

## Upcoming Events

### February

18-22 – FFA Week  
24-25 – State DECA

### March

11-12 – State Pro Start Competition  
28-29 – State HOSA Conference



Shadow Day participants are joined by Governor Noem and Lt. Governor Rhoden for a picture on the Capital steps.

## February is CTE Month!

CTE Month is upon us! Educators are the key to the success of their CTE programs. CTE Month is an opportunity to share that importance with your school, students, and community! Each February, students, teachers, administrators and counselors celebrate CTE Month. Here are some ideas on how you can celebrate CTE and share CTE with others:

- Share facts about CTE ([use our easy to share one-page fact sheet](#)).
- Invite visitors (parents, community members) to see your CTE program.
- Promote your CTE student organizations with a membership drive.
- Get social! Use social media to spread the word about your CTE program.
- Make an official proclamation recognizing February as CTE Month in your school.
- Create infographics or short movies to promote your CTE programs throughout your school.

## CTSO Students Participate in Legislative Shadow Days

February is National Career and Technical Education Month. As part of the celebration, 43 student leaders came to Pierre Feb. 5-6, for the South Dakota Career and Technical Student Organizations' Legislative Shadow Day.

Activities began with an evening social Feb. 5 for students, legislators, cabinet members and state agency staff. Throughout the day on Feb. 6, students shadowed legislators at committee meetings and then observed House and Senate floor sessions.

"Career and technical education equips students with skills for high-demand careers," said Laura Scheibe, director of career and technical education for the South Dakota Department of Education. "Our state's student leaders are great ambassadors for the tremendous value of career and technical education in our state."

Five CTSOs are active in South Dakota: DECA, an association of marketing students; Future Business Leaders of America; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; FFA; and SkillsUSA, an association of trade, technology and health occupation students.

By participating in CTSOs, students can apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom through competitive events; develop leadership and employability skills; and serve their communities.

Career and technical education seeks to equip students with core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills for careers and life. CTE emphasizes employability skills like critical thinking, responsibility and technical skills related to specific career pathways.

## Accepting 2019 Workforce Education Grants Applications

The Department of Education is now accepting applications for the 2019 Workforce Education Grants. This is your chance to Dream BIG and make transformative changes to your CTE programs!

- What have you always wanted to make happen in your Career & Technical Education programs?
- What kind of career guidance programs have you hoped to create?
- In what ways could your current programs be revised to align with today's high-tech, knowledge-based industries?
- What partnerships have you wanted to es-

tablish or grow, but haven't had the resources to dedicate to the effort?

- What kinds of work-based learning experiences have you hoped to incorporate in your students' educations?
  - In what ways have you wanted to customize students' educational experiences?
  - What would it take to blur the lines between academic learning and career preparation?
- Resources for the 2019 Workforce Education Grant are available at <https://doe.sd.gov/cte/WEG.aspx>.

Applications are due March 29, 2019. Awards will be announced by April 22, 2019.

# Postsecondary Academic Career Conversations

Did you know Career Conversations publications are not just for middle and high school? Geared for use by enrollment management staff, academic advisors, and academic support personnel in higher education, the Postsecondary Academic Career Conversations help students gain an understanding of how their academic choices are related to their success in postsecondary and work life.

Postsecondary Academic Career Conversations provide conversation prompts as a means of fostering student development. This strengths-based tool aligns the *American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success: K-12 College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Every Student*.

When using the Postsecondary Academic Career Conversations, the publication makes the following recommendations:

1. Use the conversation prompts as starters for discussion, not as a script that must be followed.

2. Modify the questions to best fit with the students with whom the postsecondary professional is working.

3. Feel free to make the conversation prompts more personalized to the student. For example, when a question mentions “career”, the postsecondary professional may replace it with the career of interest for the student. (Example for B-LS 1. Demonstrate critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions: “How did you choose your licensed practical nursing training program?”)

Access the Postsecondary Academic Career Conversations at: <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Publications/PostsecondaryAcademicCareerConversations.pdf>.

Next month’s Career Conversation Starters feature will cover the Business and Industry-Partner Career Conversation Starters. If you can’t wait until then, you can check out all five types of them on [ASCA’s Career Conversation Starters web page](#).

## Career Fair Held at T.F. Riggs High School



The Career and Technical Education Department at Riggs High School held its 2nd Annual T. F. Riggs High School Post-High Planning & Career Fair on Wed., Jan. 23, 2019. This event presented valuable information to our students about the multitude of career options available to them upon graduation. Our area businesses played an important role in this event.

All high school students enrolled at Riggs participated, as well as some students from Stanley County. The students attended the event via a rotating schedule that allows each student approximately 30-50 minutes to tour the booths and visit with those businesses and post-secondary schools which offer the careers of most interest to them.

Those hosting booths at the fair were encouraged to bring along any materials they felt would help educate the students about the variety of career offerings available at their business; including pamphlets, diagrams, business cards, models, etc. They were encouraged to be creative in their presentation endeavors and if their occupation allows for the presentation or a demonstration to engage the students, all the better. Those demonstrations were an integral part of the learning process and contributed to the excitement of the fair and the engagement of the students.



# In The News

## Mitchell CTE students prepare for Pro Start invitational

<https://www.kdlt.com/2019/01/17/mitchell-cte-students-prepare-for-pro-start-invitational/>

## Harrisburg High School students participate in CTE classes

<https://www.argusleader.com/picture-gallery/news/2019/01/23/photos-harrisburg-high-school-students-participate-cte-classes/2656424002/>

## Aiming for the skies with Woonsocket High School aviation program

<https://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/education/4560240-aiming-skies-woonsocket-high-school>

## New Belle Fourche career center designed as a career launch pad

<https://www.tsln.com/news/winter-cattle-journal-2019-new-belle-fourche-career-tech-center-designed-as-career-launch-pad/>

## Technical schools look at new ways to raise money

<https://www.keloland.com/news/your-money-matters/technical-schools-look-at-new-ways-to-raise-money/1708278987>

# NCRC News

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assists students in demonstrating career readiness by matching their skill level to thousands of occupations using the Job Profiles Database. Additionally, scores are used as criteria for awarding the Build Dakota scholarship.

If you have not yet scheduled the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assessments for the 2018-19 school year, we still have openings!

To schedule a testing date, email [Heather Nelson](#) (east river) or [Barb Unruh](#) (west river). [Learn more about the NCRC.](#)

To date, during the 2018-2019 school year, 2,446 students have been assessed

Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Incomplete	No Certificate	Total
379	588	794	512	8	165	2,446
15.49%	24.04%	32.46%	20.93%	0.33%	6.75%	100.00%

## Assessment Tip

View [sample questions](#) before the assessment day.

# Exploring Occupations by Career Cluster



### Education and Training

Teach yourself about the value of success and fulfillment in shaping young minds. Explore great South Dakota career opportunities in Education and Training! [http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/career\\_cluster\\_education.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/career_cluster_education.aspx)



### Finance

Invest in a great future you can bank on! Explore great South Dakota career opportunities in Finance at [https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/career\\_cluster\\_finance.aspx](https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/career_cluster_finance.aspx)

# Contact Information

800 Governors Drive | Pierre, SD 57501-2291 | P: 605.773.3423 | F: 605.773.4236 | [sdmylife.com](http://sdmylife.com)