



2020-2021

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Graduate Profile



Illinois
State Board of
Education



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university.

The Innovative Curriculum Resources Project is proud to present this CTE Graduate Profile Booklet.

In this booklet you will find profiles of CTE graduates from Illinois. These graduates have agreed to share their successes and experiences on their career path from CTE students to today's careers.

The personal stories contained in this booklet clearly show that there is no single pathway to a career and certainly no guaranteed road to success. There are some common elements, however, that emerge.

First, education is valuable. According to statistics gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median high school graduate earns about \$200 per week more than someone who does not complete high school. That is over \$10,000 per year! Wages increase steadily as the level of education goes up. But there are other benefits as well. Unemployment rates goes down as education goes up. Also, more education means you are qualified for more jobs, making it more likely that you will be employed doing something you really enjoy.

Second, the people featured here took CTE classes in high school. These classes do more than prepare you for a job. They teach you how to **DO STUFF**. They teach you how to find the information you need and use it to solve a problem. It is not about memorizing facts and remembering them long enough to pass the test. CTE classes teach you useful skills that can be applied to lots of different jobs.

Finally, each person in this book worked hard to achieve their goals. They did not drop out of school because they didn't like it anymore. They did not settle for a job simply because they got hired. They figured out what they wanted to do and did what was necessary to get there. Their education and careers did not always turn out the way they expected, but they kept going, even when it was difficult.

As you read these profiles, remember that just a few years ago these successful adults were high school students wondering what they should do with their lives.... just like you. **If they can do it, so can you.**





Quotes from Career Technical Education Leaders

Career and Technical Education in Illinois

Today's cutting edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) programs prepares youth and adults for high wage, high skill and high demand careers.

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools; CTE-focused secondary schools, which are schools that center secondary academics around specific careers; and area career centers, which provide supplementary career training to area high school students and adult learners.
- At the postsecondary level, Illinois delivers CTE through its community college districts.

In school year 2017-2018, 283,495 high school students and 70,105 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Illinois. In addition, 43,837 students were members of a career and technical student organization.

There are many different CTE pathways that can lead to industry certification, an apprenticeship and post-secondary certificates and degrees. Students that enroll in CTE programs are both college and career ready because they have learned academic skills, job specific skills and employability skills.

As you will see from this booklet, taking career and technical education classes can lead to a very rewarding career.

Cindy Stover, Executive Director
Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education

Elizabeth Kaufman, Executive Director of Wilco
"We became involved in the Graduate Booklet project because our students/alumni are Wilco. When we are out in the community and see them successful, it validates the education and training we provide. The relationships our teachers build extend beyond the classroom, and we hope that our alumni will stay connected through our advisory boards. They are our heroes and deserve to be spotlighted and recognized for their hard work. I hope it also provides an educational avenue for students in high school on the various paths that students can take to a rewarding career."

"Students frequently ask educators the question, 'Why do I need to learn this?' The CTE Graduate Profile Digital Book can help provide the answer. The profiles offered will help young people connect the dots between what they are doing now and what their future may hold. Illinois educators should keep this resource readily available."

Dr. Jason Leahy, Executive Director
Illinois Principals Association

Students need Career and Technical Education (CTE) now more than ever before!

CTE courses prepare students for essential careers. What are essential careers? They are careers that currently are in high demand, commanding high wages, and specific technical skill(s).

Is CTE different, YES! It differs from traditional education pathways in high school that focus on moving that student into a post-secondary university or college. CTE offers the student a different "career" pathway. It offers students the chance to experience more of a practical, hands-on skill training. It guides students on how to become highly skilled, competent, and well-trained. CTE students with their training and credentials are immediately ready join a career in the trades right out of high school!

The world now recognizes that employers are in desperate need of these well-trained people to work in so many trades. Industry is in a crisis mode. Globally, there are careers in every community that go unfulfilled due to applicant's lack of skills.

How do we answer these issues and fill these needs? We start recruiting middle school, high school, and post-secondary students. This is the key. This booklet is a showcase of amazing students who have followed their passions. These students utilized the many different CTE pathways offered and helped themselves to a rewarding future! Check them out!!

Paul Ritter,
Ecology Teacher, Pontiac Township High School; Director, Celebrating High School Innovators Program

Stephanie Barnes, APRN



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lewistown High School
Lewistown, Illinois – Fulton County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cooperative Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Family Nurse Practitioner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Graham Medical Group
Canton, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

During high school I was able to earn several college credits prior to graduation. I then continued with my nursing pre-requisites at the local community college, Spoon River College while continuing to work part time. I gained entrance into Methodist College of Nursing where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in May of 2008. After graduation I worked in various areas of nursing including critical care, emergency department and case management. While gaining experience in the nursing field I chose to further my education in nursing and earned my Master's Degree in Nursing through OSF Saint Francis College of Nursing. I am now a family nurse practitioner in my home county and have the great opportunity to serve my community.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Excellent communications skills (verbal, written, etc.), ability to and willingness to work with a variety of different people with varying personalities and backgrounds, cultural competence, willingness to adapt to an ever changing environment.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take advantage of all your program has to offer. You don't have to know exactly what your lifelong plan is as soon as you turn 18 and graduate. This is the time to explore your options and find where your passion lies. Work hard and find your path.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My high school Co-Op program allowed me to take a good look at what I wanted out of life and begin working toward achieving it. The program, and the faculty, were instrumental in encouraging me to work hard, chase my dreams, and be tenacious.

Chris Merrill, Ph.D., DTE



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Peoria Heights High School
Peoria Heights, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Drafting, Woodworking,
Building Trades, Autos

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Professor,
Technology and Engineering Education

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

After high school, I attended a community college and majored in cabinetmaking. After graduating, I worked for several cabinetmakers, and also maintained my own side business. After several years of working in the cabinetmaking industry, I changed career paths and became a high school industrial technology teacher. After teaching high school, I decided to go back to school to earn a doctoral degree in integrated STEM education. My degrees consist of an AAS in Cabinetmaking, AS in General Education, BS in Industrial Technology Education, MS in Curriculum and Instruction with Supervision, and PhD in Integrated Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Ability to use your hands and mind together to solve technical problems.
Ability to communicate both orally and in writing.
Critical thinking.
Self-initiative.
Collaboration.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

1. Take as many CTE classes that you can during high school.
2. Get involved with service projects in your community where you can utilize your skills and learn from others.
3. Be open to career changes.
4. Continuing your education and training are important.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My teachers, first and foremost. Passion for the content.

Madison Randall



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, Illinois -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco CNA Course

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Advocate Christ Medical Center
Oak Lawn, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Graduated from Lockport Township High School where I attended Wilco to obtain my CNA certification. Attended college at the University of St. Francis where I obtained my BSN in nursing. I previously worked at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago as a complex medical rehabilitation nurse where I cared for complex medical patients during their rehabilitation after heart and lung transplants, strokes, spinal cord injuries and other complex illnesses. Currently, I am a registered nurse at Advocate Christ Medical Center and I am employed in the Cardiac ICU and step down unit where I take care of patients after cardiac surgeries such as open heart, ecmo, TAVR, heart transplants and LVAD. I am a charge nurse and preceptor as well!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

As a registered nurse you need to be resilient, compassionate, willing to constantly learn and adapt to ever changing practices, policies, and procedures!

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice is to continue on wanting to learn new things that will help you become better at your job. It starts with something small, such as when I took a course in high school to become a CNA, but by having a drive to want to learn and a grow it can turn into so much more! .

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My CNA skills which I learned while at WILCO have always given me a jump start in the medical field. I appreciate and acknowledge the importance of basic care for my patients and it really assists me to provide the best for my patients throughout their entire stay in the hospital!

Lauren Werth



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Certified Nursing Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Biological/Chemical
Scientist/Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Siemens Healthineers

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

CNA to BS degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, team work, and passion.

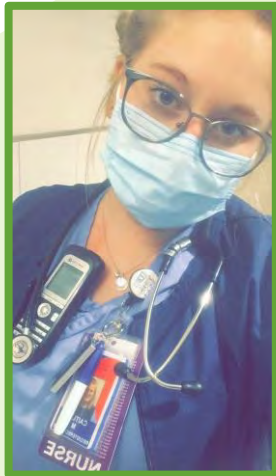
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Use this experience as a jumping point for your career. You don't have to stick to the same career path, but the extra certification and experience will help set you apart from the rest of the crowd. Graduating high school with more than a diploma is a huge accomplishment!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I found a passion for healthcare.

Caitlyn Morris



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Advocate Christ Hospital
Oak Lawn, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I had received my CNA in high school I which I worked as for five years while going to college. I received my BSN from the University of St. Francis in December of 2019. After that I took my NCLEX and passed in March 2020 to receive my RN. Now I currently work at Christ as a NICU nurse since May 2020.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

It is important as a nurse to be accountable, trustworthy and a team player. Nursing is very much so a team job we are constantly working with each other to help support each other especially when we have a really sick kiddo.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take this opportunity seriously. Not every school district gets the opportunity to explore career paths before getting to college. It gives you a better idea about what you want to do in the future as a career. Take in everything you can, make new friends and enjoy it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My CNA instructor helped me realize my passion. I loved every day of that class and was always excited to learn. Being in my CNA class in high school solidified that I wanted to be a nurse. I fell in love with the healthcare field in this class.

Jailene Santoyo



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Joliet Central High School
Joliet, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Science-CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Medical Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Pain and Spine Institute

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I started off by working at a nursing home as a certified nursing assistant. Soon after I was hired at a pediatric office where they trained me to perform medical assistant tasks as well as apply my nursing assistant skills. I worked there for three years and learned many new things. I was trained to administer vaccines and learned a lot about the administrative aspect of working in a clinic. I was recently hired at the Pain and Spine Institute where I was assigned to be Dr. Sharma's medical assistant. Here, I continue to learn a lot about office administration and my skills continue to grow as I work closely with the doctor to provide the care his patients need.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Reliability, patience, adaptability, good communication skills, initiative and good teamwork.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If you love it, do it. If you have plans to study in the career field for which the CTE program applies to, put all your effort into it. It will open many doors up for you while still in school and even after graduation.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took medical terminology before my CTE program. And once I enrolled in the CTE program, it was easier to understand the terminology used in class. During our training I learned to be patient with residents which I now apply toward our patients. Patience is the most important skill I acquired.

Lindsey Nielsen



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport High School
Lockport, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Christ Hospital NICU

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

In high school I was enrolled in the CNA course through WILCO where I then started working as a CNA at Senior Star, which is an assisted living facility. After high school I went to the University of St. Francis where I earned my BSN degree. I started my career as an RN at Shirley Ryan Abilitylab (Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago) where I worked for about a year. I then started working at my dream job in the Christ NICU for about 2 years.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being a nurse is very skill and people-oriented. I have learned from the very beginning in my CNA course that “teamwork makes the dream work.” I would honestly not be able to successfully perform my job without the team-oriented approach that we employ at my hospital.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice is to always be a go-getter. Volunteer for opportunities that push you and make you uncomfortable, these are the instances that you will learn the most. Never be afraid to ask questions and always try to seek out new ways to learn and be open to how other people approach situations.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Becoming a CNA helped me build my foundations of becoming a nurse. I learned how to care for the whole person and learn to respect every aspect of nursing care.

Fred Barger

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Collinsville High School
Collinsville, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Electronics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

General help that specializes in
manufacturing door panels for
chemical airlock systems

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Production Products

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

As of right now. I'm trying to save money, and hopefully pursue a job in the electronics field once I go back to college to finish my bachelor's degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being able to do quick math in your head, knowing how to gauge what wires are used in scenarios, and being able to read blue prints and build what it shows.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take your time with college because, you can always go back to learn something new. Always keep your eyes open for job opportunities because, you never know how that job may benefit you even if said job isn't part of your career path.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being disciplined in the work environment and having the knowledge to show that you can do the work that is given to you.

Leslie Rizo



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Burrito Loco

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

My career right now does not have anything to do with my education directly but training and skills we did in my class help me every day in my job.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You have to be able to communicate and handle customers.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Ride it through, it's going to seem hard and unachievable, but it can and has been done.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I've been able to get my CNA and get hands on experience at a nursing home and in the classroom that many other people would not be able to have.

Jada Sims



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction to Health Professions -
Junior Year
CNA– Senior Year

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cardiac-Neuro ICU Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Edward Hospital

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

My last 2 years of high school, I attended Wilco where I was enrolled in healthcare classes. Right after high school, I went to the University of St Francis from August 2016- May 2020 where I graduated with my BSN in nurse and a minor in psychology. During my junior year of college, I applied for a PCT position at Edward Hospital in their cardiac-neuro ICU. I was in this position for about a year and a half. July 2020, I was fortunate enough to transition to the role of RN Resident in the Cardiac-Neuro ICU. Throughout my first year as a nurse at Edward, they provide residency classes, simulation experience, and skills review to help new nurses with the transition from nursing student to professional nurse.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, compassion, respect, integrity, servant, always willing to learn, leader, patient advocate, and flexible.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

- 1) Take as many CTE courses as you can while in high school. That way you can figure out what interests you.
- 2) Take your high school CTE course seriously, it will help you long-term because you have the basic knowledge that you can then build on later.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Knowing how to take care of patients (bedside manner/feeling comfortable caring for patients) and having a basic understanding of medical terminology.

Jordan Alberico

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood

CURRENT JOB TITLE

K/1 Cross Categorical Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Coal City Unit District #1
Coal City, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

First, I took the Early Children program offered at Morris Community High School. From there I graduated with an undergraduate degree from Northern Illinois University in Early Childhood with a Special Education Endorsement. I just graduated with my master's degree from Arizona State University in Applied Behavior Analysis and am currently working on getting my field hours to sit for the BCBA exam.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Teamwork, problem solving, and application of materials learned.

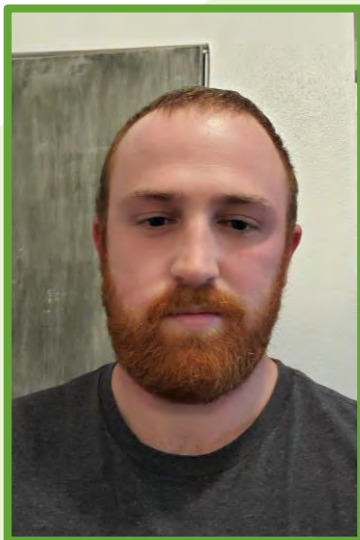
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do it but take it seriously. The teachers' rooms you are placed in expect a professional manner from you and are allowing you to spend time with some very important people.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

A lot! I got to have hands on time with students.

Mark Finch



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Collinsville High School
Collinsville, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Electrical

CURRENT JOB TITLE

AGV Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Barnes Hospital
St. Louis, Missouri

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

Three years of vocational classes at Collinsville High School, associate's degree in Electrical from Ranken Technical College, underground electrician for a coal mine for three years, electrician at US Steel for one year and AGV/Robotics Technician at Barnes Hospital for three years.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Understanding of electrical circuits and strong troubleshooting abilities.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention in class because you never know what you will be doing when you get older and try to enjoy it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Ms. Hankins made electrical class fun and enjoyable and because of that I found a lot of enjoyment in the electrical field.

**Ian
Howard**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Collinsville High School
Collinsville, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Electronics/Robotics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Electronics Assembler

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Essex Industries

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

High school electronics and bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Soldering, problem solving, communication, work ethic, and adaptability.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find something that you like to do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Electronics lead me to earn my bachelor's degree.

Kristin Dziuban

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood Education 1 & 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

2nd Grade Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Jones Elementary School

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

The courses taken provided me with great exposure to classrooms and covered much of what I learned in my basic teaching courses. The courses and content allowed me to expand my experience by observing and working in multiple grade level and educational settings.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Organization, punctuality, hard work, dedication, passionate, collaborative, mature, and professional.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take it seriously. Give it your best efforts. The more work you put in, the more you'll get out of it and the more you will earn and be able to apply along the way. Teaching is experience based. Learn as much as you can and practice it! Try new things, take advantage of new learning opportunities!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The early exposure to lesson planning, educational learning theories, curriculum development, lesson planning and practice instruction in real classrooms. These all have a solid foundation to work from and build upon in future courses and experiences.

Nathan Morton



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Collinsville High School
Collinsville, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Electronics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Lead Process Operator

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Millipore Sigma

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

I graduated from Collinsville High School. After graduation I attended Lewis and Clark Community College and got my degree in Process Technology. With that degree I had multiple internships at the National Corn Ethanol Research Center at site. From there I went to Millipore Sigma where I package biological buffers. Now that leads me to my current job of being a process operator making the largest amount of biological buffers in the world. This will be my 5th year with the company Millipore Sigma.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Positivity and determination.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Stay positive and never give up.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Ability to troubleshoot.

Megan Gillson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations 1/2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Park Point Healthcare and
Rehabilitation

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I took a yearlong course at GAVC with many hours of clinical and theory. Mastered the 21 skills required to pass the class.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

CNA, CPR Certified, Math Skills

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention in class and do your homework.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped me determine that I truly want to be a nurse and continue down the path of healthcare

Elliana Vaccaro



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

We had multiple hours of clinicals and in class work.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience and empathy.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Follow through and don't procrastinate the work

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Going to clinicals and seeing how much of we make a difference in the resident's day.

Allieyah Samuel



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations (Nursing)

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

After high school, I plan on going to college for 4 years, receiving my RN, and possibly receive a career in midwifery or gynecology.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Attentiveness, communication, critical thinking skills, compassion, and the ability to work in a fast paced environment.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always remember to work hard and have fun while doing it! YOLO.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Going to clinical and doing lots of hands on learning really helped me. I understand the nursing field a lot more and got a better view of what my future could be.

Joelei Carbone



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Customer Service

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Stock and Field

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Health Occupations CNA.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Compassion, Dedication, Leadership,
Respect, Honor

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

DO NOT let anyone stop you from doing what YOU want to
do, and always try your best at what you do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I got to take care of elderly people that needed me, and it
just made me feel good that I was making them feel better,
even if they hated it at the moment.

Morgan Brown



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

In order to obtain my CNA license, I needed classroom hours and clinical hours in a work setting. I needed to put in extra time at home so I was prepared to go into class the next day and know what we were doing.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You need to be accountable, responsible, and be able to learn fast. The medical field is constantly changing so being able to adapt quickly helps with change.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

I would highly recommend taking a course like this because it expands your knowledge past high school and guides you in the direction you want to end up in.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

This class has given me a step ahead of most students my age that will be entering nursing school.

