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# CAREER CONNECTED ILLINOIS



Opportunities for Success

AUGUST 2022

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in Illinois prepare students by teaching real-world knowledge and skills.

Our August newsletter is focused on sharing resources that will help CTE teachers and students get the 2022-23 school year started successfully.

**266k**  
students

**112**  
CTE programs

**16**  
clusters

**7**  
pathway  
endorsements

## Starting the Year Right

Starting the school year in a new position can be one of the most daunting experiences of a beginning teacher's life. This article is meant to help those new teachers find their footing and thrive in their career. First and foremost, focus on relationships. Connecting with the students and other staff members helps any teacher in the building feel like a part of the whole. It's a good idea to share a bit about yourself with your class. For example, why you love teaching and why you specifically love this class are good things to share with students.

Some districts have formal mentoring programs. Ideally, the new teacher and the mentor become fast friends. If there is no formal mentoring program, seek out a colleague who you can gel with. You can ask that veteran teacher questions and he/she can provide support. The [Illinois Education Association](#) also wants to support new teachers and has partnered with the Illinois State Board of Education ([ISBE](#)) to create a program for anyone in their first, second, or third year of teaching. You can learn more and sign up at [this link](#). It is also important -- whether you are the only teacher in a subject or part of a large

department -- for you to find a professional group on Facebook or your school's website. Look for local, state, and national groups in specific content areas. Find the local Education for Employment system and ask if it provides any professional development for teachers. You also can check out the [Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education](#) for information.

Make sure the teaching plan is solid as you head into the new school year. An overview of skills to be learned is always good at the start of a course. At the same time, just know that the class won't get through even a solid plan perfectly. You also can find resources to diversify the learning for your students at the ISBE links in the next section. It's very important for a new teacher to know it is about learning and not just getting through the curriculum. In summary, have a plan, but don't forget flexibility.

To all the new teachers in new places: Thank you for starting your teaching career. Seeing students learn and grow into citizens and adults is in large part due to the efforts of teachers.

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## Teacher's Guide to the First Day of Class

*What is the first day of class?* The first day of class is powerful opportunity to establish a shared vision for agricultural education, specifically an Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources course, for the upcoming year. Successful educators introduce themselves as scholars and seekers of knowledge as well as provide expectations for classroom operations, coursework, and advertise opportunities to engage beyond the classroom (e.g., FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experiences).

*What should a teacher consider when planning the first day?* Successful agricultural educators understand the bigger picture of the first day, something beyond the specific class, syllabus, and expectations for the year. Students may still be "shopping" for the right schedule, looking for class to fill a specific block or period, or maybe looking for a particular learning environment. For these reasons, students will appreciate a clear outline and vision of what this course and you as their teacher will require of them to succeed over the course of the semester.

*How can I model the entire course in one day?* [Click to learn more.](#)

All ISBE CTE curriculum resources can be found on the [ISBE CTE Curriculum webpage.](#)

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## CTSO and ICCCTSO

Fifty-one students and 18 adults from seven Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) attended the three-day Illinois Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organization (ICCCTSO) Summer Conference in Springfield during the week of July 25. The conference, which was held at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center, focused on leadership development and advocating CTE. One of the highlights was a session dedicated to parliamentary procedure. It featured a debate that was held in the House chamber of the Illinois State Capitol. The CTSOs that were represented at this year's seminar were Business Professionals of America; Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); FBLA Collegiate; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; HOSA (Future Health Professionals); Educators Rising; and Science Olympiad. The organizations that were unable to attend due to schedule conflicts were FFA, Technology

Student Association; Skills USA; Professional Agricultural Student Organization; and DECA. Being part of one of these groups gives a student an even larger connection to other CTE students and programs. It is a great way to expand experiences beyond local district or activity center.



*The ICCTSO Summer Conference was held in Springfield in July.*

## **Science Olympiad**

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*Science Olympiad adviser Laura Shum, left, a science/social studies teacher in Indian Prairie School District 204, and students, students Hannah L., Emily W., and Ciara W., enjoyed learning more about the legislative process at the 2022 ICCCTSO Summer Conference in Springfield. Science Olympiad is a designated CTSO in Illinois.*

## **Interdisciplinary Opportunities**

Imagine being able to learn geometry in a construction class or English within a business class. Interdisciplinary courses are becoming more and more common. Ridgewood High School District 234 in Norridge has a few interdisciplinary courses, which might inspire other districts to look for opportunities to do the same in their local schools. Dr. Eric Lasky, assistant principal at Ridgewood Community High School, shared that Ridgewood started with [Geometry in Construction](#) after hearing about it at a conference and then learning that professional development would be coming to Illinois. Geometry in Construction is a resource that can be purchased and tailored to modify projects and outcomes to be authentic and suited to the teachers. Students also get work-based learning hours on build days, when unions and trades come to work with the students.

Ridgewood didn't stop with just Geometry in Construction. The school wanted to add an 11th-grade class and designed Algebra II in Business to be that class. There is also a ninth-grade class called Physics in Engineering, which is part of the groundwork that helps students find these classes and increase their confidence in math. Ridgewood is an 800-student school. Larger schools like Evanston Township High School, Maine East, and Maine South also are all doing Geometry in Construction. Ultimately, any school can find

ways to make interdisciplinary courses successful in their unique context. It takes a little creativity, a little perseverance, and the right teachers to help students thrive in such a course.

