

Join the Career and Technical Education Caucus!

Dear Colleague:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy for creating jobs, retraining workers, and ensuring that students of all ages are career- and college-ready. Because CTE is critical for a globally competitive American workforce, we lead the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus to highlight its importance in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce.

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, nearly 12 million students participated in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs at thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, CTE high schools, and more than 1,000 two-year colleges. Across the country, CTE programs play a vital role in ensuring that skilled workers are capable of remaining competitive in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand career fields. CTE programs prepare students for every sector of our economy, ranging from STEM disciplines such as nursing, allied health, construction, manufacturing, information technology, energy, cybersecurity, sustainability, to other fields that keep our nation competitive in the global economy.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current economic uncertainty and volatility, entire industries have fundamentally shifted within foundational sectors of the economy. These changes have created increased demands for high-quality and efficient ways for workers and learners to obtain the skills they need to be successful. CTE programs provide workers with upskilling and re-skilling opportunities, allowing for a quicker and more equitable economic recovery. Further, CTE is pivotal in addressing the nation's longstanding skills gap in industries that are critical to our nation's infrastructure, which will need at least 17 million new workers over the next decade. By training a competitive workforce to fulfill these 21st century demands, CTE programs assist businesses in closing the skills gap every day.

CTE programs exist in every state and congressional district. Therefore, we invite you to join over 100 of your colleagues in the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus. Together, we can improve America's competitiveness and help facilitate job opportunities for our constituents. To join the House CTE Caucus, or for more information, please contact Brian Arata (brian.arata@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Thompson's office or Allie Pearce (allie.pearce@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Bonamici's office.

Sincerely,

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson
Co-Chair, Congressional CTE Caucus

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
Co-Chair, Congressional CTE Caucus