Christina Zettek



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

GAVC Early Childhood Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Preschool for All Parent Educator

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Morris Elementary School and
Saratoga Elementary School

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

Graduated from Morris Community High School in 2010. While in high school I enrolled in the Early Childhood Development Program at GAVC both my Junior and Senior year. Following that I attended Northern Illinois University where I received my Bachelor's of Science in Family and Child Students with an emphasis in Child Development and sub-emphasis in Parent/ Child Specialist. During my last year at Northern I completed my practicum. I've endured much training and education through studies and related job experiences.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Experience working with children and families. Along with communication skills. Communication is key for creating meaningful relationships with both families and staff members. Organization skills and coordinating skills are extremely important when planning for family involvement events.

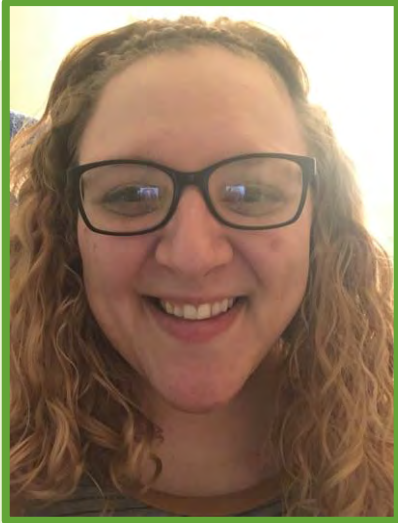
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pursue your dreams and don't ever doubt yourself. Opportunities will always rise. Stay focused and never give up. Have faith in yourself.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Hands on experiences in the school really impacted me because I was able determine I love the school environment and education was something I was extremely passionate about. Each year in GAVC I was able to choose a grade level of my choice. With that I found out I loved the younger grades.

Sam Carpenter



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Morris County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

First Grade Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Iroquois West School District

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

My career path started from a very young age. As much as humanly possible ironwood assist in classrooms. Because of the early childhood program at my vocational center I was able to continue this throughout my high school career. I did two years at a junior college were during this time I also helped at the school and during my second two years of college where I went for my associates I got to do we called them site hours where are you would get to go and be the teacher.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Above all else you need to love of children. We have to have this innate urge to help them by all means humanly possible. Do you have to be flexible and be able to change things in the blink of an eye. You also need to have great communication with the staff and the parents of the students.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do it--don't be afraid to do it. You'd be surprised the wonderful things that come out of this in the lifelong friends in the lifelong skills you make because of it. Try and when you fail try again.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The fact that we got to experience so many different placement options. During my time I was in an early childhood classroom I was also in a first grade and kindergarten classroom as well.

Taylor Breyman

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Logo Works

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

After high school, I plan to attend a college and major in nursing. From there, I would love to learn and shadow oncology nurses, and specifically pediatric oncology nurses. Through Health Occupations, I trained the proper amount of clinical and theory hours so I could test for and pass my CNA exam.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Compassion, care, empathy, honesty, reliability.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always engage, don't take the time given to you for granted.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Having the hands-on experiences in clinicals is what made a difference. I wasn't too sure if nursing was what I wanted to do, so this kind of determined for me that, yes, I want to do nursing. It especially warmed my heart when I knew I was helping these people and learning both at the same time.

Danielle Feiner



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Grundy County Vocational Center

CURRENT JOB TITLE

1st Grade Special Education Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Southern Will County Cooperative for
Special Education at Channahon
School District

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

I always wanted to be a teacher growing up. I loved working with children and started my career out babysitting and working as a Daycare teacher. During my high school career I was in the early childhood education program at Grundy County Vocational Center where I spent half of my school day in an early childhood classroom setting. After high school I went to Joliet Junior college where I continued my education in the early childhood education field. While attending JJC I received my associate's degree and transferred to Lewis University where I got my Bachelor's degree in early childhood education. After graduating I worked as a teacher's assistant for 3 years and I now I am a first year teacher as a 1st grade special ed teacher.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Skills needed for a career in teaching is having a love for children, patience, a good work ethic, and having the skill to work collaboratively in a team setting. .

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice for high school CTE students is to really take it all in. The amount of experience I got from being in a CTE program really helped me decide the career path I wanted to pursue. During my field experiences I really learned about what it would be like to be a teacher. .

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

During my CTE program I got real hands on experience in the education field. I learned things in my program that I still to this day use in my career as an educator. I learned how to create and implement lesson plans, classroom management skills, and how to run parent teacher conferences.

Emily Estensen



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

A bachelors' in nursing degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Respect, kindness, listening, reliability, and trust.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Study and preform as you would if you were working.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Going to clinical at our local nursing home.

Katelyn Jenkins

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Regency Care of Morris
Morris, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I trained with over a hundred hours of theory and then we did more than 45 hours of clinicals

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hard work, compassion, love, understanding.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Never give up it's so worth it and it'll make you that happiest person in the world if you stick with it

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It made me a better person seeing people at the worst but making them smile or laugh made the whole process worth it.

Elizabeth Fortier



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Gardner-South Wilmington High School
Gardner, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations 1

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Through my Health Occupations class I was trained in CPR and participated in all my clinical and theory hours to pass my CNA exam.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Responsibility, Creativity, Quick Reaction Time,
Calm Under Pressure.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard and apply yourself. Try to get as much experience and knowledge out of the program as possible.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was given the opportunity to enter the healthcare field at an early age. It also gave me insight on what career I want to pursue. I really enjoyed my CTE program. I wouldn't trade the memories nor the experience for anything.



**Jessica
Decraene**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Alden Estates of Shorewood

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

40 clinical hours and at least 75 hours of lecture.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, communication skills, organization skills, time management skills, etc.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Manage your time wisely and study all the time.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Going to clinical and experiencing everything hands on.

Airis Kennedy



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations 1 and 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Park Pointe Rehabilitation Center
The Gardens at Park Pointe

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I studied for two semesters to become a CNA, I had certain skills and tests I had to pass when I was training. I also had to sit and pass a state exam to earn my certification

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Time management, patients, being dedicated to what you do.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Use your free time wisely and study a lot!!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being a CNA has given me lots of experience in the medical field. I've learned a lot of things that I will take with me to nursing school.

Julienne Aguilar

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The Gardens at Park Pointe

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Taking and passing Health Occupations.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience and willpower.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Graduate's response here.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Clinicals.

Aaron Day



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations 2 Advanced Class

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The Gardens at Park Pointe

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Completion of the CNA class, passed CNA exam, CPR, BLS, and AED training.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Time management, Teamwork, Communication, Problem Solving

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Make sure to retain all the information you learn, you will always need it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Getting hands-on experience in the clinical setting is helping me prepare for nursing school where I will build on these skills even more.

Colesie Connor

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois—Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Park Pointe

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I took the CNA class and the second year class to get me one step ahead of the game to be able to go into Nursing with some experience and training.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Quick witted, you need to genuinely care about your people, you need to retain and remember a lot of information, and you need to be able to apply it.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take the lessons, skills, tests, and quizzes seriously because this is a class where you will actually need all of the information later.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took the CNA class and the second year class to get me one step ahead of the game to be able to go into Nursing with some experience and training.

Melanie LeFevre



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Waubonsie Valley High School
Aurora, Illinois – DuPage County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Intro to Culinary Arts, Pastry Arts,
Child Development, Early Learning
Teaching Lab

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Middle School Family and Consumer
Science Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Still Middle School - Indian Prairie
School District 204
Aurora, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but my FACS courses in middle and high school led me to teach FACS. I did take several classes for college credit while in high school, though none were in the FACS department. I went to Illinois State University and entered with sophomore status. I graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Family and Consumer Science Teacher Education in just 3 years, earning my degree in May 2019. During my time at ISU, I volunteered in various classroom settings, was a teaching assistant, a Resident Assistant, and the President of 2 education related student organizations. I completed my student teaching at Neuqua Valley High School and accepted my current position at Still Middle School prior to my graduation in 2019. .

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Teaching requires flexibility, openness, and quick decision making. Physical and digital organization is also key, so you and your students know where to find things. Each day I communicate with students, colleagues, administration, and guardians, so communication is very important.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

CTE classes are the best to take. They prepare you for all facets of life and expose you to different career paths. If you are enjoying a certain CTE class, consider what that could mean for you as a career. Doing something you love is what makes a job, a career!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My high school CTE program is the reason why I am a FACS teacher. I walked into the FACS department office one day and asked my teachers: "What do I need to do to become one of you?" They were and continue to be my inspiration and put me on the path for what has turned out to be the best career!

Daniel Parish



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Collinsville High School
Collinsville, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Vocational Electronics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Electronics Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

United States Navy

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

After high school you go through boot camp then to ET "A" school then on to "C" school then onto a ship.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You have to be trainable.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do your homework on time.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

You're taught the basics of electrical theory and that means you don't have to be retaught and makes it easier to learn your job.

Kurt Callan



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Central A & M High School
Moweaqua, Illinois – Shelby County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Heartland Technical Academy-Criminal
Justice 1/2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Graduate's job title here

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Richland Community College
Decatur, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

My career goal is to become a police officer. I took 2 years of Criminal Justice classes at my local tech school, Heartland Technical Academy, and graduated from Central A&M High School.

After graduating, I was told by one of my Tech teachers about a job opening here at Richland Community College for a security guard position. I interviewed a couple of days later and was told I got the job.

I had to wait until I was 18 (a few days after I interviewed for the position) to get my PERC card, and then I trained for 3 weekends under the lady I was replacing. I'm currently working on getting my Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and plan to apply for the Richland Police Department when I turn 21.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Professionalism, maturity, responsibility, a clean criminal background, and a good work ethic.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Show up to class every day, look decent, do your work, be kind, go home, do it all again the next day.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

For me, it was the teachers and how they taught me the material. The two teachers I had while I attended my tech school are a big reason I've kept on this as my desired career, they were both just awesome. I wouldn't be where I am today without them and what they've taught me.

Sicilia Heniff



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Early Childhood Special Education
Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Galloway Elementary
Channahon, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

I completed 2 years at Joliet Junior College and received an Associate's Degree in Science. After that I completed 2.5 years at Illinois State University receiving a Bachelor's in Science and an endorsement in special education preschool.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Collaboration, effective communication, creativity, flexibility, and the ability to differentiate.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice would be to do the things you like and are interested in. High school is a time to learn what you are good at and what inspires you. Also, do not be afraid to try something new!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Participating in the ECE program allowed me to get first-hand experience in a classroom. I was able to collaborate and learn from educators in the field. I also was able to create and implement some of my own lessons to learn how and what needed to be done in a classroom.

Lucas Ruggeri



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Grundy Area Vocational Center

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Alden Courts

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I've earned my CNA and learned CPR to achieve the education I have earned. .

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You need to be dedicated and disciplined to get anywhere in the job field.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

I think my biggest piece of advice is to never give up no matter how hard it gets.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Yes, my CTE program made a major difference and showed my passion for nursing.

Austin Beachum



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

East Alton-Wood River High School
Wood River, Illinois – Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Computer Concepts

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Data Analyst

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Mid-America Transplant

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology



CAREER PATH

Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Bradley University, employed as a Data Integrity assistant for ATS in Peoria before becoming an IT Analyst for CAT. Trained to use tableau, Power BI, advanced excel work, and writing SQL queries.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Experience in coming up with insights with Business Intelligence software, managing large and diverse datasets, learning what metrics are important to an organization and using raw data to track them, and find insights. A business or computer science degree is a good education background to have.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Sometimes you need to work lesser quality jobs to get the skills and experience you need for the better ones. Be sure to learn as much as you can from each step you take along your career path.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Handling Excel and navigating Windows PCs was helpful.

**Donna
Corcoran**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Antioch Community High School
Antioch, Illinois – Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Business

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Investment Banker

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Baird

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services



CAREER PATH

Bachelor's and master's degrees following by 2 years in accounting and 4 years in banking.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Sales, financial acumen, project management,

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Consider the CTE you enjoy as a potential college major.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Made me consider business.

Maila Koehler



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Minooka Community High School
Minooka, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Alden Courts of Shorewood

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Lectures, 40 hours of supervised clinical experience, and a written competency test.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Compassionate, hardworking, patient, attentive, and good communication skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be diligent and dedicated, and you will thrive!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The hands on learning and engaging lectures made a difference in my career.

Paul Fecht



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Galesburg High School
City, Illinois – Knox County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Occupational Health (CNA Course)
Galesburg Area Vocational Center

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse (Pre-op/PACU)

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

SurgiCenter

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

The health occupations course allowed me to gain an insight into what healthcare is; and make a positive difference in this world. I have met some of the most amazing patients and coworkers that inspired me to further my education to in turn, give back how my teachers and professors gave to me. .

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

To be a registered nurse; strong interpersonal communication, forgiveness, mercy and compassion for people are all essential traits to be successful. Having a positive attitude and a willingness to be flexible and adapt to a situation is crucial to caring for patients and providing holistic care. .

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The health occupations course allowed me to gain an insight into what healthcare is; and make a positive difference in this world. I have met some of the most amazing patients and coworkers that inspired me to further my education to in turn, give back how my teachers and professors gave to me.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Take every opportunity that you have offered to you. Learning opportunities and some of the most memorable experiences happen when you least expect it. Love people and know that it will all work out. Learning takes time and growth does not happen overnight. Enjoy the journey and the little things.

Savannah Ojeda



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Galesburg High School
Galesburg, Illinois – Knox County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Galesburg Area Vocational Center
(GAVC) Law Enforcement

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Public Safety Telecommunicator

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

I graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice Sciences and a minor in Political Science. I then completed an internship on patrol with the Galesburg Police Department before relocating to Florida. Since moving to Florida, I have held numerous jobs in the criminal justice field but in my current role I work as a Public Safety Telecommunicator for the 15th largest sheriff's office in the country. I also decided to continue my education and will be graduating from the University of South Florida with a M.S. in Cybercrime in May of 2021. I am hopeful that obtaining my M.S. degree will open the door to new opportunities and I plan to soon transition into an investigative or intel role with my current agency.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

I would say that communication, interpersonal and decision-making skills are most key. Additionally, working in law enforcement, whether as sworn or civilian, requires leadership skills, writing competency, problem solving abilities and willingness to work cohesively with diverse groups of people.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Taking a vocational course was one of the best decisions I made in high school. I knew I had interest in law enforcement from a young age but being able to get the hands-on experience offered from this course confirmed this was the right career choice for me.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to take a course focused on my desired career path in high school helped me gain a better understanding of what a career in law enforcement would entail. The course provides students with hands-on experiences to gain the skills necessary to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Gerardo Corral

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Proviso East High School
Maywood, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary Arts and Nutrition,
Culinary Occupations 1 and 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Steward

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Nobu Restaurant in Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance & Business Services/
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources



CAREER PATH

Learning food safety has helped me get my current job, having a food handler's course was critical into getting hired.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Fast paced, need to have a food handlers course certificate, communication skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Listen to the teacher, they were once in the restaurant/food business and know what requirements and skills it takes to be a part of the business. Participate in labs, events in and out of school and field trips. You can learn a lot from doing events and they are fun to do!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Cooking in and out of school was fun, I enjoyed it and made me want to keep pursuing to be in the restaurant business. Doing events in/out of school were experiences that taught me key pointers in how a kitchen runs to be a successful business.

Chris Sanchez

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Proviso East High School
Maywood, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary Arts; DECA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Target Guest Associate

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Target
Melrose Park, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services/
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources



CAREER PATH

I am currently in a seasonal guest advocate position at target. I used the skills I used in DECA, a high school class to help me get the job.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Guest skills, marketing.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Make sure to pay attention and do what you enjoy the most, do not let anybody decide for you and keep a clear track of what you want to do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

DECA helped me earn the job and guided me through what I should expect.

**Luis
Leiva**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Proviso East High School
Maywood, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural
Resources



CAREER PATH

It is pending.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, knowledge, and a mature mentality.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't be late.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It gave me different kinds of atmospheres and people. That is what gave me a better understanding to what I'm going to do.

Jessica Winter



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morris Community High School
Morris, Illinois – Grundy County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Computer Graphics and Multimedia

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Web Content Developer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dealer Inspire
Naperville, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications

CAREER PATH

I took the Computer Graphics & Multimedia with Mr. Terrel. This class really started my interest in this field. I loved every part of it and how many different things I learned in such a short period of time. After taking one year at GAVC, I went to Illinois State University and got my Bachelor of Science in Arts Technology. A few months after graduating, I received the job at Dealer Inspire as a Web Content Developer and have been working there since.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge of programs, basic fundamentals of art, technological knowledge, communication, and ability to work in teams.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

These classes give you a chance to find a career that you really enjoy. Take advantage of them, you can learn a lot. I also advise taking the two years if you have the opportunity.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was not sure what I wanted to go to school for until I took this class. I learned so many programs that I am still using to this day.



Jen Cave



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bloomington High School
Bloomington, Illinois–McLean County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Unit Director

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington
City, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

Attended Illinois State University and received a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Science. Went on to work for the school district D87 and was a paraprofessional for elementary aged children. After two years I then became the Unit Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Strong communication skills, organized, multi tasked, leader driven.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take it seriously! The real world is not as easy as we think!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The classes that taught me how to create lesson plans. That is what I do a lot of for our after-school enrichment program

Caleb Scott



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Pekin Community High School
Pekin, Illinois – Tazewell County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Graphic Communications, Publications

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Industrial Technology Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications, Manufacturing,
Engineering, Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

College of Education at Illinois State University

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Computer skills and knowledge of engineering/physics.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find something you love doing and make it your career. I know a lot of people say, don't make your hobby your job, but I would disagree. If you are passionate about something and want to make that your career, go for it, because there's a reason you love it in the first place.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Skills USA. It taught me leadership skills leading to me eventual path as an education major.

Amanda Shumaker



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Galesburg High School
Galesburg, Illinois – Knox County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

GAVC Certified Nurse Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

APRN

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Community Health Network
Anderson, IN

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I obtained my CNA from this course. I worked at a local nursing home until I finished high school. I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Anderson University in 2013 and started working as an RN. I got my first job on an inpatient surgical unit. Since then I have obtained experience in the OR, Labor and Delivery, Vascular Surgery, and Geriatrics. In August 2020, I graduated with my Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner. I accepted a job as a Nurse Practitioner at Community Health Network in Anderson, IN. I start there in March 2021. I am very excited to start this next chapter and owe a huge thanks for this program giving me a strong foundation to my career in healthcare.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You must have a passion for serving others. You need a compassionate spirit and a love for other people. You need to be organized, driven, and a team player. These are just a few skills that you need to be successful in the healthcare field.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be confident in yourself. Find something that you are passionate about and give 110% of yourself. Make sure that you find something that not only brings what you need financially but something that brings you joy. Make sure you enjoy going to work everyday.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The class that I took in high school built a strong foundation of basic skills needed to serve in healthcare. It gave me an opportunity to develop my communication skills and gain confidence in myself as I interacted with patients. This class helped me realize this was my true passion in life.



