found that when hiring, U.S. business leaders say candidates' knowledge and applied skills in a specific field are more important factors than where the candidate went to school or what their major was. To be successful in the workplace, college-bound students still need specific knowledge and skills, which they can get from CTE programs.

Additionally, the Gallup-Purdue Index

finds that college graduates who had an internship or job in college where they were able to apply what they were learning in the classroom, who were actively involved in extracurricular activities and organizations, and who worked on projects that took a semester or more to complete, doubled their odds of being engaged at work. Yet, just 6% of college graduates say they had all three of these experiences. These are exactly the types of experiences that CTE programs offer to students.

Critics may argue that enrolling in a CTE program may divert college-bound students' attention away from college preparation classes. However, a recent study found that 80% of students taking a college preparatory academic curriculum with rigorous CTE met the standard for college and career readiness, compared with 63% of students taking the same

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# CTE Teachers: We Want Your Feedback

This spring, DCTE is gathering feedback from educators and employers on the ways you would like to see the current standards revised. Are there standards you believe no longer apply to students? Or are there standards you think are important to keep? Now is your chance to let us know.

Please take a few minutes to complete the feedback survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTYLC93>.

Your feedback is important and will be used to help guide teacher work groups this summer as they revise the current standards in Architecture & Construction, Education & Training, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, and STEM. Foundational courses that help students explore careers and develop employability skills will also be revised

Following the revisions drafted by the workgroups, the standards will be presented to the State Board of Education in November and posted for public comment until the following May where they will be up for statewide adoption. During this public comment period, educators and employers can continue to make recommendations on how the standards should be revised to meet their needs. For more information, visit <http://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/>.

# Students Participate In **SKILLSUSA** State Leadership and Skills Conference

The South Dakota SkillsUSA Championships were held at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD on April 9-10. The conference showcased Career and Technical Education students where more than 200 outstanding students from schools across the state competed in hands-on contests in 42 different trade, technical, and leadership fields.

Students participated in a variety of competitions: automotive service, cabinetmaking, carpentry, health occupations areas, welding, welding fabrication, and more. At the state conference there were 137 medals presented to participants: 67 Gold, 40 Silver, and 30 Bronze.

During the competition, students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts. All contests were run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations. Test competencies are set by industry. In addition, leadership contestants demonstrated their skills, which included extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure. Contest descriptions can be found at <http://skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-descriptions/>

In addition to receiving gold, silver, and

bronze medallions, many students also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. First Place winners will have the opportunity to compete at the National Leadership and Skills Conference being held in Louisville, KY on June 22-26 this year.

Noah Hodak, General Service Manager from Sheehan Mack Sales and Equipment expressed the importance of student organizations such as SkillsUSA. "SkillsUSA is a great way for students perusing a Technical Education or Degree to showcase their professionalism, technical skills and passion for their field of study! Many industries have taken notice of the high level of knowledge and commitment that participants display with Skills USA making them very desirable hires."

The South Dakota SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA. The program is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations excel. SkillsUSA has more than 300,000 students and instructors as members.

For more information, visit [www.skillsusaSD.org](http://www.skillsusaSD.org)

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academic core without rigorous CTE. Further, while national graduation rates have inched up in recent years, students with a concentration in CTE are nearly 15 percentage points more likely to graduate high school than the national average. These data suggest that whether students take one CTE course or enroll in an entire CTE program, CTE should be a part of every student's education.

As a student, I was actively involved in a variety of CTE programs. While the experience I gained through livestock judging may not seem like it directly prepared me for my role at Gallup, I often rely upon skills such as:

- working long hours toward a goal
- building relationships with instructors both in and out of the classroom
- keeping accurate records & managing budgets

- fundraising to cover the cost of materials, registration fees and travel
- representing the school or state at contests
- the joy of winning and the agony of defeat
- being part of a team
- serving as a mentor and being mentored by others

Regardless of the actual content being taught, these experiences build the transferable skills that lead to success in college and career, while painting a realistic picture of the future students will face in the working world. CTE should not just play a prominent role for a few students; it should be the new normal in education.

Tim Hodges, Ph.D., is Director of Research for Gallup's Education Practice



# Postsecondary Connection

## Mitchell Technical Institute



In March, the McIntosh High School ProStart Culinary students were in disbelief at the idea of heading to California to compete in Nationals. But in April, that became a reality. The six students, their chef mentor and their teacher, LaKisha Jordan, competed along with 350 students in the National ProStart Invitational vying for over 1 million dollars in scholarship opportunities.

ProStart, like other CTE courses, is not like traditional classes offered in high school. The learning goes beyond the classroom and the student's growth is unmeasurable through hands-on learning. Throughout the year students learn about food safety and sanitation, knife skills, current culinary trends, and the McIntosh students even operate their own student-run restaurant/bakeshop called Varsity Muse. ProStart is about leadership as well as teamwork. Culinary team member Sierra Nix explains, "The program helped me become a leader and knowing when to step in. It also helped me find a voice when correcting people; I was always very shy about that before."

Students had to take a different approach to fundraising for the trip, students asked local ranchers to sponsor "Brand Their Chefs". Student embroidered ranch brands on patches and attach them to the sleeves of their competition chef coats. Mentor Chef James Jordan, "We thought this would be so South Dakota, it will definitely turn heads at Nationals." The students agreed, with other states sporting McDonalds or Sysco Foods, McIntosh

proudly showcased the homegrown feel of local ranches. "I would definitely recommend ProStart to the younger grades because it gives you so much self-confidence." Nix says confidently.