## ISBE CTE Professional Development Calendar

We are pleased to announce the initial ISBE CTE professional development calendar for the 2022-23 school year. This calendar is considered an initial calendar because we are already adding additional events to it. We are also excited to share that there is **no cost** to participate in any of the events being run solely by ISBE and the Northern Illinois University CTE Project.

All sessions are open to all Illinois educators, including teachers, clinicians, counselors, and administrators from early childhood through 12th-grade settings as well as postsecondary educators. For example, Administrator Academy workshops are not only open to school administrators, but to all educators. Participants who complete workshops will earn Illinois professional development hours or, when applicable, Administrator Academy credit (based on the workshop and one's position).

Check out the full (and growing!) [ISBE CTE professional development calendar](#). Registration links will continually be added over the coming weeks.

## In the Spotlight

Thank you for your nominations of outstanding students, teachers, programs, and business partners from across the state of Illinois. We are excited to recognize these individuals and celebrate their achievements. We love to hear your stories! Submit your nominations at [isbe.net](https://isbe.net). Not all areas were able to make submissions during the summer. We would love to have all four areas represented in the next issue.

### Student Spotlight

Collinsville High School teacher Joe McGinnis nominated Corey Harris to be in the Student Spotlight. Corey is a hard-working student in the automotive mechanics and auto body programs. Corey is a leader in the classroom and is always willing to help other students with their projects. In addition to this, Corey often works on staff cars to help ensure teachers can get to work safely! Corey has gone above and beyond. He's repainted two benches and two exterior handrails at CHS, in addition to all his other projects. Corey is also a member of the Collinsville High School Student Advisory Committee.



*Corey Harris works to test a timing system.*

### **Teacher Spotlight**

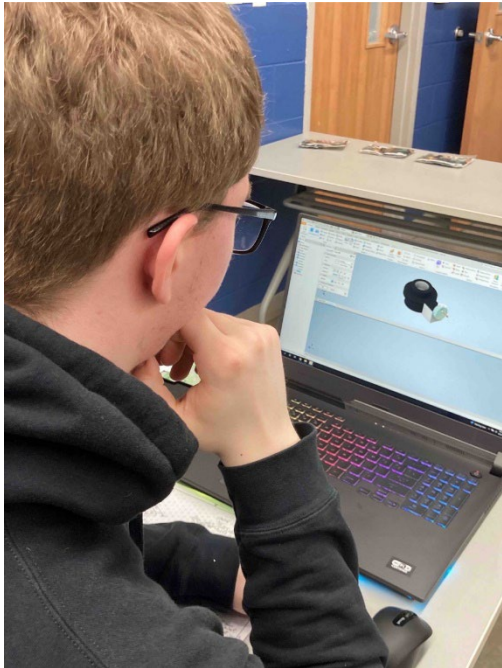
Teacher Brandy Palmerin, a CTE teacher at Downers Grove South High School, was nominated by Mary Roe, an administrative assistant at the school. She wrote, "Every year Mrs. Palmerin gives her Project Lead the Way students a budget of \$300 and allows them to create a product or project they feel is beneficial to society. These students have come up with some extraordinary ideas and projects over the years. She challenges them to utilize their engineering knowledge and apply it in the real world. She is right there daily, assisting her students and encouraging them."



*Teacher Brandy Palmerin (in light blue) is shown with senior students at Downers Grove South High School at the end of the year.*

### **Partner Spotlight**

Bethany Mead, community outreach coordinator for the Career Educational Association of North Central Illinois (CEANCI), nominated Training Director Greg Harle from Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23. He is very involved with the students CEANCI serves in multiple ways. Some examples are hosting multiple CTE student competitions at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training facility and paying for student lunches. Greg has also participated in a regional student graphic communications competition and used the winning student logo on the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23 Facebook page. Greg supports various career fairs in the region, including those for middle school students. He visits high schools in Region 2 and beyond to inform students about the program. Greg frequently responds to the many emails Ms. Mead sends out to business partners with a "thank you and verbally thanks her as well. Finally, Greg sits on many of the same committees Ms. Mead serves on, participates with local community colleges, and is very present in the community at neighborhood programs, etc. He runs a tight ship and an excellent program. A heartfelt thank you to Greg Harle for making a difference in the lives of many students across this region.



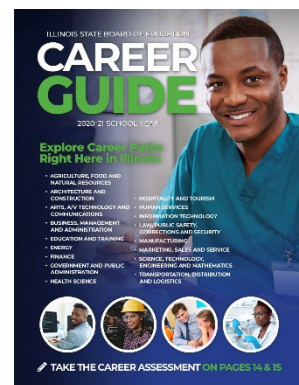
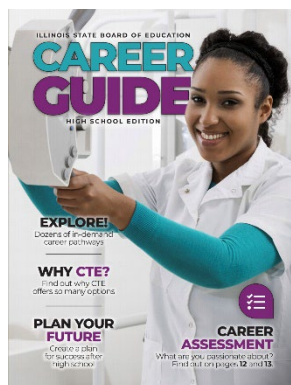
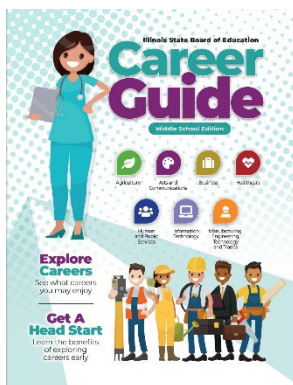
Students model their projects on a computer before bringing them to reality.



CEANCI students practice welding with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23.

## Career Guides

Check out our Career Guides, share them, or order printed copies at [lccareerguide.com](http://lccareerguide.com).



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