Miles Colwell



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School
Princeville, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cooperative Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Commercial Relationship Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Peoria, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services



CAREER PATH

I received my bachelor's degree in finance in 2014. After receiving my degree, I officially started my career in finance as a retail banker. After about a year, I moved into a credit analyst role and began to learn the functionality of commercial finance. I transitioned to a commercial loan underwriter digging deeper into financial ratios and loan structure. Once my skills became refined I became responsible for managing the commercial loan portfolio in Peoria. This included ensuring that annual reviews were conducted in a timely manner, the organizations we worked with were still financially healthy, and all financial covenants were met. Every career move I made was important in ultimately becoming a Commercial Relationship Manager.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Critical thinking, negotiation, interpersonal

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

I started my co-op program while the country was in the middle of a financial recession. I spent 6 months leading up to the start of the school year looking for a job and faced a lot of rejection during that timeframe. My advice would be to remain patient and confident.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I learned that working hard, having an open mind and a positive attitude are some underrated, very valuable attributes to maintain.

**Jenna
Krones**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School
Princeville, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cooperative Education, Accounting,
Computer Class

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Procurement Analyst

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

State Farm Insurance
Bloomington, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services



CAREER PATH

College degree, Chartered Life Underwriter insurance designation, company training

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, integrity, adaptability, critical thinking, collaboration, customer service

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Learn to communicate effectively. With the digital world exploding, we still need to be able to understand and connect with business partners internally and externally on many different platforms.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Real life working experience at a corporation.

Erin Brown



CAREER PATH

In high school, I started a photography business - primarily photographing seniors, families, and weddings. While taking classes at ICC, I continued to grow that business. By 19, I was also taking photos around my family's farm and creating agricultural social media content. I took two years' worth of classes at ICC before transferring to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I graduated from U of I with a degree in Agricultural Economics, with a concentration in Markets and Management. Upon graduation, I decided to purchase a house and continue to grow my photography and design business, rather than take a traditional job.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School
Princeville, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Agriculture/FFA, Accounting/Business, Industrial Tech

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Self-Employed Photographer and Website Designer and Renovate/Own Rental Properties

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Self Employed, Grand Vale Creative LLC and Grand Vale Real Estate LLC
Laura, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture/Food/Natural Resources, Arts/Audio/Visual Tech/Com, Finance/Busi. Services-Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades



EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Business and accounting skills are imperative for owning your own business. Knowledge of agriculture helps me connect with and communicate with my commercial agriculture clients. Communication skills help me create succinct and effective websites.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find the intersection of what you love and what you're good at. Once you've done that, figure out how to make money at it and find right people to mentor you along the way.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Agriculture - I fell in love with the industry and knew I wanted to be a part of it. Business, Art, Communications - I realized these were things I was naturally good at, and my career path needed to involve them. Industrial Arts - Helpful in creating the confidence to renovate rental homes.

Kelly Koller



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School
Princeville, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Accounting, Family and Consumer
Science—Sewing, Foods

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Assistant Principal

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Kenwood Elementary School
Champaign Unit 4
Champaign, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

I worked in a 4th grade classroom during my senior year of high school. I pushed in to support instructionally, behaviorally, and for material preparation. I was also given the opportunity to shadow occupations of my choice throughout the school year. I took family consumer science classes (sewing, foods,) and accounting to learn essential life skills. I served as a Special Education Teacher with Unit 4 Schools at Edison Middle School, a position I held for 10 years. During my time at Edison, I served as the Special Education Building Leader and RTI Team Member. I also held leadership roles as Novice Teacher Mentor, Professional Development Facilitator at the building and district level, Basketball Coach, and Volleyball Coach. I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from Eastern Illinois University in Dec. 2008, and Master's Degree in Educational Policy, Organization, and Leadership from the University of Illinois in 2018. I also received my endorsement as a Special Education Director from the University of St. Francis in May 2019.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

- Good communication skills - Flexibility
- Dependability - Strong work ethic
- Desire/motivation to continue learning and seeking new knowledge to push myself and others to grow

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Push yourself out of your comfort zone. Start setting goals and push yourself to achieve them. Don't be afraid of opportunities or experiences that seem hard or will make you work on your weaknesses. These are the moments that will allow you to grow as an individual.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The opportunity to volunteer in the 4th grade classroom during my senior year of high school. I realized my passion for teaching and knew this was a career I wanted to pursue in some capacity.

Cadence Griffiths

CAREER PATH

Following the completion of my CNA and graduation from West Aurora High School, I attended Aurora University where I graduated with a BA, double majoring in Political Science & Psychology. I then completed an accelerated Master of Public Administration Degree, also from Aurora University, during which I logged over 400 hours of internship with the Kane County Health Department under the Director of Disease Prevention before transitioning to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division. I am now the Emergency Response Coordinator for the Kane County Health Department and currently working on the planning team for COVID-19 mass vaccination in Kane County.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

West Aurora High School
Aurora, Illinois – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

HOSA CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Emergency Response Coordinator

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Kane County Health Department

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Excellent communication skills are a must, along with time management, the ability to foster interpersonal relationships, and being adaptive to quickly changing information or scenarios. Part of planning for emergency response is to plan for the unknown.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

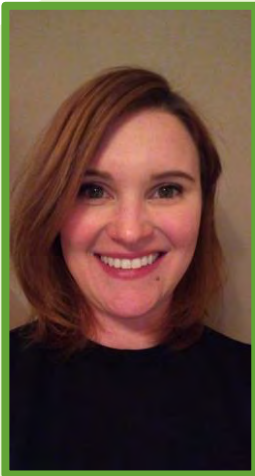
Take every opportunity available to you, it might not seem directly correlated to your dream job in the moment but you will learn priceless skills and lessons along the way.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Obtaining my CNA through HOSA really built a foundation of success for me. It allowed me to leave high school with the credentials needed for an above average paying job with flexible hours to sustain me through college.



Ryann Hager



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Joliet West High School
Joliet, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Food Fundamentals; Fashion

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Food Fundamentals & Culinary Arts
Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Joliet West High School
Joliet, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

I attended culinary school at Joliet Junior College. I worked on many kitchens from fast food to fine dining. I received my Bachelor's Degree from Illinois State University.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You need to like people and know how to communicate with them effectively. You need to be organized and set goals on a daily basis. You need leadership qualities that will promote respect and appreciation.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try EVERY CTE course you can! My biggest regret was not signing up for classes because they were "for boys." I wish I had taken advantage of those opportunities. High school is the best time to find out a career is or is NOT a good fit for you.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I loved my FACS teachers. I gravitated to the subject area initially, but eventually became so excited for class because I got to spend the class with my teachers. They were very nice but no nonsense which I needed as a teen.

Jennifer Perez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morton West High School
Berwyn, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction to Engineering Design

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Associate Mechanical Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Collins Aerospace
Rockford, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

After graduating high school, I went on to pursue a degree at NIU. After attending the internship fairs my sophomore year, I landed a co-op with UTC Aerospace Systems (now called Collins Aerospace). I completed a BSME at Northern Illinois University and went on to accept a full-time position with Collins Aerospace.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

CAD skills, along with a degree in the field.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't give up, the journey has just begun, ask for help and listen to those who have advice to offer. .

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taking that initial class in high school is what helped me choose Mechanical Engineering. Before taking that class, I had never considered engineering as a career path. It made all the difference in placing me where I am today.

Mianna Cuevas

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

J. Sterling Morton West High School
Berwyn, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Engineering

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Industrial Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dynamic Manufacturing
Hillside, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Started as an Engineering Intern at Dynamic Manufacturing while achieving my Associates degree in Mechanical Design at Triton College. I was hired full time as an Industrial Engineer and still continuing my education to achieve my bachelors in industrial management and applied engineering at SIUC.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, use of AutoCad and Autodesk Inventor, Organization, knowledge of materials and equipment.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

You may think the work is hard in high school, but college only gets more difficult. Stick to it, never give up, and reach out to former teachers; they are always willing to help. Also document EVERYTHING and show to any internships you land!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to take advantage of the fact that a high school offers engineering courses played a huge role in my engineering career. It taps into many different fields of engineering that I have used on a day to day basis. I have been able to apply all these skills and better understand my coworkers.

Steve Wallon

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lemont High School
Lemont, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Basic CAD instruction, advanced
building information and 3d modeling
classes, industrial arts/wood shop

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Commissioning and Controls Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Department of Energy's Argonne
National Laboratory

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Community College at Triton, transfer to University of Illinois in Champaign to complete Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies and then completed Master of Science in Architecture. Spent 8 years working as an energy engineering consultant for the State of Illinois and electrical/gas utilities before landing a job in the Infrastructure Services-Facilities division at Argonne.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge of science/engineering principles, computer aided drafting and other software for visual design, electrical systems, basics of programming logic and databases, and construction technology/practices.

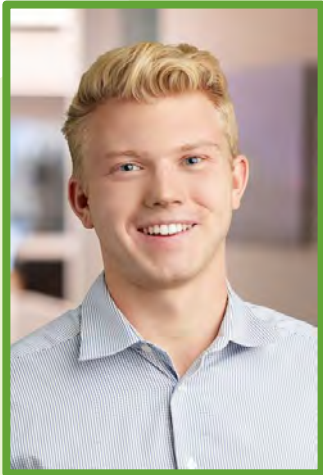
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take advantage of the classes and tools at your disposal during high school as these will develop your skills to lay the foundation for college or your career to follow, definitely giving you a distinct advantage with this type of experience you will realize later in life.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Knowledgeable instructors encouraging the students' exploration of the tools and technology.

Joe Ziebell



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lemont High School
Lemont, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CAD I, CAD II, CAD III

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cost Analyst

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Turner Construction Company
Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services,
Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

- I attended Villanova University to study Mechanical Engineering.
- After graduating, I began working for Turner Construction.
- My first role was an Assistant Superintendent on a data center project in Des Moines, IA.
- After roughly 1.5 years in Des Moines, I returned to Chicago and was assigned to our Cost Department where I currently am working as a Cost Analyst.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Critical Thinking, Analytics, Problem Solving, Teamwork,
People Skills, Leadership

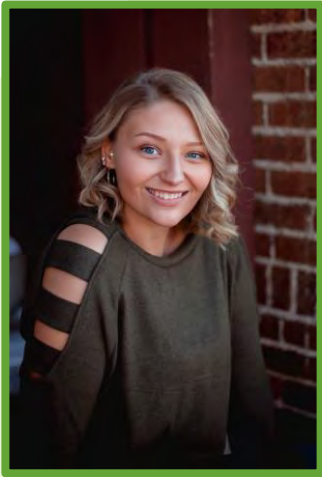
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Continue to take as many classes as you can that interest you. You can take all the typical classes that you want, and yes it will pay off in some manner, but taking the more specialized classes offers you a chance to see what you may want to pursue for a career at a younger age..

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Facing problems that did not always have strict criteria for how they could be solved and being forced to think creatively to overcome challenges.

Alyssa Koch



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Urbana High School
City, Illinois – Champaign County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Child Development

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Assistant Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Little Hearts and Hands
Urbana, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

I have my associates in early childhood education and my bachelors in family and consumer science

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, flexibility and love for children.
Strong communication and time management

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take classes that interest you because they can end up helping you decide what you want your career to be in.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took a child development class which allowed me to have hands on experience with children.

Brandon M. Cuevas



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

J. Sterling Morton West High School
Berwyn, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

PLTW/Introduction to Engineering
Design (IDE),
Principles of Engineering (POE)

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Electrical Engineer I/Test Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Sciaky, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Education:

Project Lead the Way (1st, 2nd year course) –
B.S. in Electrical Engineering Technology from
Northern Illinois University.

Internship: - Sciaky Inc., Electrical Assembler
Jun. 2019 - Aug. 2019

Employment:

Sciaky Inc., Test Engineer Jan.- Dec. 2020

Sciaky Inc., Electrical Engineer I Dec. 2020 -

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Leadership, Confidence, Integrity,
Ability to work well under pressure,
Good Technical Abilities

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Advice I would provide to CTE students is take these
classes seriously as they will see and do a lot of the things
they are completing in college and further down in their
career path.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Instant challenges where students are given a task to
complete with a variety of constraints such as materials
and time. This allowed me to work well under pressure,
collaborate with peers on design models, and forced me to
apply principles learned in class.

Dezarah Harminson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Urbana High School
Urbana, Illinois – Champaign County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Child Development &
Advanced Child Development classes

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Head Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Little Hearts & Hands
Urbana, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

In high school I took tons of child development classes, after graduation I took some classes online to receive my CDA which qualifies me to be a Head teacher in a classroom.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

I would have to say patience is something you need to have when working with small children.

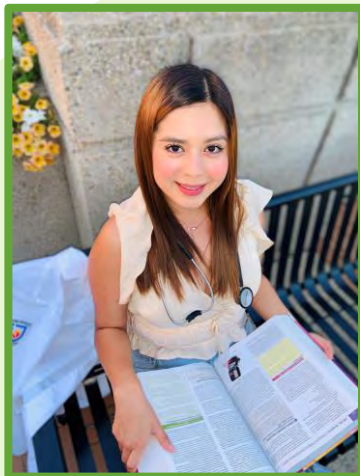
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do something you love doing.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

In high school we use to have a small preschool class that we would care for during school hours. I would say that experience really made me want to work with kids. They're so fun to work with & they always know how to make you smile.

Kimberly Penaflor



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

West Aurora High School
Aurora, Illinois – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Health Occupation Students of
America

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

West Aurora District 129
Aurora, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Starting my sophomore year of high school, I chose to be in a program known as HOSA where they provided us with healthcare courses and programs such as CNA certification, EMT, or phlebotomy. Senior year of high school one of my teachers encouraged me to apply for a scholarship, which I got, and that helped start my journey of becoming a nurse. I graduate high school 2016 and attended Bethel University fall of 2016. I enrolled myself into nursing courses starting my freshman year. At the end of freshman year, I applied for the nursing program and got accepted. I later started my nursing courses sophomore year and then graduate May 2020. I took my NCLEX in September and passed! Now I am officially a registered nurse.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

There are many skills a nurse needs but some big ones are critical thinker, leadership, communication and problem solver skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The advice I would give these high school students is to never give up on their dreams no matter the circumstances. To always believe in themselves and even when classes get hard or stress overwhelms them to keep pushing through because good things don't always come easy and it will be worth it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My high schools CTE program helped me realize early on what I wanted to do as I got older. It helped prepare me for some of the college courses I would be taking such as Anatomy and physiology, and chemistry.

Kelly Jacobson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Joliet Central High School
Joliet, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Certified Nursing Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Firefighter/EMT

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Montgomery Fire Department

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I started off by taking CNA in high school. I had an amazing instructor that taught me the medical the field and made me want to continue in the medical field more. I then went on to take EMR, EMT and then Paramedic school. I also went through the fire academy to obtain my BOF.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Compassion, perseverance, integrity, strength

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Never give up on your goals. If it's something you truly want and are truly passionate about then go for it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

CNA helped me get a start in the medical field and made me want to continue along the path.



Jacob Casey



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Joliet West High School
Joliet, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Woods Technology and Welding

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Carpenter

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

John Burns Construction Company
Oak Lawn, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

I've taking woods since sophomore year and Mr. Bell helped me find the right career for me. In order to be where I'm at right now I had to take many classes and receive certs to allow me to work in the field every day.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

All you have to do to is show up ready to work and willing to learn every day all day.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If you get bored in your shop classes now you may want to reconsider your career path.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Having a teacher who worked in the field that I was interested in making a career out of. It was very convincing to become a carpenter after talking to Bell or even to get in any union or trade for work.

Muroo Hamed



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School
Plainfield, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Certified Nursing Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
Park Ridge, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I received my nursing assistant certificate from Wilco my senior year of high school. The experience helped confirm my passion for nursing and I graduated with my bachelor of science in nursing from Chamberlain University a few years later. After graduating from Chamberlain, I went to volunteer in a hospital in Ramallah, Palestine. I volunteered there for a few months. I worked on the medical/surgical floor, ICU, and pediatric units. I used the skills I learned from becoming a CNA and a Registered Nurse to help assist in taking care of patients. When I returned to the United States, I got hired to work on the cardiac float pool at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. It was my dream job to work on a cardiac unit at a Level I trauma center.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Good communication skills, Compassion, Reliability, Professionalism, Time management, and Critical thinking skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The CTE program is a great opportunity to get your feet wet. Some of the programs, such as the Certified Nursing Assistant program provide you with a real certificate at the end of graduation. They give you all the necessary training and guidance so that you are ready to start after high school.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

At the program, I got to interact with real patients. I was able to wear my CNA uniform and assist in the nursing home. It was the first time I was exposed to the health care field and it made me realize it was exactly what I wanted to continue to do in the future.

Drake Bernhard



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Joliet Central High School
Joliet, Illinois – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

METT (stem)/CAD (inventor, Autocad),
Industrial Electric, Digital Electronics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Maintenance Division
Electrical Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Grain Processing Corporation
Muscatine, Iowa

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

I'm still early in my career and learning more all the time. I had a few internships

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

#1 Effectively reading and being able to find technical information quickly. #2 Ability to write, speak, and overall communicate effectively both in person and in documentation. #3 Foresight, planning, and scheduling abilities.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be social, respectful, and polite. Most jobs involve working with many others, not all of whom you'll like. Read often, expect to learn a large amount of your future job on the job. Despite this, paying attention in school subjects and doing well is a crucial part of "learning how to learn".

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Although unexpected at the time and the initial start of my career, I've found skills learned in a CAD class to be invaluable for allowing me to make design and layout drawings quickly and clearly. A drawing that takes an hour to produce can represent month's worth of planned work.

Kavin Wattanayuth



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Maine South High School, Park Ridge, IL Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Digital Marketing, Marketing, Graphic Design, Business Law, Culinary

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Digital Media/Creative Director

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Digital Media at Marquette Athletics - Milwaukee, WI; Creative Director at YNGDNA; Instagram Entrepreneur

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications



CAREER PATH

I'm currently still attending college but my current career path was homegrown. I pursued social media as a 6th grader and have built my way up in the media world throughout the years. My past experiences in social media has landed me a job with Marquette Athletics and a Creative Director job with Dwyane Wade's son, Zaire Wade. I also run my own social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Innovation, and Leadership

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It's never too late to start your own gig. You're still young and there's still a lot of time for you to grow. With digital media, you never know when your "viral moment" may be. One day can change your life. Keep going, everyone starts from somewhere.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was able to learn more about the "professional/corporate" side of things that was never really taught to me through my own learnings.

