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YEAR

Celebration of CAREER
GUIDANCE & EDUCATION

IMPORTANCE OF CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In 1908 when Frank Parsons first formulated the main principles of career choice, he provided a framework for career and technical education (CTE), as we know it today. Over the years, CTE, first referred to as vocational guidance and education, has grown and evolved to become a focus in our schools, workforce, and government. We know that Frank Parsons, and many other leaders that came after him, understood the importance and need for career and technical education in our society; however, what are the main reasons for why career and technical education should be at the forefront of the career decision-making process?

- 1. CTE provides a systematic, planful approach in order to successfully guide students and adults as they make choices for future education and careers.*
- 2. CTE helps schools and workforce centers equip students and adults with the skills necessary to seamlessly transition into postsecondary education, the military, or work, while understanding the need for life-long learning and career development.*
- 3. CTE is a critical component to helping individuals connect academic coursework with their future career, which allows for improvements in academic achievement and performance, and career exploration and development.*
- 4. CTE organizes both academics and career education into a practical program for workforce preparation, elevating the level of rigorous, challenging, and applicable coursework, and leading to better and more informed preparation.*
- 5. CTE promotes the wide variety of postsecondary options to help each individual choose and recognize the path that will provide the most successful level and type of training for their future goals and contribution in work.*
- 6. CTE provides students and adults with the necessary tools and resources to actively participate in the career development process by understanding their options, creating a plan for coursework, laying out goals, and accessing the information they need to make knowledgeable decisions for the future.*
- 7. CTE creates a positive, thoughtful environment for self-discovery and effective and informative planning, leading to more lifelong career satisfaction and success.*
- 8. CTE recognizes the diverse needs, behaviors, backgrounds, environments, and preferences of students and adults by creating an approach that allows for individual guidance and preparation for goals, plans, and dreams.*
- 9. CTE is dynamic, flexible, and responsive to the ever-changing needs and advances of technology, education, the workforce, and the economy, incorporating innovative methods, ideas, and resources to keep CTE relevant and contemporary today.*
- 10. CTE opens the door to career information, knowledge, and skills and provides the program to which students and adults prepare for the future. Ultimately, CTE plays a major role in shaping the global workforce and economy of tomorrow.*