After high school, students can continue their interest in culinary arts through The Culinary Academy of South Dakota at Mitchell Technical Institute. The program provides traditional campus instruction with apprenticeship training in South Dakota communities including major convention centers and hotels.

Learning to cook in the MTI kitchens, students master the techniques of food preparation, sanitation and service in a large operation. Fulfilling all the positions in modern food service, students move easily from kitchen to front-of-house, learning as they work. The program provides daily food service to MTI students, staff and guests, short order service and elegant Oak Room dining in MTI's prestigious on-campus restaurant.

After two semesters on campus, students are prepared to enter the food service industry with a one-year diploma. Students also have the option of enrolling in a second year and completing an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. The two-year option will conclude with an internship experience. AAS graduates have experience in cooking, but equally important, are prepared for management positions in the food service industry.

### Career Cluster: Human Services

The Human Services cluster includes careers that improve quality of life and promote safe, healthy communities. Workers in human services better our lives by tending to our psychological, social and physical needs. If you are looking for a job relating to families and human needs, check out the careers in this cluster.

There are five different pathways in this cluster, including:

- Early Childhood Development & Services
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
- Family & Community Services
- Personal Care Services
- Consumer Services

Students considering a career in the Human Services cluster should take courses in:

- Nutrition & Wellness
- Business Management
- Human Development
- Skills for Parenting
- Psychology & Sociology

### Data Highlight:

#### Human Services

- In SD, marriage and family therapists make an average of \$38,499 per year.
- Currently there are 2,740 child care workers employed in SD.
- The starting salary of a funeral director in SD is \$40,500 to \$44,600 and there is a 13.3% demand for growth in the career from 2012-2022.

# 325 HOSA Members Attend State Leadership Conference; 66 Champions Crowned



South Dakota HOSA hosted its 3rd Annual HOSA State Leadership Conference on April 9-10 at the Sanford Pentagon. Lieutenant Governor Matt Michaels welcomed SD HOSA's bright-eyed, energetic constituents in the Opening Session of the 2015 South Dakota State Leadership Conference giving a simple message... "The first thing every successful person does in life is show up." He thanked them for their courage just to attend and try something new. He commented on his background as an EMT and then a nurse. He mentioned how caring for individuals is at the heart of what he aims to accomplish as a Lieutenant Governor of the people of South Dakota. He stressed to the students that no matter what career you land in, servant leadership are the leaders every employee, patient, and customer desires.

Students then competed in over 40 competitive events. The Public Service Announcement (PSA) event had teams create a 30-second PSA around "Concussion Awareness and Prevention."

Biomedical Debate involved the benefit and/or harm of e-cigarettes. The Researched Persuasive Speaking topics included "Childhood Vaccines: Parent Choice?" and "Should Children Play Contact Sports?" Presentation competitions ranged from projects involving Health Education, Health Career Display, Community Awareness, and Medical Innovation. Procedural-based competitions including Physical Therapy, Clinical Nursing, Veterinary Science, Nursing Assisting, and Biomedical Lab Science were judged by health care professionals.

Briana Gross said, "It was a great experience competing at the SD HOSA State Leadership Conference. The events are based on skills you might do someday in your healthcare job. For example the Nursing Assisting event you learn how to take vitals. It was also exciting to get to know and make connections with people across the states who are interested in going into the medical profession." On Thursday evening Avera Health hosted a Recognition Banquet at the T.

Denny Sanford Premier Center where a Nacho Bar was served. Paul TenHaken, CEO of ClickRain, was the keynote for the evening. Paul spoke about "wearable technology" and how technology is changing to include the "internet of things". He mentioned the development of flexible computer chips that would attach to the body to detect all vital signs as well as wearable drones that will have a multitude of functions.

Connor Hickman commented, "The SD HOSA SLC was an amazing opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of health-care as well as a perfect way to meet students from around the state also interested in the health sciences."

Qualifiers for HOSA Nationals have the opportunity to compete against peers from across the country. HOSA Nationals is June 24-27 in Anaheim, CA.

For more information regarding South Dakota HOSA-Future Health Professionals, please visit our website at [www.sdhos.org](http://www.sdhos.org) or contact the State Advisor Brock Rops at 605.357.1505 or email him at [Brock.Rops@usd.edu](mailto:Brock.Rops@usd.edu)

## In The News

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/3728549-mti-recognized-commitment-college-and-career-readiness>

<http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/girls-only-hacker-camp-gets-corporate-sponsorship/?id=179058>

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/3730376-mti-named-semi-finalist-national-award>

<http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/student-teams-compete-in-leadership-competition/?id=179174>

[http://www.plaintalk.net/local\\_news/article\\_1216b51e-aa97-11e4-9234-dfaed693fc80.html](http://www.plaintalk.net/local_news/article_1216b51e-aa97-11e4-9234-dfaed693fc80.html)

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/3738319-mitchell-students-represent-south-dakota-nationwide-fordaaa-student-auto-skills>



## DCTE Employee Profile: Michelle Nelson

I'm Michelle Nelson and I am the South Central Region

Career Development Specialist. I also work with the Government & Public Administration and Ag, Food & Natural Resources career clusters and serve as the State FFA Advisor. I enjoy working with my regional schools to enhance their CTE programs as well as planning and providing professional development for teachers. I graduated from South Dakota State University with a major in Agricultural

Education and a minor in Agricultural Business. Before taking this position, I taught agriculture at Brookings High School for four years and then served as the FFA Executive Secretary for 3.5 years.

I enjoy reading, baking, taking pictures and pretty much any outdoor activity. My family includes my husband Chris and six-month-old son, Rhett. We just moved home to the family farm and will be the fifth generation to own and operate it.

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