Audrey Schero

Audrey Schero

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

East High School, St. Charles, IL
Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Intro to engineering and design, Principles of engineering, Digital Electronics, and Engineering design and development

CURRENT JOB TITLE

I am currently in college

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

The path I am on right now is teaching me about how to problem solve more efficiently and how to work as a team towards a common goal.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Some skills that are needed are communication skills, the ability to work in a team, and time management skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

These classes are challenging but what they teach you is important and it teaches you the skills that employers are looking for and these skills are going to continue developing in college.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The classes I took in high school helped me develop skills that help me in life and in classes. For example time management was something I struggled with a lot but after taking these classes I was able to work on how to prioritize things that needed to be done and get them done on time.

Katelyn Turner



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School, Princeville, IL Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Graphic Communications, Computer Classes, Accounting, Art

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Photographer/Graphic Designer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Katelyn Turner Photography/The Boudoir Co - Brimfield, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications



CAREER PATH

I received my Bachelors of Science with a concentrations in Graphic Design & Photography in '09 from Illinois State University. I got a job with an established photographer during my time in college learning more about equipment, the business side of things, and gaining experience before taking the leap to start my own business in 2010.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For photography, being personable is #1. I work with all types of people: nervous, distracted, shy, etc. You must have a personality that encourages & help clients feel comfortable/confident in front of the camera very quickly. Knowledge of equipment & software, 2nd. Multitasking/Organization, 3rd.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If you find yourself consistently excited for a class and excelling in it, try to find a career in the same field. For the most part, it's true... you won't ever work a day in your life if you enjoy what you do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The classes allowed me to delve into what I was genuinely interested in. I thrived in these classes without trying... even the hard work was fun, so I knew I would enjoy a career in arts and technology.

Connor Adler



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Byron High School, Byron, IL Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CAD, PLTW

CURRENT JOB TITLE

CAD Design Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Northrop Grumman, West Virginia

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

I took every CAD and PLTW course I could in high school and graduated a semester early. Then I went to Morrison Institute of Technology and received my associates degree in CAD as an Engineering Technician. I then applied everywhere I could think of to find a job. Northrop Grumman called and flew me to West Virginia in November of 2019 for an interview. I was hired a week later and began work in January 2020. I really love what I do and have fun designing everyday. My team is a great group that work very well together and give me their total support. Northrop Grumman will also pay for their employees to continue their education with tuition reimbursement so I am beginning to work on my Bachelors Degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Good Communication skills are important; I just gave a presentation to my team on one of our software programs. CAD skills are essential and staying organized is also vital to job success. Problem solving skills are used everyday and being able to work within time constraints is mandatory.

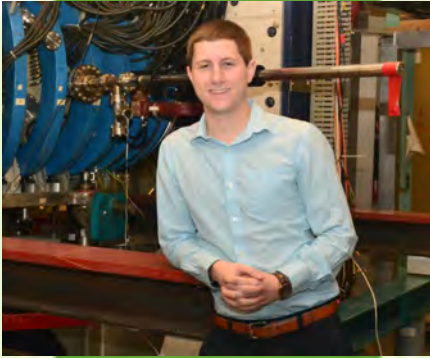
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

CAD is a very good career and if you are interested, do it. Make a goal and work toward that goal every day. Learn as many software programs in CAD as you can. Find good internships - I interned at a home remodeling company my first summer, then at an aerospace company my second summer.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My teachers Mr. McMullen and Mr. Reidner prepared me for this career by continually challenging me with new programs and new problems to solve.

Andrew Shone



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Saint Charles East High School,
Saint Charles, IL – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

PLTW IED, POE, and EDD

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PhD Graduate Student in Nuclear, Plasma,
and Radiological Engineering

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois at Urbana-Cham-
paign, Champaign, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

I was interested in nuclear engineering from the start of high school and that interest pushed me towards a curriculum heavy in math, physics, and engineering. The skills learned in these courses led me to excel at UIUC in the Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering department. My undergraduate studies helped me learn I have a deep passion for engineering solutions which involve complicated nuclear and atomic physics. Graduate school was the next logical step for my career and I am currently pursuing my PhD at UIUC in plasma and fusion science. My current career goal is to either work for the semiconductor industry in R&D for semiconductor chips or continue my current research in fusion material research.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

High-level communication skills, efficient problem solving, broad knowledge of plasma physics, ability to work in a diverse team, tolerant to stressful environments, and basic engineering skills of modeling, coding, etc.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

You will only get out what you put into your PLTW classes or any classes for that matter. I spent countless hours outside of the designated class time on my PLTW projects. I developed skills in high school that immediately put me at an advantage over other students in undergrad and graduate school.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

One thing I always refer back to is the process of approaching a problem as learned through PLTW IED, POE, and EDD. It is far too common in engineering that people see a problem and immediately have a solution. Taking a step back and analyzing the problem almost always produces a better solution.

Himal Patel

Himal Patel

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

James B Conant High School,
Hoffman Estates IL Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Applied Technology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

IT Service Desk Consultant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bradley University - Peoria, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology



CAREER PATH

I want to be a Cybersecurity analyst and am currently working on getting my undergraduate degree with a concentration in Cybersecurity.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge of security skills, certifications in networking, security, and penetration testing.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

You do not have to know you're job right out of high school, but eventually you'll find the thing that resonates to you. That is what makes you you, not your choices but your overview and how you look at opportunities.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I had the amazing teacher, Mr. Jeffery Robinson who was like a mentor, and a great guide to me. They shaped my life and helped me feel comfortable in my own shell. We still talk to this day.

Angela Wiscons



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Saint Charles East High School,
Saint Charles, IL Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

IED, POE, EDD

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Territory Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dwyer Instruments, Michigan City, IN

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services; Man-
ufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades



CAREER PATH

I received fantastic STEM training at the high school level through various STCE High School teachers and mentors, graduated in 2018 from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S in Mechanical Engineering, and started at Dwyer Instruments as a Rotational Inside Sales Engineer. Now after 2.5 years, I am a Territory Account Manager.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Strong communication, technical aptitude, business acumen, customer empathy, coordination

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pursue your passion, develop your skillset, and push yourself a little out of your comfort zone everyday so that you can grow and learn who you can become.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Developing my capstone EDD project taught me to think critically, ask for help when needed, seek clarification in project parameters, and (most importantly) demonstrate self-confidence and confidence in the quality of my work through presentation. These skills directly carry into my current career.

Beth Terpstra



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Glenwood High School, Chatham,
IL Sangamon County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Business Law; Accounting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Business Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Maine South High School; Park Ridge, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences); Career
Exploration & Development



CAREER PATH

I graduated with an undergraduate degree in Sociology and minor English from UIUC. I then went on to get a masters degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University. While working on that degree, I interned with the Chicago Rush and Chicago Blackhawks in game day operations. I also was a manager for the retail store Express. After that, I was a college recruiter and that led me to discover my passion for students. I then got a masters in teaching from National Louis University. I am lucky I get to keep my passion for Marketing alive by teaching it. Along with teaching, I work game days for the Chicago Bears.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

In teaching and game day operations, strong communication skills and the ability to work well with others are needed. Organization will serve you well; however, things will change, and you should be flexible and work under pressure. No matter the career, a strong work ethic will help you succeed.

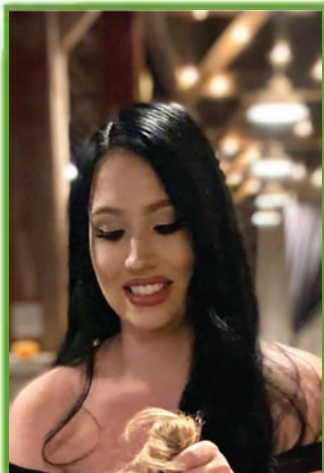
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try to get internships as often and in as many different areas as you can. While you are interning (or working part time), always do your best and network. You never know where a former colleague or boss may end up or who they know. Most of my jobs are a direct result of hard work and networking!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Experiences that I had in high school that made the most impact in my life were working with other students whether or not they were my friend and also having my spelling and grammar count in more than just English class. Both of these are things that translate to jobs!

Haley Ceschin



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Stillman Valley High School, Stillman Valley, IL Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cosmetology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cosmetologist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

JC Penney Salon

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

I began my cosmetology career path in high school! My school offered a program to receive a head start in cosmetology. I then went on to complete cosmetology and receive my license through Educators of Beauty - Rockford. Because I began my education while still in high school, it was only about a year and a half before I graduated from cosmetology. During my training at EOB, we learned everything from anatomy, to hair & nail services, and much more. We were also able to participate in the Salon Centric Future Pro contest and I even earned runner up! Receiving my education through our CTE program prepared me beyond my needs for the career I've started for myself now.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Attention to detail, connection skills, being personable, being able to work in a fast-paced environment

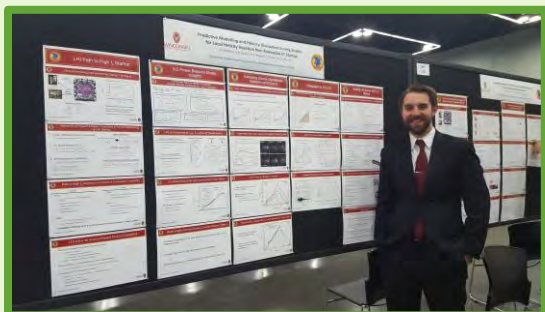
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It may seem tough at first, but make sure to show up every day and be willing to learn. The discipline will pay off!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to have that head start really helped launch me forward to a part of my career some people don't reach until they are about 3-5 years in. The extra time & knowledge I gained helped prepare me for the real cosmetology school experience before I even had to be there.

Justin Weberski



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

St. Charles East High School in St. Charles, IL – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

PLTW: IED, PLTW: POE, PLTW: EDD

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Graduate Research Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades

CAREER PATH

I graduated with my Bachelor's in Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I then proceeded to pursue my PhD in Nuclear Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am presently in my 5th year of graduate school already having completed my Master's and presently working in a research lab working on plasma physics and fusion technology.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

A career working in research development fundamentally requires communication, problem-solving, collaboration, team-work, the ability to think "outside of the box", and a willingness and desire to continuously learn.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Embrace the unique opportunity the curriculum in these classes provide. They are unlike any other offered in high school and are the best preparation for the type of thinking and problem-solving that is required in college engineering courses and working on engineering projects in future careers.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Introduction to the type of problem-solving process that is fundamental for a career in research and development. It also served as my first introduction to computer programming, which I have used extensively in school and my career.



Kathryn Seabruck



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Byron High School
Byron, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Agriculture

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Agriculture Instructor

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Illinois Valley Community College
Oglesby, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural
Resources

CAREER PATH

After graduating high school, I earned my bachelor's degree in Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois. While earning my undergraduate degree, I interned with a couple agriculture companies and conducted research under the supervision of one of my professors. This led to my decision to earn my master's degree in Crop Sciences. Upon graduation, I accepted my current position at Illinois Valley Community College, where I teach a variety of agricultural courses and help lead the agriculture program.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Time management, public speaking, attention to detail, communication, conflict management

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep an open mind, and be willing to try new things. Your path may change, and that is perfectly okay!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took as many agriculture courses as I could in high school. This is how I realized my love for agronomy, and it taught me the importance of trying new things. Doing so allows you to learn both what you like and what you do not like, which is an invaluable lesson that I carry with me to this day.



Connor Sible



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Byron High School
Byron, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Plant and Animal Sciences

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Graduate Research Assistant - Ph.D.
Student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural
Resources



CAREER PATH

My career path started with the plant and animal science classes offered by my high school, which provided a connection of my general coursework (science and math) to a more hands-on and applied approach. Those experiences sent me to college where I earned my BS in Crop Sciences. During that time I completed 3 internships in different agricultural sectors (retail, production, and research). The field research internship was the opportunity that I thoroughly enjoyed the most and at which point I decided to pursue graduate work with an MS, and I am now a year away from finishing my PhD. After that I intend to find a career in agricultural research working with industry and farmers.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Beyond basic technical skills which come with experience:
Willingness to learn - There is always something new. Ability to adapt - Each field requires a different approach. Good communication - To relate to both farmers and the public. An open mind - There are always multiple solutions to a problem.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Ask questions! When people share their experiences is often the best education. Try new things, and do not be afraid to try again and again. The first classes or jobs you take do not have to be your set path. If it is not enjoyable, try something different until you discover your passion.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The opportunity to take a class that relates core class (biology, math) concepts to hands-on projects related to real career paths was what separated those CTE courses from the core basics. The moment for me was the ability to work with plants in a greenhouse and know this was career possibility.

Keelyn Triggs



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Byron High School
Byron, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Animal Science, Plant Science and
Horticulture

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Crop Insurance Specialist, Farmer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Farmers Business Network

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural
Resources



CAREER PATH

Growing up with a farming background I knew I wanted to go into agriculture. I took every possible agriculture class offered throughout high school in addition to being involved in 4-H and FFA. I was able to use these experiences to have scholarships to go to Iowa State University where I double majored in Agricultural Business and Agriculture & Society. It was there that I had three different summer internships and worked at a local agriculture company during the school year. Following graduation I got my crop insurance license and now work for Farmers Business Network and get to talk to farmers every single day. I also raise cattle and show pigs alongside my husband.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Skills needed to go into crop insurance include: a high work ethic, people skills, listening skills and being confident.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take your CTE classes seriously - you will enjoy them so much and will learn so much real world knowledge that you can apply to your future career. Be willing to take some of the classes that you have just a little bit of interest in. you never know what you end up enjoying.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to take CTE classes allowed me to narrow down what areas of agriculture I did and did not want to go into. Before I ever stepped onto a college campus I had my major narrowed down to a couple options because I knew what I enjoyed and was passionate about.

Joie Vittetow



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Winnebago High School
Winnebago, Illinois–Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Program

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Intern Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

TAC Rockford
Rockford, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

In eighth grade, I went to do two job shadows. This is when I really set my mind that I wanted to be in the technology related field, better yet, an engineer! In high school, I took the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) classes that was offered and was on the Winnovation Robotics team. I have graduated from Rock Valley College with an Associate's degree in Engineering Science in 2019. I had the opportunity to be the coach of Montessori FLL Robotics Team in 2020. Currently, I am a senior at Northern Illinois University through the Rock Valley College engineering program to complete my Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am at TAC Rockford (2019-2021). Soon I will be working at a new internship at Collin's Aerospace in Rockford (2021)!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Problem Solving, Team Player,
Organization, Time Management, Evaluate Quantitative
Data Commercially Awareness, Self-Motivation

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If there are any programs/classes that your high school offers that would relate to your future career goals, take them! Also, go do job shadows with people that are in the career field you are interested in! These opportunities will allow you to have a better understanding of the career.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

At Winnebago High School, they had a program for career planning. The career planning involved seeing an advisor regularly throughout each semester to assure you are on the correct path needed to meet your goal in your future career.

Andrew Gordon



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

St. Charles East High School
St. Charles, Illinois – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

PLTW Introduction to Engineering and
Design and Principles of Engineering

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Metallographer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Liberty Steel and Wire
Peoria, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Bachelors Graduate in Materials Science and Engineering
UIUC with a focus on metals and metal materials. Post
Graduation hired as a Metallographer for Keystone Steel
and Wire now Liberty Steel and Wire in Peoria.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Employee Management, Communication skills (especially to
people not technically trained as you are), Time
management and task planning, Technical understanding
of Steel production, Critical Thinking and decision making in
a timely fashion, Customer Interfacing

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do what you want to do. If you're even seeing this, you're
likely ahead of many adjacent students, and even more
likely know how to handle yourself up to this point in life.
You've made it this far and can truly do anything, don't let
some lame excuse hold you back. Follow your passions.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Time management and organization are still something I
need to work on, but the foundations of both were taught to
me in high school. Not to mention the general ideology of
engineering and problem solving; PLTW courses shaped my
mindset when tackling problems even subconsciously.

Nick Cecchi

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

St. Charles East High School
St. Charles, Illinois – Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Project Lead the Way - IED, POE, and
Senior Capstone

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Senior Product Quality Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Radio Flyer
Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Graduated St. Charles East, then attended Bradley University in Peoria IL, where I graduated with a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering. I interned at Radio Flyer, where I then gained a full-time position after graduation from Bradley. Post graduation, I earned my Six Sigma green belt through Villanova.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Problem Solving, Prioritization/Scheduling, Hands on Exposure to Tools/Manufacturing, Communication, Basic Solid Modeling, Fundamentals of Statics and Dynamics

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Understanding the basics of the engineering problem solving process sets you up for long term success. I've watched many students in college jump to conclusions and skip steps, only to end up spinning their wheels and get frustrated. The same problem-solving ability is expected in the workplace.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

PLTW gave me early exposure to the engineering process and helped to form a problem-solving mindset. I was able to develop hands on skills that helped to make me a more confident college student and ultimately a better engineer.

Summer Field



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Byron High School
Byron, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Horticulture

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Assistant Propagation Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Spring Meadow Nursery
Grand Haven, Michigan

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural
Resources



CAREER PATH

Because of the opportunities Byron High School provided me, I knew exactly what career path I wanted to pursue after graduating high school. After high school, I attended Rock Valley College and earned my Associate's in Science. Then I transferred to Southern Illinois University and earned my Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. After graduation, I was offered a job at Spring Meadow Nursery to be an Assistant Propagation Manager. Spring Meadow is known as a world-wide leader in the flowering shrub genetics and plant breeding. We travel the world in search of new plants for the Proven Winners plant brand and has built a reputation of introducing outstanding new plants to the nursery and landscape industry.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Some of the characteristics that make me successful at my job is being able to pay attention to detail, strong work ethic, reliable, driven to learn and adapt to changes, the quality of my work and my passion for the industry I'm working in.

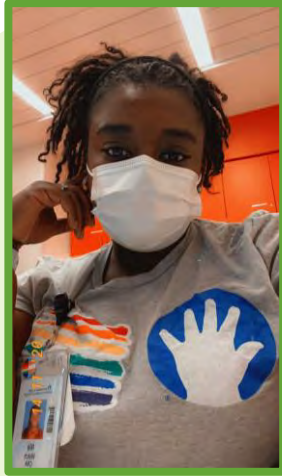
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Explore every opportunity provided to you. Once you find something you're passionate and talented at - pursue it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

What impacted my high school experience the most was my agriculture teacher at the time, Eric Tryggstad. His passion for plants/agriculture inspired me to go into the horticulture industry.

Nia Welch



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Chicago Vocational High School
Chicago, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Nursing Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Lurie Children's Hospital
Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

I started in my medical class in high school, then I was offered an opportunity to take a nursing assistant class. From there I was provided with an internship at the children's hospital, then I got offered a position by the unit manager of the unit I did my internship with.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Nursing assistant certification

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try to take every opportunity given to you, and please take everything seriously!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Try to take every opportunity given to you, and please take everything seriously!

Brittany Ware



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Chicago Vocational Career Academy
Chicago, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Certified medical assistant, associate degree of Nursing at community college, BSN at Chamberlain.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

A degree in Nursing

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Stick with what you want to do at an earlier age because life only gets harder as time passes.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It opened my eyes to the healthcare field and helped me realize what I wanted to do with my life.

Maranda Wills



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Chicago Vocational Career Academy
Chicago, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

National Health Corps AmeriCorps
Member Diabetes Health Educator

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Advocate Trinity Hospital
Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology



CAREER PATH

Attended CVS high school and majored in Medical Assistant. After high school I further my education at Western Illinois University and received my Bachelors degree of science in Health Services Management as a major and business as my minor. I interned at Advocate Trinity Hospital while in high school 2013-2014 for Pathway to healthcare and interned again there in 2019 to complete 460 hours to graduate from college.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Your willingness to learn, self-motivation, competence and etc. Bachelor degree of science. Education is important.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If given the opportunity do it! Don't do it just to say you did it but do it for yourself. I call it early networking because you may cross path with someone who you later may need to see again for opportunities and etc. Be passionate. It is not a race or marathon once you start don't give up.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I got the opportunity to intern at Advocate Trinity Hospital and were able to answer patients call lights, check vitals, and just help them if they needed it. I had received my CPR certification and blood borne pathogen. I also went to competition in the health science competition HOSA.

CAREER PATH

Nurse

**Autumn
Smithmoore**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Chicago Vocational Career Academy
Chicago, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Patient Care Tech

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dallas, Texas

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Computer, writing, English

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take every advantage given. It will go a long way

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Shadowing



Xochi Ramos



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Morton West High School
Berwyn, Illinois – Cook County

HS CTE CLASSES ENROLLED

Introduction to Engineering Design,
Principles of Engineering, Computer
Integrated Manufacturing &
Technology Service Internship

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Quality Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Winzeler Gear
Harwood Heights, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Problem solving, math, ability to
understand and create CAD/technical
drawings, time management



CAREER PATH

I was hired straight out of high school to begin as a quality technician at Winzeler Gear. My engineering and technology background I built in high school paved the way for me.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Problem solving, math, ability to understand and create
CAD/technical drawings, time management

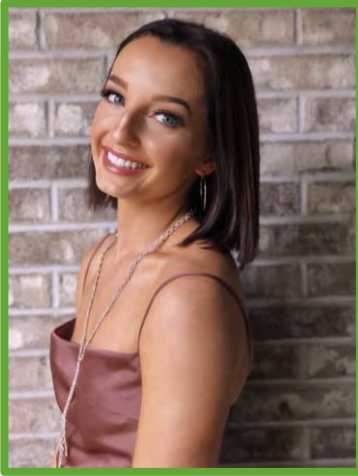
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice for high school CTE students is to pay attention
in their classes and pursue what they love the most.
Engineering, Technology and career courses give you
employable skills.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Through the engineering courses I took, I got a bunch of
exposure to different types of engineering. Through
engineering I learned CAD, electricity, using manufacturing
equipment, and most importantly how to solve problems
and document everything.

Katie Davis



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Stillman Valley High School
Stillman Valley, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Educators of Beauty Vocational
Program

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cosmetologist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Tease A Salon For You
Stillman Valley, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

I always knew that being a cosmetologist was in my future because of my love for all things beauty at a very young age. During my senior year of high school, I decided to enroll in the Educators of Beauty vocational program to solidify that this is what I wanted to do. After graduating high school, I decided to finish my hours at Educators of beauty and get my license. I started working my career job in less than a year of graduating high school which was amazing.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being personable and having the ability to communicate well with people are very important skills to have with this job choice! Letting your creative side come to light is an everyday perk of being a cosmetologist. Confidence is key!

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

This gives you a very good idea if this is the career path you would like to take or not. You never know unless you try!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I had a very good experience with the vocational program at Educators of Beauty. They gave me a great idea of what the rest of my schooling there would look like. The teachers are very knowledgeable, and the rest of the staff are very nice. They are always there to help no matter what!

Morgan Riverdahl



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Harlem High School
Machesney Park, IL–Winnebago Co.

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cosmetology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Hairstylist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Willow Beauty Center
Rockford, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications



CAREER PATH

While I was in high school, I attended the vocational program at Educators of Beauty. So, half of the day I spent time at Harlem high school and then the other half at Educators of Beauty. While At school I was awarded with student of the year and best customer service award at my graduation. Right out of school I started at a salon and it taught me what I needed to learn about being in a salon. But I just recently started my own little business under Willow Beauty Center and it was honestly the best decision. I was trained with Goldwell color and Brazilian blowout.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You have to be a definite people person, hardworking, determined, and willing to learn and take in new things every day!

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard, Stay focused, Dream big!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Well it definitely gives you a Headstart on your career also gives you the chance to really figure out if this is something you want to do for your career.

**Suzanne
Wiemken**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Princeville High School
Princeville, Illinois – Peoria County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

College Prep

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Category Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Deerfield, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services



CAREER PATH

Bachelors degree, entry level position in buying office

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Business acumen, analytical skills, negotiation,
presentation skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be passionate and engaged in any role you are a part of

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Presentation skills and Microsoft office

Anthony Glorioso



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Buffalo Grove High School
Buffalo Grove, Illinois – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Drafting, Design

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Technology and Engineering Education

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bartlett High School
Bartlett, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Career pathway here



CAREER PATH

After high school, I attended Illinois State University and majored in Technology Education and worked as an assistant contractor during the summer. After graduating from ISU I became a educator at Normal Community High school in town. There I taught plasticsworking, metalworking, woodworking, drafting and animation. At NCHS I continued my passion with designing and producing products with my hands to share my passion with my students. Years later I went back to ISU to earn my masters degree in STEM Leadership as well as get certificates in Training and Development and Project Management. I now work at Bartlett High School continuing to share my passion for design and building. As well as work for a concrete company over the summer.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, Problem solving, Collaboration (Written and Verbal), Intrinsic motivation, Passion, Willing to help others

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

1. Take all and any CTE classes! 2. Participate in any school or non school related competitions and clubs 3. Be willing to learn and continue to learn....you don't know everything. Even if you already know a lot you can always pick up something very small to improve yourself.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My teacher was a big part of the reason for choosing my career path.

Barbara Olson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Hononegah High School
Rockton, Illinois – Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Child Development, Home Economics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Executive Director/Owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

World of Dreams Daycare & Preschool
South Beloit, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

Associates Degree in Applied Science;
Early Childhood/Child Development CPR & First Aid
Certified
Manager's Certificate in Food Service
Illinois Director's Credential

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

DCFS Required Classes (SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome,
Mandated Reporter, & Health and Safety Courses),
Dedication, Patience, Flexibility, and Management Skills

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Believe in yourself. Reach for the STARS. Work hard,
dreams do come true!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took a Child Development class in high school which helped me with my first job at a daycare center. I started as an afternoon school age teacher, then to the kitchen coordinator, and continued to move up the ladder. After earning my college degree, my dream began on building my own center.

Caleb Blatchford



CAREER PATH

After taking high school Automotive classes at Belvidere North I had the passion to learn and create a career in the Automotive industry. My passion changed from a hobby to a lifestyle. After graduating from Belvidere North where I took three Automotive courses I attended and graduated from Rock Valley Colleges Automotive program as well. While attending Rock Valley I worked at Firestone Complete Auto Care and Boone County Transmissions. After graduating from RVC I was employed by Equipment Depot, a Forklift repair facility in Rockford IL. I left Equipment Depot to take the position as Automotive Instructor at Belvidere High School where I am currently employed.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Belvidere North High School
Belvidere, Illinois – Boone County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Automotive

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Automotive Instructor

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Belvidere High School
Belvidere, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hard Work and Determination to problem solve.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take into consideration the Trades and CTE related content when deciding what your career path might look like

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was able to explore options outside of getting a four-year degree after high school



Shannon Ungaro



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Harlem High School,
Machesney Park, Illinois
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Paw Prints and Early Childhood
Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

World of Dreams Daycare and
Preschool--South Beloit, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

I took the classes in high school that helped me get into the job I knew I was meant for. When I got hired, I was a teachers' aide. I took classes at the community college to get me teacher qualified. (Classes vary, but most were education classes) That allowed me to be able to create lesson plans and a stronger bond with the children.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

CRP, First Aide, Yearly trainings to stay certified

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always be yourself! The children will love you for who you are. Always smile and be in the moment with them. I always thought they needed me but I needed them <3

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to go into a daycare setting and seeing how things are run, seeing the children engage into the learning and the dedication the teachers are putting into their lesson plans. It gave me a way to show how much I loved teaching and helped me get my dream job. It turned strangers into family.

John Ekberg



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Jefferson High School
Rockford, Illinois – Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Machine Tool 1 & 2 at VOTECH

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Vice President

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Circle Boring and Machine
Rockford, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services,
Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Trinity
College in Deerfield IL.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Excellence in reading, math and understanding
manufacturing processes

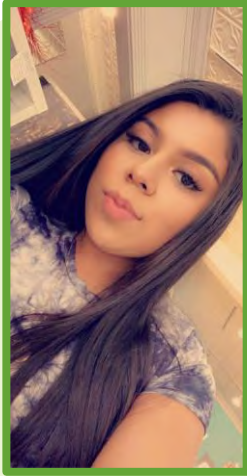
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Making finished metal products is an essential and
rewarding career

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Making a "sine" fixture block

Lizeth Garcia



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Stillman Valley High School
Stillman Valley, Illinois – Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Educators of Beauty

CURRENT JOB TITLE

License Cosmetologist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

JCPenney Salon & UPS (Supervisor)
Rockford, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services



CAREER PATH

My senior year I attend educators of beauty in the vocational program. After graduating high school I knew I wanted to continue at Educators of Beauty came back in the summer. Few months later got a job at ups, graduated school. Took my state boards and apply at Mary's shear artistry and got the job on the spot. Was working there and ups in November of 2019 promoted as a supervisor and got my lash technician lashes. In October of 2020 applied at JCPenney salon got the job on the spot. And continue working at ups in December of 2020 I decided to go back to get my cosmetology teaching license. I'm currently enrolled in school at educators of Beauty to become a cosmetology teacher while still working at JCPenney salon and ups.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard for what you want and don't ever give up even if it seems impossible. All that hard work will pay off one day.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Customer service skills

Nia Damgova



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

St. Charles East High School,
Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Drafting, PLTW Civil Engineering and Archi-
tecture

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Design Associate (AAIA)

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dake Wells Architecture in Springfield, MO

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Com-
munications, Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology & Trades

CAREER PATH

I graduated at the top of my class with an M.Arch from Drury Uni-
versity and accepted a full time position at Dake Wells Architec-
ture after interning there. I am working toward licensure.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Drafting, building technology, visual literacy, sketching and model
building, visual and oral communication, graphic design

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

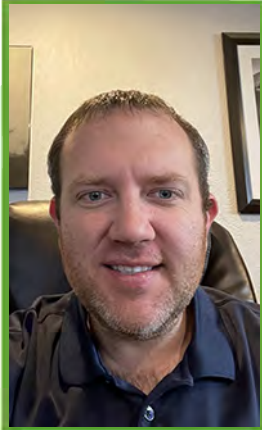
CTE classes are a great way to build basic skills and understand-
ing but don't be afraid to explore other areas of specialization
than you may initially think. Job shadowing is a great way to learn
more about potential career paths!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

These classes affirmed my design to pursue a college degree in
architecture and provided me with a head start compared to my
peers who did not have similar opportunities in high school, allow-
ing me to focus on more advanced knowledge and skills during
college.



Adam Bellas



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Normal Community West,
McLean County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

AG and general studies

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Small business owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bellas Landscaping- Bloomington, IL & Lil
Beaver Brewery- Bloomington, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications, Finance and Business Services, Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

I've always been an entrepreneur at a young age. Started a landscaping company while in high school. Attended Heartland Community College while still working in and operating our landscape company. After Heartland College I grew our landscape company with twin brother into a multi-million dollar year-round operation. Our networking and connections have lead us in many directions, most recently becoming partners in Lil Beaver Brewery in Bloomington, IL. We enjoy growing companies from little sales into multi-million dollar operations. Building the teams to do amazing things!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Willing to learn. I'm a self taught business owner who's willing to put in the hours to get the rewards. I can teach anyone who's willing to learn and grow.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep your options open, but do what you enjoy. I don't fee like "work" is work. I enjoy the life style of a small business owner. Everyday I learn something new.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Life connections and great relationships.

Justin Bellas



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Normal Community West,
McLean County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

AG & General studies

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Small Business Entrepreneur

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bellas Landscaping & Lil Beaver Brewery -
Bloomington, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

Normal West High School Graduate, Heartland Community College Graduate. If you are willing to put in the time you can work your way up to the top in most professions. You don't necessarily need a masters or even a 4 year college degree to be what people consider "successful". I knew I wanted to work outside and make an honest paycheck and it's why we started a landscaping company right out of high school. We were able to work full time while attending Heartland Community College as the college had very flexible schedules. We have worked 60-70 hours a week for almost 20 years, but it has made it possible to invest in many different ventures including Lil Beaver Brewery- Bloomington IL which is now a well known brewery all over the state.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, willing to take risks and willing to work long days is why we have grown in many different industries.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

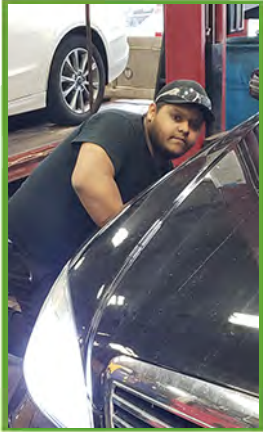
Never settle for a job you don't love. You don't have to be the best at your career, you can make up for things you lack by being loyal, appreciative & hard working. No one will ever put down someone that works hard & is dedicated to their job. Make yourself irreplaceable!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Knowing that you can be successful without a 4 year college degree. If you work hard for something, you will achieve it.



Eduardo Thomas



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Auburn,
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Automotive Technology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Tuffy Auto Repair

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

High school classes, on the job training, online training, in person training

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Teamwork, good communication, patience, customer friendly, time management, dependability, honesty

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Class is not an easy A, pay attention, participate, and follow instruction to pass and be able to make a career out of it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Good teacher, other knowledgeable classmates



Josh Heim



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Auburn,
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Automotive Technology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Tuffy Auto Repair, Loves Park, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

Started at Tuffy during high school and continued on after graduation. Learned on-the-job, in person training events, and online training.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge of vehicle systems (powertrain, controls, tires, brakes, etc.)

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Show up, pay attention, work hard, help others.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Great teacher who helped us learn and grow in knowledge



Theodore Hahn



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Mount Pulaski HS,
Logan County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Woods, Building trades

CURRENT JOB TITLE

CTE High school teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

South Korea

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications, Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades

CAREER PATH

I am teaching Robotics and Video Communication for the Department of Defense Education Association, I work with American children living overseas on military bases. I have a robotics program using VEX and students are involved in competing with robotics. I also teach Video communication with three levels of courses as well as a summer camp program with a university here in South Korea.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Robotics, programming and video editing skills with several years working in the film industry.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take your classes seriously and enjoy the environment you are learning in. School is fun but having a career you love when working is the best of everything.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learning to work with your hands and solving problems on the job site made it possible to solve my life issues learning my career needs.



Scott Anderson

Scott Anderson

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

East High,
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Shop/ Construction

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Cream City Concrete inc.

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

2 years of Shop/ Construction class and hand on training of trade job

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Able to learn hands on with a positive mind set. Physical labor

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Highly recommended very helpful

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Building trades



Joshua Tinajero



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Dundee Crown High School,
Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Electricity 1, 2 & 3

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Construction Wireman (CW)

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

IBEW

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

I studied at Dundee Crown, in the unique electrical program. Each class getting more into detail with the fundamentals of electrical energy. Practicing these new skills that I have acquired in class have made me more efficient in installing solar panels. Currently working with SolAmerica I install solar panels in large quantities. So far I have been assigned into 3 different job sites. Two of which were mind-blowing in size reaching 16 acres each. I plan on becoming a journeyman electrician. That is my dream and my drive, and I will see the light at the end.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Mechanical aptitude, problem solving skills, business skills, reading comprehension, and customer service skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The world is in need of trades, be strong and think outside the box. And let yourself be guided.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I worked face to face with a journeyman. This gave me the opportunity to ask questions about the topic and work that we accomplished. I created a lamp with a GFI, 4 USB ports, and a lamp holder. From bending pipe to wiring a switchgear big enough to power a walgreens, nothing was left out.



Jalen Ponder



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Hononegah Community High School,
Rockton, IL,
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Digital Design, IED, Entrepreneurship

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Business Owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Evendtor,LLC and Evolution,LLC

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services, Informa-
tion Technology

CAREER PATH

I began working on my business skills at the age of 13. My hustle started off with running social media pages for food trucks, then to booking them, then to running my own booking company. I recently started a new business in which I am a co-founder of. The new business, Evolution,LLC. , is launching this February and the goal of the business is to be a digital marketing and sales company in one.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Organization, strategic thinking, website development, sales, speaking

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take this time to learn, you don't have to worry about expenses. You must take this time to find out what it is you want to do, wasting these years is one of the biggest mistakes american school systems actually endorse. High school should be fun, but it also must be a time to explore your craft.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The teachers that assisted me are still very close to me today. High school offered me a safe spot to continue my craft and the teachers offered me a assistance in any road blocks that were preventing me from moving forward.



**Jason
Lee**

**Jason
Lee**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Dundee Crown High School, Kane County

**CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES
ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH
SCHOOL**

Electricity

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

Working to become an electrician through Union apprenticeship.

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED
FOR THIS CAREER**

Need to be hard working, have flexible thinking and problem solving skills and physically able.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take and support your CTE classes. They are underappreciated and teach you far more than any of your regular classes that you are forced to take.

**HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN
YOUR LIFE/CAREER?**

It showed me the career that I want to pursue as well as showed me the skills and knowledge that I would need to pursue this career.



Joe Sieczkowski



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Maine South Township High School, Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CAD/Engineering

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Division Chair for Science, TEE and FCS

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Amos Alonzo Stagg High School

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including Family & Consumer Sciences), Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades, Career Exploration & Development



CAREER PATH

After taking a variety of Technology and Engineering courses at Maine South High School as well as some work based learning opportunities, I decided to attend Illinois State University to pursue a degree in Technology Education. From there I started my career as a teacher at South Elgin High School during which time I earned two Master's degrees that led me to my current position.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

A passion for both supporting young adults as well as in the content area that you are teaching.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard and don't give up. Someone willing to learn and that has great employability skills will be successful.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

While taking CTE courses in high school, I decided that I wanted to continue to promote and help other students have similar opportunities which is why I became a Technology Education teacher.

Brendan Grigg



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Triad High School, Troy, IL -- Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Digital Electrics, Senior Design

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Leadership Development Program - Project Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Graphic Packaging International in Carol Stream, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services, Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades, Career Exploration & Development

CAREER PATH

I have obtained a chemical engineering degree from Vanderbilt University. I am currently going into a leadership program with my company where they simultaneously have me work as a project engineer and shadow their managers. Eventually the idea is that I would move into these manager roles.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Leadership, attention to detail, and the ability to work with others.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Figure out how to budget your time when working on extended projects. Set small milestones for yourself to reach throughout the project.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Getting hands out experience with electronics and the project based nature of the CTE program really helped me prepare for the future.



Daustin Hoelscher



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Mascoutah Community High School, St. Clair County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Cooperative Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Technical Operations Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Jump Trading - Chicago, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology, Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades

CAREER PATH

After developing a passion for technology at a young age by tinkering with electronics and setting up video game servers for my friends and I, I decided a career in technology was exactly what I wanted. I found having hands-on experience with hardware coupled with a background in software is particularly valuable - a skill I never would have developed without the unwavering support of my parents and teachers. Currently, I am finishing up my degree in Computer Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Upon graduation, I will continue my career with Jump Trading - a high-frequency trading firm based out of Chicago, IL.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Problem Solving, Communication Skills, Initiative, Working Well in a Team, Adaptability

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

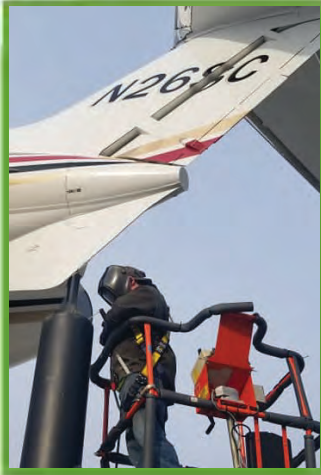
People are your most valuable asset - develop a positive social network. Apply yourself, be passionate, and always continue learning.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My CTE program taught me to budget time and money responsibly, to invest in yourself, that communicating technical concepts effectively with others is an invaluable skill, and to always keep moving forward.



Tyler Thomason



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Stillman Valley High School,
Stillman Valley, IL Ogle County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Welding, aviation maintenance, metal
fabrication, cad design

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Fabrication Division Manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

425 Manufacturing/ 425 Fab Division

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering,
Technology and Trades



CAREER PATH

I attended Stillman Valley High School and during my Sophomore year my school counselor recommended a program that would allow me to attend RVC's aviation maintenance program for half of each day my Junior and Senior year of high school.

I jumped at the opportunity, graduated one year out of high school with an associates in applied science and a certificate in aviation maintenance.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Welding, Painting, Knowledge of 110v 220v and 480v electric, Mig, Tig, Stick welding, Blueprint reading, CAD design, Problem Solving Skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

I would highly recommend taking any career focused classes that you can. Especially programs like the RVC/ high school programs. Business classes are always a great help as well!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I learned in the aviation program that I can take my hobbies of fabrication, flying and mechanics and turn them into an actual career.

Maria Ramirez

Maria Ramirez

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Rockford, IL Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Metal shop, wood shop, electronics, automotive, computer classes

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Die and Tool Maker/ CNC programmer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Header Die and Tool, Rockford, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades



CAREER PATH

In high school, I took as many manufacturing classes as I was allowed to. My senior year of high school I signed up for a summer manufacturing program through the school district where I took a CNC programming and blueprint reading class where I got a NIMS certification for a level 1 CNC programmer. That allowed me to go directly into the workforce and I have been at my current job since then where I am a toolmaker and a CNC programmer.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, willingness to learn new things and adapt, teamwork, blueprint reading, and most important good work ethic.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If you look forward every day to going to your CTE classes whatever those might be and you are really considering a career in the same field, take advantage of them and take as many as you can now because it will only help you in the future.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

All my classes were fun, easy and enjoyable for me. and as I continue to take the types of classes that were more hands on and it was really fascinating for me to be able to build things with my own hands and that was what made me want to continue in this path.

Frank Williams



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Mascoutah Community High School,
Mascoutah, IL – St. Clair County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Personal Finance

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Executive Director of Business and
Operations

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Mascoutah Community Unit School District
#19

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

BA from Maryville University,
MBA from McKendree University, Ed.D. from Maryville University,
Executive Director of Business & Operations at MCUSD
2015-present,
Adjunct Professor at Maryville University's School of Business
2014-present,
Assistant Vice President of Fixed Income at Scottrade 2007-15.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Risk management, problem solving, knowledge of governmental fund accounting, ability to navigate through legal issues, HR knowledge, knowledge of insurance and health care products, proficient in spreadsheets, excellent communication skills (verbal and written).

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Taking Personal Finance before you leave high school is a requirement. Understanding loans, personal banking, and investments is key to a successful future. I have taught a Personal Finance course for college students and always hear "I wish I would've learned this in high school."

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The Personal Finance course at MCHS really stoked my interest in numbers and finance. Our course covered everything from how to balance a bank account to stocks. From this class, my passion for finance and economics grew!



Jeffrey Sledge



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Mt. Vernon Township High School,
Mt. Vernon, IL – Jefferson County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Manufacturing 1&2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Boilermaker

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Boilermakers Local 363

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

I learned how to weld, which is what I do for a living.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Manufacturing and welding

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take manufacturing you will learn real life skills.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It taught me the skills to get the job I wanted.



Aschley Harris



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Alton High School, Godfrey, IL --
Madison County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

FCCLA Int

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Teacher Aide

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bethalto Head Start, Bethalto, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family & Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

Associate degree, CPR, Food handling, Gateway to opportunity hours.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Time management, lesson planning, childcare, knowledge of development stages, and communication skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice it to do what you love.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

FCCLA internship at a daycare and ECE classes



Christen Osborne



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bushnell-Prairie City High School,
Bushnell, IL-- McDonough County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Agriculture/FFA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Self-Employed Boutique Owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Wildest Dreams Boutique,
Bushnell, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services, Human
and Public Services (including Family &
Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

While in high school, I was dead set on pursuing an agriculture degree! I enrolled myself in every agriculture class offered while also being involved in FFA. After graduating from BPC, I became an agriculture transfer student at Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL. After spending two years there and earning my Associates's Degree, I then transferred to WIU in Macomb, IL, where I pursued an Agriculture Business degree. I ended up taking a semester off from school to pursue a dream of mine, which was owning my own business. So in June of 2018, I started my own women's clothing boutique called Wildest Dreams Boutique in my hometown, where I sell clothing, shoes, and accessories.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Skills that are needed in my career are: Accountability, people skills, friendly personality, high work ethic, and great communication skills. It's important for future employees to be good representatives of my boutique at all times.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't be afraid to ask questions, and to take these CTE classes seriously! You will learn so much real knowledge that you can apply in your future career or even in your personal life. Explore every opportunity, and I'm sure you'll find that one thing that you are passionate about!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Knowing that you can be successful with whatever career path you take. If you work hard enough you can achieve anything!



**David
Lamie**

David
Lamie

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High
School, Kankakee County

**CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES
ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH
SCHOOL**

Intro to Business

CURRENT JOB TITLE

School Counselor

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High
School

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including Family
& Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

Junior College - BA 4 year University - MA School Counseling

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED
FOR THIS CAREER**

Communication Skills, Networking,

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It's a growing field that needs to be investigated

**HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN
YOUR LIFE/CAREER?**

Taught me how to process information differently



Stephany Torres Martinez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

North Boone High School, Poplar Grove, IL
Boone County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Computer Class

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Business Owner

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

La Michoacana Mexican Creamery, Loves
Park, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Career Exploration & Development

CAREER PATH

Graduated High School and completed 3 semesters of college at Rock Valley. My family had owned and ran their own ice cream shops for sometime when I decided I wanted to learn the craft of making ice cream to open my own shop one day.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Managerial, Financial Management, Marketing, Networking, Customer Service, Delegation and Time Management.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

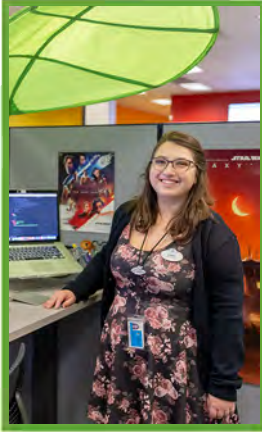
Take every bit of knowledge that you can and run with it. These small but crucial skills will help you excel in just about anything you set your mind to.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The computer classes helped me know my way around various computer programs which is very useful in my day to day, but especially in my career where technology proficiency is key to organization, product creativity, and effective communication when networking.



Emma Cuitino



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Saint Charles East High School, Saint Charles, IL Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Project Lead the Way

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Software Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The Walt Disney Company, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades

CAREER PATH

Computer Science degree from University of Illinois Springfield, programming internship at Gesture, 3 software engineering internships at Disney

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Programming knowledge, critical thinking skills, problem solving abilities

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

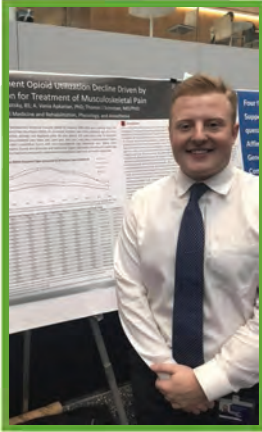
Engineering is a tough career path, but keep your head down and keep moving forward because it is very rewarding.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was the only girl in the class, and it could've easily dissuaded me from moving forward into a working environment that was similar, but my teacher Mr. DeWees, was awesome and encouraged me to continue down this path.



Ben Smith



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Saint Charles East High School, Saint Charles, IL Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Project Lead the Way

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Medical Student/Physician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I never truly had narrowed down what I wanted to do in high school. It ranged from engineering, to journalism and business. I had a great AP biology teacher who kept me interested in STEM. I went to Northwestern University with the idea of going into the business field, but took an intro to chem course to try out being a pre-medical student. I was drawn to the more challenging science courses and was fortunate enough to be offered early acceptance into Northwestern's medical school my junior year of college. I am now a year away from being an MD, with the plan to become a radiologist.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Life-long learner, commitment to medicine, good character, and putting others before yourself.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

When you fail (we all do), find the root problem and fix it. Many of my peers in college were struggling in STEM coursework, but instead of studying differently, they would add on extracurriculars to mask their grades. This often made their grades worse, and they never made it to medical school.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Mr. DeWees always let us solve problems on our own and never gave us problems with a single right answer. There is rarely a perfect answer in STEM fields, so those skills taught me to answer questions that require taking multiple variables and making the best answer out of the variables given.



Payton Bertermann



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School,
Grayslake, IL--Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Personal Finance

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Student but soon to be Health Solutions
Actuarial Analyst

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Valparaiso University -> Valparaiso, IN to
Aon -> Chicago, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

I'm studying actuarial science and I'll be working in insurance!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Work ethic/motivation, EXCEL, ability to ask questions, independence, personality, ability to pass exams

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take these classes seriously, there are classes that teach you the "why doesn't school teach us these things" like more common sense things for adulthood!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taking personal finance really helped me to understand the importance of saving and investing my money. I feel like I'm set up much better for adult life than I would've been without taking that class! Shoutout to Tony Bussone from Grayslake North!!



Andrew Kuntz



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Alan B. Shepard, Palos Heights - Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Drafting/CAD, Multimedia & Web Development, Internet Technology and Web Page Design, Computer Networking & Internet Devices, AP Computer Science, Computer Servicing 1 & 2, Production & Construction, Energy & Power, Independent Study of Wide and Local Area Networking w/ Computer Science Principles

CURRENT JOB TITLE

District Educational Technology Specialist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Community High School District 218

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology

CAREER PATH

While attending Moraine Community College I completed my Comptia A+, ITF+, and Security +. While attending my 101's my professor, at the time, asked if I was interested in an internship at Arbor Park School District, to which I promptly accepted. After that I went to work for Palos Community Hospital as a Field Support Technician, which was my first paying job in the field. From there I ended up applying at my Alma high school district, and I was offered the job I currently have now!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Troubleshooting, attention to detail, customer support, multi-tasking and attention to detail.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Network, network, network... You will never know the people you will meet or who your teacher might know. In my case, they might even help you get a job!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My most memorable classes will still and forever be my time in the CTE department. I've made life-long friends, learned about a booming industry, to never overlook an issue, and the simplest solution isn't always the best.



Jose Martinez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School, Grayslake, IL
Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Exploring Technology/CAD

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Structural Design Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The Boeing Company, Everett, WA

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

I took exploring technology my first year at GNHS and spurred an interest in engineering and design. I went to the University of Illinois where I obtained a bachelors in civil engineering and received an offer to work at Boeing as a structures engineer on the 767 wing team. I obtained my masters in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Washington with a concentration in composite structural materials. I've worked in both product development and sustaining production teams where I still use some of the skills I learned in exploring tech, using CAD software and being involved with various manufacturing methods described in exploring tech.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Problem solving and technical communication.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

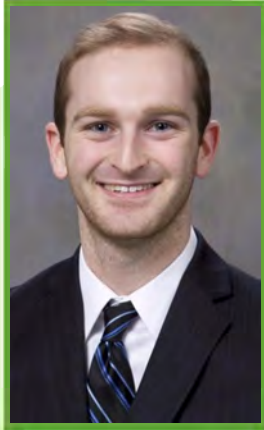
The manufacturing world is ever expanding and evolving to include programming skills and advanced autonomous machines. Any opportunity to learn about advanced manufacturing technology, do so! The demand for future manufacturing tech professionals will be high.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was really motivated to work with designing machines after doing different CAD projects and CNC projects in my exploring tech class. It put me on a path to prepare for an engineering curriculum.



Zachary Friedman



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School, Grayslake, IL
Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Industrial Engineer II

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

HNI Corporation, Hickory, NC

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology &
Trades

CAREER PATH

B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering --> Rotational Program
Engineer --> Production Supervisor --> Industrial Engineer

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Microsoft Proficiency, Networking, Time Study Experience, Project
Management,

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Your first job will not be your last. You will have the opportunity to
try many different practices, fields, and processes - so the more
time you spend figuring out what you like, the better off you'll be
in the future.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?



Don Whitman



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lincoln Way Central High School, New Lenox, IL Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Industrial Technology Department Woodworking 1 and 2 Drafting 1 and 2 Automotive 1 and 2 and Electronics

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Technology Engineering Education Building Leader

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Normal Community High School, Normal, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades

CAREER PATH

AS Degree at Joliet Junior College, BS in Industrial Technology Education at Illinois State University, MS in Cooperative Training and Leadership, NBCT in CTE, PLTW IED Master Trainer

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, writing, and speaking skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find a CTE area that you love and can excel at and become an expert at that one area. This can become your major in college. I became really good at drafting while in high school and now teach drafting everyday in my current career - and I LOVE IT!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I enjoyed all of the CTE classes I took during high school and relived that I could also be a successful teacher teaching the same content. My drafting teacher in high school took me to the IDEA regional drafting competition that I won.



Dillan Alcorn



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Tuscola High School, Tuscola, IL
Douglas County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CIS 112, CIS 131, CIS 134, and CIS 135

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cashier

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Tuscola IGA, Tuscola, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services, Human and
Public Services (including Family and
Consumer Sciences), Information
Technology



CAREER PATH

I plan on going to college to study Non - Profit/Business. With this field I will need Excel to keep information organized, Word to take notes or make letters, and Power Point to present my Ideas to my boss and my fellow employees. My current position at my job is just a starting job for me to get me financially prepared for college and life.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For my Career that I plan on going into I will need to be helpful, technology prepared, a leader, how to be a business person, and how to keep track of all of the finances,

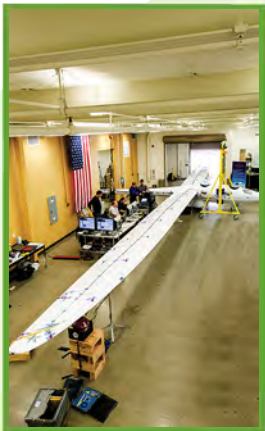
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep on doing the programs. These programs will help you out in your future wherever you go. I have used the information that I retained from the programs in high school and I plan on continuing to use them in college as well.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

In my CTE program I learned more about Word, Excel, Power Point, and Access that I did not know about. With this information I will be better equipped for my future by knowing how to do more things in those fields than I knew before.

John McShane



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School, Grayslake, IL
Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Test Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

ATA Engineering, San Diego, CA

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades



CAREER PATH

I attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison for my Bachelors Degree in mechanical engineering. Aside from AP physics in high school, I didn't really have any experience in engineering. Most of my initial engineering training came from joining Madison's Formula SAE team, a student-led team that designs and builds a 1/3 scale Formula One-style race car. This is where I learned to design, perform analysis with code, machine/weld, etc. Having this experience, I later interned at Extreme Engineering Solutions, Sierra Nevada Corporation, and NASA Langley Research Center. In my last two semesters of college, I helped start a rocket team called WI Space Race, and served as the propulsion team lead. Upon graduation, I came to ATA Engineering.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Strong academic record, industry experience (design, analysis, and test), coding experience, ability to learn, interpersonal and communication skills

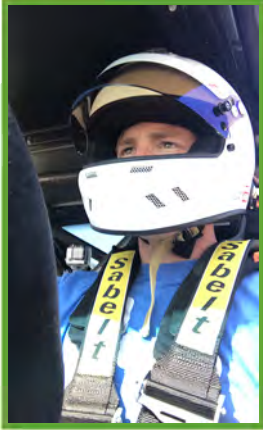
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always ask questions and always be willing to think beyond the curriculum! Learning comes from trying new things, and often putting in time to do side projects on your own or with others. This type of experience will make you much more marketable to employers.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Not sure if this counts as "CTE" (which I didn't actually know of when I was in high school - not sure if that's new since I was there) - but I found tons of value from taking AP Physics B and C in high school. What I learned in those classes still helps me in my job today.

Justin Squillaci



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School, Grayslake, IL
Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Global product manager

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

HERE Technologies, Chicago IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

Tech start ups.. take big risks while you're young

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Critical thinking. Question everything you do not understand.
Motivation, drive, have an open mind & always be willing to learn
something new will always outperform a good "resume"

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Learn to think on your own

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Don't let someone tell you what you should do. Figure it what you
enjoy doing before investing in something you think you might like



Thomas Hill



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School
Grayslake, IL – Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Computer technology (trade classes were very limited)

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Plumber

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Gurnee, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services
(including Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

My career path was directly linked to my family working in the trades for generations and being encouraged by them to work a trade. Trade classes in school were so limited I was not able to take one in the career path I wanted and graduate on time.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hard working, strong, determined, as the work is mainly outside and consists of carrying heavy objects for most of the day.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take trade classes, wood working, welding, mechanics. You never know why you will like.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Very little trade classes were offered at my high school which was very disappointing being that is the career I chose. I wish more trade classes were offered to students these days.



Caitlyn Brown



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilmington High School
Wilmington, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

JJC AIM Program

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Mechanic

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Team Penske, Mooresville, NC

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades

CAREER PATH

AIM Program gave me basic fundamentals to build onto the the knowledge I had of cars. From there I took that to NASCAR Technical Institute and continued growing my knowledge of cars. I was hired on at Team Penske shortly after graduating at the end of 2018 and have been there ever since!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, professionalism, problem solving, organization, and adaptability.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find something that you could apply later in life and learn as much as possible!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I definitely took the most out of the Electrical & the Industrial Maintenance programs.



Jason Hendron



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilmington High School
Wilmington, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Building Trades

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Owner - Jason Hendron Construction LLC

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Wilmington, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and
Trades

CAREER PATH

After completion of the building trades program at WHS in 2001, I entered into the Carpenters apprenticeship program, after completion of that I completed the 2 year Construction Management program at Joliet Junior College. Upon completion of that I stated my own business as a residential carpentry contractor.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Strong work ethic, attention to detail, desire to learn everyday, even from your mistakes.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't ever be afraid to ask for help if you don't know how to do a certain task. I'm 38 years old and been self employed for 15 years and I still look up to and lean on the older tradesmen I looked up to as a rookie.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Coming from a family deep rooted in the construction industry, I knew that's what I wanted to do after school. The building trades program at WHS taught me how to work together as a team, scheduling of the project and making sure everything was done to safety and building codes.



Natasha Belless



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lewistown Community High School
Lewistown, IL – Fulton County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Foods 1 & 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Account Associate

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Maritime Products International - Newport News, VA

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

In 2015 I applied to the Culinary Institute of America In New York and I was accepted! I enrolled in the Baking and Pastry program and for the next 18 months I worked as hard as I could to get the most out of my education. I interned at Montage Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, SC for six months & I worked with some amazing chefs. I graduated from the Culinary in November of 2016 with my Associates in Baking & Pastry Arts.

Since graduation I have work in high volume kitchens, retail bakeries, food transportation, and finally seafood imports. Even though Seafood Imports is not what I saw for myself when I started this journey, it has become the most interesting & rewarding career path I think I could have taken.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

A willingness to work hard, personable, flexibility, the ability to stay calm under pressure.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice to any high school student/ CTE student would be to keep working hard and to keep pushing for what you want. Take as many skill building classes as possible. These will be the skills/ tools you will need when you are out on your own.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

All of the skills I learned have certainly benefitted my life/career. Knowing the difference in meats, produce, dairy, and kitchen utensils has help me immensely in my life!



Steve Thompson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Woodstock High School
Woodstock, IL – McHenry County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Woods, Welding, Agriculture, Drafting, Machines

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Business Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Woodstock High School, Woodstock, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades, Career Exploration and Development



CAREER PATH

I attended Univ of Wis-Whitewater and received my BBA . I was hired by S.C. Johnson & Son, Racine Wisconsin as a Sales Representative, District Sales Representative and District Manager. I purchased, Thompson's Appliance, my family's business and was manager/partner for 20 years. I attended Roosevelt University, Chicago to receive my MA in Secondary Education. I was hired by Woodstock District #200 to teach business at Woodstock High School. This is the high school I graduated from 30 years earlier. I attended NIU for certification in Driver's Education and ISU for certification in Cooperative Education. I teach Accounting, Marketing, Social Media Marketing, Introduction to Business and Cooperative work-study program and Driver's Ed BTW.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You must be an excellent communicator, both written and verbal. Strong leadership and organizational skills are a must.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Get involved in CTE classes! Expand your horizons! Get involved in clubs and activities outside of your classes The experiences you have in high school will teach you skills that you will have and use for a life-time. Take a CTE class instead of a study hall.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I learned a variety of skills in CTE that I use to this day. I am a wood worker, complete construction projects and rebuild engines during spare time. The use of my hands has strengthened my mind. I developed critical thinking, trouble shooting skills and confidence.

Octaviano Lopez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

West Leyden High School,
Northlake, IL – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Metals 1/ Autos 1/ Engineering 1-3

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Tool and Die Maker

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and
Trades

CAREER PATH

I was offered a part-time job in high school, one of the first to take part in their new program to show high school kids what the manufacturing/trades can do if university wasn't something one wanted to pursue. After a year I was offered an apprenticeship as a Tool and Die maker, I was enrolled into the TMA certification program in 2016, which I stuck with and graduated in 2020. Through the apprenticeship I've gained knowledge with inspection and GDNT, how to operate, set up, and program machinery such as Wire EDM and CNC. In 2019 I was put through the certification program for Wire EDM through Mitsubishi Machinery.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Detailed oriented, math skills, critical thinking and a persistent thirst for knowledge. You have to love working with your hands.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep on wanting to learn. Find something you are really interested in, and learn every single thing that's is possible to learn about it. Don't ever be afraid, or discouraged to pursue knowledge.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being offered the job through the high school. At the time I never knew what careers were available through manufacturing other than engineering, I just really loved machining and learning how things worked on the mechanical side. Seeing things I made being used was satisfying



Kyle Posluns



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School, Grayslake, IL
Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

AP Computer Science, PLTW Principles of
Engineering, AP Physics, AP Calculus

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Infrastructure Security Threat Hunter

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

HubSpot, Cambridge, MA

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology

CAREER PATH

In high school, I taught myself Java because I wanted to be able to code mini-games inside Minecraft. I went to Northeastern University in Boston, majoring in Computer Science. I took 3 semesters of classes where I refined my programming skills. Northeastern has a co-op program, which is where students take 4-8 months off of school to work full time for a company in their field. My first co-op was as a DevOps Engineer at Indigo Agriculture. I worked from January 2020 to August 2020. My second co-op is at HubSpot where I am a Threat-Hunter where my job is detection/prevention of cyber security threats. I write software to help fight against all kinds of attacks, including supply chain attacks.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge of programming (like Java, Python, Shell), Linux, and Databases. Experience with cloud platforms like AWS, GCP, and Azure. Creativity, troubleshooting techniques (like debugging), curiosity, collaboration, excellent written/oral communication skills, organization, and prioritization.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The connections and opportunities you get in college are absolutely worth the cost of attending. Most of my skills I learned on my own or on the job. College teaches you how to learn, curiosity will take you the rest of the way.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The teachers that taught CTE classes were passionate about what they were teaching and it made it easier to learn. I also learned best when teachers nurtured curiosity instead of teaching to a test.



Will Enowmbitang



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Grayslake North High School,
Grayslake, IL – Lake County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

N/A

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Sr. Product Development Engineer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Navistar, Lisle, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

Graduated UIUC W/ Bachelors in Mech Eng. - 1 year
experience tool design at Thermoforming Company- 1.5 yrs at
Navistar designing Exterior Aero Parts on trucks.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Time Management, CAD experience, Problem Solving

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Get good at learning.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

N/A



Cori Wysocki

Cori Wysocki

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilmington High School, Wilmington, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Full time college student.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

I am still a full time college student.

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I am double majoring in Human-Animal Sciences and Biology to help advance me to getting in Veterinary Schooling.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

4 years of pre-vet courses and 4 years of graduate school.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep trying your hardest even if you feel like giving up and it feels like everything is collapsing around you, keep pushing through and eventually you will get through anything you set your mind too.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to learn hands on experiences of what it is like being a Veterinary Assistant and things related to what the job entails.



Mackenzie “Max” Gwin



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Dog Groomer (in training) at Dirty Dog Pet
Grooming

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bolingbrook, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Career Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

I am still in training to be a dog groomer, but I have learned the basics such as bathing, drying, brushing and nail trimming. I have watched and shadowed a good number of the groomers in my shop listening to all their tips and lessons. In August I am moving to Wisconsin, and after I move I will be searching for grooming school so I can become a certified dog groomer.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Excellent customer service, hand eye coordination, patience, ability to handle rough dogs, grooming knowledge, basic knowledge of dog health and anatomy, and a good grasp on how business works.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Never be afraid to ask questions, no question is a bad question. If you start the class by wanting to join this career but then later on decide it wasn't for you, that's okay!! Life is all about taking chances and exploring.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taking Ms. Alessi's Veterinary course helped me become a lot more aware of the health and safety of dogs and cats. It also helped me find myself as a person a lot better than before. I've always wanted to go onto a path with animals, and after taking her class I became a lot more confident in myself.



Jacalyn Kupczyk



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilco Area Career Center and Plainfield South High School, Romeoville and Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Prep Cook

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Chef Prep Meals, Louisville, Kentucky

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

I am in culinary school getting my associates degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Culinary experience

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take school seriously, it will help you later.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It opened my eyes to the culinary field.



Leah D'Andrea-Nigro



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lemont High School, Lemont, IL
Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Vet Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Handler

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Chicago Canine Club, Burr Ridge, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

I am still a student in college so this current job is just a place holder until I work on becoming an exotic animal specialist. I worked hard in my vet assisting course in high school as well as my current occupation. I have also participated in labs for my Animal Sciences major.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication skills, Flexibility, Understanding, Teamwork, etc.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Enjoy this time while you can, those programs will be the basis for your college courses and before you know it, you will be a full-fledged adult.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped give me background knowledge that gave me a one up in a lot of my Animal Sciences classes.



Victoria Steinbring

Victoria Steinbring

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-vet Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Baker

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Jewel Osco

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

To own my own bakery. I opened my own already I work at a bakery and I teach baking classes just need my business license and business classes and I'm set.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowing how to bake and decorate and the knowledge for it.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Follow your heart.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped put me on the right path.



Danielle Robbins



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School,
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-vet Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Dairy Farm Herdsman

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

I am currently a senior attending University of Illinois majoring in animal sciences with a focus in livestock production and management. I attended JJC for 2 years and transferred to UIUC as a junior I work as a herdsman/milker at the UIUC Dairy Cattle Research Unit and currently have an opportunity to earn a professional research Masters degree where I would serve as the assistant manager on the farm full-time for 5 years and go to school part-time and come out with a Masters degree. If that plan doesn't work out I plan on working as a herdsman for a dairy farm hopefully one day earning enough experience to become a manager.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Leadership skills, Large animal handling, Large animal husbandry, basic understanding of milking procedures, understanding of flight zone techniques, ability to operate skid steer, quick thinking, attention to detail.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It's never too late to figure out what you want to do with your life. I wasn't sure of my major until I applied to the U of I my sophomore year of college. But I know students who have switched majors multiple throughout their college career with no issue.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Great introduction to the animal field and helped me learn that I wanted a job working with animals in the future.



Angel Fonseca



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield High School Central Campus,
Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Culinary

CURRENT JOB TITLE

College student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

The Culinary Institute of America

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

Wilco's culinary classes and three semesters so far at The CIA.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Intimate knowledge of safety and sanitation in a professional kitchen. Skills cooking and baking which are developed through practice and training.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take the classes, they'll help figure out what you love doing before committing to a four year college.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Wilco during high school fast tracked my path towards my dream college which in turn will hopefully positively impact my future in the culinary industry



Brandie Lorenzen



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Dwight D. Eisenhower High School,
Blue Island, IL – Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

TV Production, Broadcast News

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Content Writer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Insurance Navy - Chicago, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications

CAREER PATH

I was in school for seven years trying to figure out what I wanted to do. Through my film classes I took, and the excessive writing classes, I figured out that content creation is my passion, and through Hubspot, and many other websites, I learned about the different areas of marketing, and found content marketing to be the most insightful and interesting area of marketing. I recently completed a certification in Email Marketing, obtained my BA in Creative Writing in August of 2020, and am now working at Insurance Navy as a Content Writer.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Attention to detail, creative, great writing skills, understanding of SEO, able to think out of the box, and strategize with teammates on how to market through different social media channels.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Follow your passions, and take your time with figuring out the best career you want to follow down. Everyone is creative, so don't let that go, and keep making art for not only the world, but also yourself.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Definitely knowing how to work a computer, operate a camera, and understand a storyboard and what its purpose is.



Jill Jankiewicz

Jill
Jankiewicz

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School,
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Vet Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Clinic Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

VIP Petcare (they're in the process
of changing to PetIQ), Naperville, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology, Career
Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

The company taught me everything I needed to know to work with them. Skills they taught included knowledge on vaccines, preventative products, how to fill rabies certificates, how to read client information, restraining animals, and everything else in between. I did not have to have any experience in the animal world to have this position, although the vet assisting class I took through high school gave me a lot of background knowledge that I can use in the position I am now.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Punctuality, patience, efficiency, and ability to communicate effectively are important in the position I have now.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Stay on top of your work if you are really passionate about this field and wish to carry on after high school. Also, save all the notes because a lot of the information you learn here will be taught more in depth if you carry on to college.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The CTE program made my job easier to learn since the class gave me TONS of background knowledge that I use every time I work. Not only did it help with my job, but it also gave a strong foundation of knowledge that I can take with me to college to further my education in this field.



DaKoTa Haynes



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Will/Kendall County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary Arts

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Office of Student Activities Student
Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Joliet Junior College in Joliet, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

I have been studying the culinary arts since freshman year at high school and I am currently a sophomore at Joliet Junior College studying culinary. Recently I joined the Office of Student Activities to become more involved on campus and I also help assist helping culinary students get involved as well. Starting in August I will be transferring departments to the culinary department to be a Lab Assistant for Chef Kyle Richardson. I also currently am starting up my own business in which I will be teaching cooking classes to others via zoom.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

I will need many skills to succeed in my career path. Technical skills I will need will be proper sanitation skills, knife skills, knowledge of recipes as well as many other cooking skills, I will also need to have computer skills and business management skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

CTE programs are designed to challenge you to improve. The best thing you can do is try to learn as much as possible. Get involved in any extracurricular programs you can through CTE, it will help you with networking and help you in your future career.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My CTE program (through Wilco ACC) helped me improve my technical skills such as my knife skills and helped me learn about kitchens, I also learned skills such as adaptability and patience and my instructors helped me become more confident and encouraged me to improve my public speaking skills.



Ashley Luecken



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School,
Bolingbrook, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary Arts

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Corporate chef

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Affinity Group Food Marketing

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

I attended the culinary Institute of America after high school and moved to New Orleans to work at the best fine dining restaurant in the city. Then I began my bachelor's degree in culinary management and supervision with a minor in business accounting. I moved back to Chicago and worked at a popular Asian-fusion restaurant and a Michelin Star brewery. I then worked at Wilco Area Career Center and was an instructor in the same class I took. Following that I became a lead line cook at a private country club before becoming the executive chef of a tap house in Lockport. I now am a corporate chef for a food broker doing recipe development and menu ideations, servicing accounts such as Smithfield pork, Jennie-o-turkey and Tabasco hot sauce.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Organization, strong public speaking, wide culinary knowledge, creativity, recipe costing knowledge, networking skills, presentation skills, servsafe knowledge.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Apply yourself if the program is for you and don't be afraid to aim high even if you're the youngest person in the room, hard work speaks volumes.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped me to jump start my college career to get into the CIA. My program also gave me the SkillsUSA competition which was where my strength in public speaking began. Learning how to make sushi got me the chance to be the only woman to work the sushi bar at the Asian fusion restaurant.



Rayna O'Brien

Rayna O'Brien

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Culinary

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Hostess

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Giordanos

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

My career path is undecided for now. I have been taking Joliet Junior College classes since January of 2020. I am deciding between being a pastry chef and or being a nurse. Both are two completely different career paths but my passion for baking is very strong still.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Good customer service, quick math in your head.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It may seem like it is stressful but it was the best year of my life and my passion has grown stronger thanks to my teachers and the experience that I have acquired in Wilco Culinary.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Since taking the WILCO Culinary class I definitely think about food differently. I always make up new recipes for things I eat. I think about food temperatures all the time. I think of food as an art and I always appreciate all of the workers who make food because I have experienced the kitchen.



Elena Singleton

Elena Singleton

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilmington High School,
Wilmington, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Social Media

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Tarble Arts Center, Charleston, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications

CAREER PATH

I am a student worker at Tarble Arts Center. We are a museum on Eastern Illinois University's campus.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Determination, Ability to work with students, and Creativity.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard to get good grades, it will only help in college.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taking care of animals, and hard work.



Nicole Repavich



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Kendall County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Veterinary Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Boughton Square Animal Clinic

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I am currently doing on the job training and I am doing pre requisites to apply for a veterinary technology school.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, team player, good under pressure, knowledge in the field, and multitasking.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Even if it is the worst job and you are over qualified, start at the bottom level and work yourself up to the position you want.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It taught me about the basic skills to get me an introductory position.



AJ Kuyawa



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Vet Assisting, English, Anatomy,
Environmental Science, Pre Calc

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Vet assistant and cook/server

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Wheatland Animal Hospital and
Harbor Chase Assisted Living
in Plainfield, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

My current career path is to become a vet tech and with my current position is already letting me train to be one by teaching skills that I will be learning in school as well.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication and technical

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

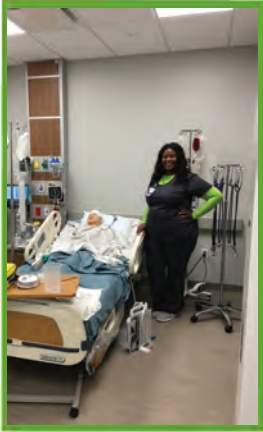
Ask questions even if they seem dumb because someone else could be thinking the same thing.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was able to learn and use these techniques in class with the animals and people that were in the classroom with me.



Tereasa Bethesa



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Auburn High School, Auburn, IL
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Science Program and
Health Occupations

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Registered Nurse

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Mercy Health System

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

My first encounter with nursing was my Health Occupation class my sophomore year in high school. Mrs. Papke (my teacher) then introduced me to the new class that was being developed; the Medical Science Class. I had to interview for this class and was accepted. I completed the Medical Science class my junior year in high school (1997). Through the Medical Science class I earned my Certified Nursing Assistance Certificate. I would later complete high school in 1998; then obtaining my Associate Degree of Nursing from Kishwaukee Community College in 2003. In 2016 I completed my Bachelor of Nursing Degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Some of the skills necessary for Nursing includes but not limited to: Communication skills, organizational skills, conflict resolving skills, and critical thinking skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice for CTE students would be to set goals for yourself and have a plan to reach your goals. Every day ask your self what step have you taken to reach the goal you have set. Be your best cheerleader!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The Medical Science class had an huge impact on my career. This class gave understanding of the nursing process. Being a Certified Nursing Assistant allowed me to care for patients and support the nurses. I was stronger clinical wise. I knew how to care and how interact with patients.



Jaylene Rodriguez

Jaylene Rodriguez

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Vet Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Dog Groomer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Plainfield

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I went through WILCO's vet assisting program and have been on my path to becoming a vet tech.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Experience with animals.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Definitely take a class of you're interested in what's provided, it's worth it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learning how to restrain animals, getting face time with actual animals.



Alexa Emerson

Alexa
Emerson

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Full-time college student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Aurora University

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

Currently getting my bachelors degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

People skills, knowing animal behaviors.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't take these classes for granted, they give you important hands in experience in the field you are interested in!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It made me realize that I didn't want to become a vet as I previously thought, I realized I would be too anxious to be able to do that job well and it helped me find what I really wanted to do in life.



Dean Vernon



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Batavia High School, Batavia, IL
Kane County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Graphics Management

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Creative Director/Founder

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

DV Productions in Batavia, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications

CAREER PATH

I went to Michigan State for a creative advertising degree. After my freshman year, I quit an internship I had lined up and started DV Productions. I made a video called "Views From Our Town" showcasing pretty spots around my hometown, Batavia. The video got some attention and businesses started contacting me to make promotional videos. I ended up working with a few prestigious businesses in the tri-city area that summer including United Way and Tri-City Health. I went back to school for my sophomore year. I landed a few client jobs through the school year which led to my decision to drop out. After leaving school in 2018, I have been working full time in the Chicago region making videos for companies, weddings, & concerts. deanvernon.com

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Creativity, collaboration, problem solving, leadership, discipline, strong communication, and strong work ethic.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Immerse yourself in what you love and trust your gut.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I learned what true creativity was from Mrs. TieriTon at Batavia High School. She also taught me how to work in a team and communicate art.



Anthony Zaragoza



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Welding 1 and Welding 2

CURRENT JOB TITLE

2nd shift supervisor

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

It all started when we had a Career Fair at Wilco and I had a conversation with Aerotek. They were able to find me 2 interviews within a week and I did not like first one but I loved the second one, which was the company "Weldcoa", where I was taken in by some of the best teachers/mentors I've had part from Mr. Moran. The company even sent me to Dayton, Ohio for a week fully payed to learn Robotic programming for our Yaskawa Welding robots, that are now all programmed by me at Weldcoa. I was taught a vast variety of skills from squaring frames to drilling and tapping and even building new fixtures for our robots.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Great work ethic, Can-Do attitude, always willing to learn and try new things.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't be lazy at a job people are at work to make money and do the best they can, employers do not enjoy babysitting employees.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Mr. Moran was an amazing teacher and taught me a lot of what I know today, he even introduced me to Aluminum Mig and that has been a great skill I've used many times at my job.



Shelby Nelson



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School,
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Veterinary Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Animal Care Center of Shorewood

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I took the veterinary assistant class in high school, then began college for veterinary technician. I got a job in Alabama at Canal Road Animal Hospital, then moved back to Illinois for surgery. I had to pause college but started working at Animal Care Center of Shorewood. Now I am looking into getting back to college to finish my degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being able to work on your feet for 8+ hours a day, being a critical thinker, being efficient with getting tasks accomplished, and a good attitude.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

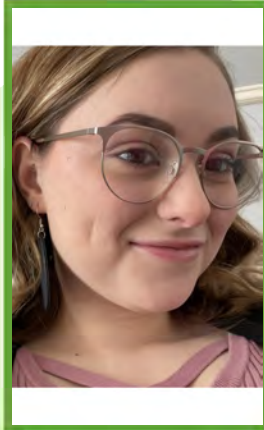
Absorb as much information as possible because you will need it/ use it in the future.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped greatly to have an introduction into the field. It helped knowing a lot of the basics in the vet field as well.



Cassidy De Lise



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Veterinary Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Caregiver

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Illinois Department of Human
Services, Joliet, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Right now I am a traveling caregiver meaning I go into someone's home to run the house and take care of them. I'm currently 2 weeks away from completing my CNA certification which was a 2 month program that required the completion and full understanding of 25+ clinical skills along with medical CPR licensing.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

The full completion and passing of a skilled CNA course, completion and sign off clinical skills, and medical CPR licensing.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

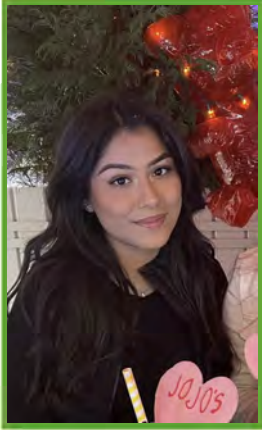
You don't have to know EXACTLY what you think your future will look like straight out of high school. Sometimes it takes new challenges and new experiences for you to know that's what you really want to do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Although I took Veterinary Assisting and am now becoming a CNA, the class taught me that although I have a deep love towards animals, I also have that towards humans. The class taught me patience, and that you need to fully understand something in order to do your job efficiently.



Sandy Martinez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School, Romeoville, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Nursing Assistant Program

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Patient Care Technician

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

St. Joseph's Hospital-Joliet, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

My training at Wilco Area Career Center in their Nursing Assistant course allowed me to successfully pass the state CNA exam with flying colors and obtain a job with my CNA certification.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hardworking, empathetic, flexible, and adaptable.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

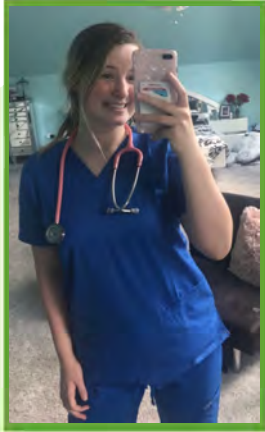
Learn and do everything with a smile on your face and push through the hardships.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learning hands on with the residents allowed me to learn a lot about bedside manners and helped me give the best care moving forward.



Taylor McNally



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School,
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

CNA/HHA

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Home Health Advanatge
Orland Park, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Clinical training, CNA education with certification exam & high school diploma.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hardworking, leadership and clinical skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

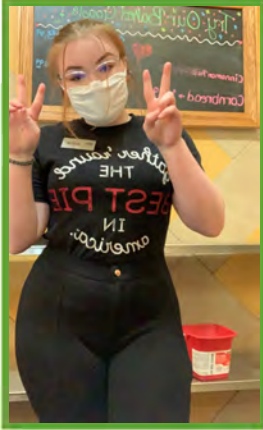
Go day by day and try to get the most out of it, as one day it will come back and make a difference.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It taught me how to handle difficult decision making and experiences in life.



Aislin Hargreaves



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary Arts

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Hostess

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Bakers Square in Woodridge, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

Took 2 years of culinary arts in high school so I could go into college with a background in culinary.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Work in a fast paced environment, communicate well with others, and to be professional.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try your hardest and see if you like it. it's better to decide that you don't want to do something before it's too late.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped me to build a solid foundation of knowledge to build on.



Diego Hernandez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School, Romeoville, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco, CNA

CURRENT JOB TITLE

CNA

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Alden Estates of Shorewood in Shorewood

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Told myself I wanted to make a change in the world, and I felt nursing was the adequate path to begin. Took the CNA class to give it a try and felt like I can create an impact to society.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Needing a CNA license and always coming in with a positive mind despite not wanting to clock in for work. Due to other people relying on you and aiding them with things that maybe in the future you won't be capable of doing.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try to surround in environments where you want to be involved. Getting experience is a big step on where you want to work. If you hesitate on taking an exam for getting a license of any sort, take it you don't lose nothing.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to talk to a resident in my native language and her describing how grateful she was with everything we did for her during clinicals. It was touching when she mentioned to never give up on our goals because little do we know we can make a impact on the lives of others.



Sara Upchurch



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Wilmington High School, Wilmington, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

I have multiple jobs but not in the CJ field yet.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Decatur, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

Forensic science tech or forensic psychologist, Hanley's class prepared me for the future and showed me what paths I can take.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Attentiveness, science skills like microscopes, and listening skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be aware that these classes are helping you choose your future.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Hanley's class showed me that there were so many paths I can take and I enjoyed getting to see them in person so I could better understand where I wanted to go as a senior.



Nicole Klikuszowian

Nicole
Klikuszowian

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Vet Asissting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Aquatic Specialist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Petco

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



CAREER PATH

Aquarist at a zoo or aquarium.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Bachelors and experience in the field.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try to stay on top of school work.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Information about different animals and how they are cared for in the vet med environment.

Leslie Alonso



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School
Plainfield, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Illinois National Guard

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Career Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

I was able to join the National Guard through the criminal justice course and learn more about the Guard itself.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowledge and flexibility.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention and really get involved in the activities that your class has. It's super fun and you definitely get a lot of different skills from the classes.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was able to learn about different career paths.



Tyler Pradin



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School Central
Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

LEJA Student at Western Illinois University

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Western Illinois University, Macomb Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences), Career
Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

Throughout my time in college at Western, I've grown not only as a person but professionally as well. Coming to college and learning about more about the career I'm going into is something that's been amazing for me. Getting the head start I got at Wilco really made me prepared for the field I'm going into and it helped me get a better understanding as well as a hands on approach. Mrs. Gunther, and Mr. Malec were both amazing teachers, and I am so glad I got to experience both of them throughout my time in Wilco!

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For law enforcement you really need to be a people person. Working with the citizens in your community to help better everyone is something that I believe is extremely helpful in the world today. Also being confident in yourself and your training is something that is extremely helpful.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take everything you learn in this class with true meaning. Everything you learn about will be of use to you at some point in your life or career. I've used so many things I've learned from this class to help better myself for the future, and I really think it's important to put your all into it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My experience with Mrs. Gunther and Mr. Malec overall gave me a huge step forward in my life and career. I learned so much from their classes everyday, and it really expanded my knowledge about law enforcement as a whole and really prepared me for the world I was about to enter.



Will Machacek

Will
Machacek

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Police Cadet

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Wilmington Police Department
Wilmington, NC

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

After high school I attended UNCW and took a position as a police cadet. I have been in that position now for around two years. I have used that position as a stepping stone and I am currently in the process for police trainee where I will be hired full time at the police department and sent through the academy.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Punctuality, confidence, assertiveness, physical fitness, computer competence, and high school diploma.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take your class serious and use it on your resume as a stepping stone for your first related job.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My instructor Ms. Gunther really made me become serious about pursuing a career in Law Enforcement. Her class was engaging and informative.



Meredith Mathias

Meredith Mathias

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lemont High School
Lemont, IL -- Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Bakery Clerk

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Jewel Osco, Lemont, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I am not involved in a job that is in my future career path.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Hard working and motivated.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard in class so you can end up with college credits. You will definitely regret it in the future if you slack in the class and don't end up with the credits.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It has given me so much knowledge and has prepared me for similar classes in college.



Amya Patterson

Amya
Patterson

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Shift Lead

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Panera Bread, Frankfort, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences), Career
Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

I am working on going into Criminology, with the training of my Criminal Justice class and the achievements made with them. I'm also in school taking Psychology classes, and other forms of psych work.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

The ability to speak and understand people and the situations that I will be in. I have to be aware of all surroundings and aware of the possible outcomes of every scenario.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't stop believing in yourself. Things may get harder, but it's not impossible.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Not only did my class become a family, but my teachers Mrs. Gunther and Mr. Malec always believing that I would achieve at any situation they threw at me. Whether it was in class, or going into a competition.



Katherine Dluzak



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Police Cadet

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Aurora Police Department

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

The Aurora police cadet position is the closest position an individual under 21 can get to becoming a sworn police officer. Duties include but are not limited to patrolling, police training and administrative work.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

An interest in law enforcement. Must pass a polygraph and psychological examination. Must be enrolled in a college and receive good grades.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Continue with a career you are passionate about and accept challenges that come your way throughout. Work hard for what you want and you will advance in whatever field you hope to succeed in. Take school and requirements for your career seriously.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was exposed to so much during my high school career that definitely helped me in the position I am in. Learning about 10 codes and the phonetic alphabet as well as radio work. Among that basic knowledge of police work and laws helped so much.



Brendon Lopina

Brendon
Lopina

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Area Career Center Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

Currently enrolled in college to obtain a bachelor's degree in
Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Put effort in, get your work done, keep an open mind.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Gave information about being a law enforcement officer.

Abby Kieca



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Security Forces

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

United States Air Force

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I took part in the Plainfield Police Explorer program for a little over two years while I was in high school. I also was enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at Wilco. Then after graduation I enlisted in the United States Air Force. Then in December of 2020 I left for basic training where I graduated in February of 2021. And currently I am training to become a security forces member aka military police in the U.S Air Force. I hope to pursue a career as a k9 handler in Security Forces.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication and people skills, problem solving, teamwork, leadership, time management, organization, and active listening are all needed to be in the military let alone apart of security forces.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't be afraid to try new things because it will only better you as a student and later on in your career. Meet as many people as you can because it'll not only help you during your time at Wilco but will help you develop lifelong friendships later on. Finally, give your 110% in everything you do.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Hands on training in law enforcement, leadership skills as a squad leader, and teamwork within our squads.



Leslie Miranda



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School
Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Military

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I will become a police officer.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Strength.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Listen to your teachers.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My teachers.



Jack Potempa

Jack Potempa

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Psychology Student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Macomb, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I am currently going to school for Psychology at Western Illinois University.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Statistics and human behavior.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

PAY ATTENTION and take what your teachers are telling you seriously.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learning the real life scenarios that could happen and how to defuse the situation. As a psychology student I think it was very beneficial to see how to defuse a situation and be able to calm down a suspect.



Audrey Moran



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Volunteering at a hospital

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Silver Cross Hospital

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I am transferring patients.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention and make the best of it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The teachers there.



Sydney Bright



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School
Plainfield, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Security Professional/College Student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Allied Universal Security Services, Joliet, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I took Wilco Criminal Justice Classes for two years, 2018-2020. Currently am in college as a Freshman and in the Army National Guard. My major is Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Criminal Justice. My time in Wilco helped me just about complete an entire minor in Criminal Justice.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For a speech pathologist, you have to have excellent communication skills and patience, which also coincides with my minor and being a police officer.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take Wilco courses seriously because that dual credit really helps out when it comes to college.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped me grow into a more confident and communicative person, as well as helping me excel in college with being ahead of the game. I just need one class to complete my minor, all other courses were from Wilco.



Courtney Young

Courtney Young

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lake Park High School
Roselle, IL – Dupage County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Foods 1, CAD 1, CAD 2, Communication Technology

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Fremd High School, Palatine, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

2004 B.S. Career and Technical Education with an option in Family & Consumer Sciences Secondary Education - Eastern Illinois University,
2008 M.S. Family & Consumer Sciences - Eastern Illinois University,
2010 M.A. School Counseling/Type 73 - Concordia University,
2012 Dual Credit certified teacher at Harper College/
Partnership with Township High School District 211,
2005-current = Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher at William Fremd High School in Palatine, IL

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Time Management, Patience, Critical Thinking, Leadership, Organization, Teamwork, Creativity, Imaginative Thinking, Conflict Resolution, Technological Saavy

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Try as many 'free' classes while in high school that interest you. You will be surprised where you find a niche that you truly enjoy. Even if you think you may not want this as a future job, it will help you with life skills in your adulthood.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Real world experiences and internships.



Brianna Guzman

Brianna
Guzman

CAREER PATH

N/A

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Reed-Custer High School
Braidwood, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Automotive Services

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

PATIENCE

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Stay at home mom

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Really pay attention, even if you don't plan on staying in that specific career path.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

N/A

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I no longer have to depend on anyone to tell me what's wrong with my car. I have more than just basic knowledge of it, and am able to use what I learned in class.



Isabella Guerrero



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Dwight D. Eisenhower,
Merrionette Park, IL -- Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Television Production
and Broadcast Journalism

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Visual Merchandiser

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Orland Park Mall, Orland Park, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications

CAREER PATH

I am a Visual Associate at Forever 21 and am looking to expand my opportunities in the fashion industry. My first job after high school was at Forever 21. Working in retail for six years gave me the opportunity to learn sales, stock, and visual merchandising. I realized I wanted to pursue merchandising as my career after learning so much from Forever 21 and discovering the various job opportunities from merchandising. I graduated from Columbia College in Chicago and got my Bachelor's Degree in Fashion Studies with a concentration in Merchandising. While attending college, I continued to work at the mall part time and also had the opportunity to intern at the wholesaler, Grey Lark Showroom in Chicago.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, Creativity, Organization, Analyzing, Teamwork, Detail Oriented, Interpersonal Skills, Decision Making, Microsoft Office

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take advantage of this opportunity because you may discover certain interests you might have not realized you had and the skillsets developed within this program are transferrable skills you will always use throughout life. The program is fun and should give you a chance to express your creativity.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The CTE program allowed me to enhance my creativity skills and most importantly it helped me become comfortable collaborating with others. In my career, both of these skillsets are used daily and has also made me more confident in myself.



Shea Carzoli



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Woodstock High School, Woodstock, IL
McHenry County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Graphic Design

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Graphic Designer & Artist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Gaspard, Inc., Brookfield, WI

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications

CAREER PATH

After high school I attended Concordia University Wisconsin where I pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design with a minor in Marketing. They had a co-op program with the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design where I was able to take 6 classes towards my major at one of the best art schools in the country. I did a few internships while in school through The Commons Milwaukee working with Sartori cheese and other local companies/businesses. After graduating I did some freelance work for a few months before being hired by my current company to be their in house graphic designer and artist.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Technology/programs knowledge, communication, time management, team work, creativity, collaboration, and artistic fundamentals.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Find a way to develop your passion. There's more than one path-way to every destination, whether you attend college, start a work-based learning program, or go straight into the workforce, make sure you are excited about what you do. Find a mentor!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took the graphic design elective class in high school where I loved the hands on experience I received both in design and production. I had a dedicated teacher who encouraged me to develop my skills, and the opportunity to combine creativity and technical knowledge really appealed to me.



Bianka Salinas

Bianka Salinas

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Criminal Justice

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Student & recruit for federal government

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Illinois Army National Guard

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

I was a student in the Wilco criminal justice program from junior-senior year. Through the amazing mentors I have, Mrs. Gunther and Mr. Malec, I found my passion. If it wasn't for this opportunity I would have never known I wanted to be in the FBI. Due to the amount of credits I had I was able to switch to College of Dupage to further continue my education and bachelors in CJ. While doing virtual classes I decided to look into the military again. I choose the National Guard since I do plan on being a full-time student for a while. With having that and my credits I have actually got contacted by some federal agencies.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Bachelors, security clearance, and high moral.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Work hard. Give it your all, after all if you pass these credits will make your time in college/university shorter. Be the best individual you can be academically and morally. Your instructors are your professional references in the future, so do your best in the class and make connections.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

What made a difference was when my instructors told me they were proud of me. I went above and beyond on a final project and they really liked it. The connection I made with my instructors really made the difference, made me feel like my dreams were valid and worth working for.



Megan Loveland



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Spoon River Valley, London Mills, IL
Fulton County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Accounting, Intro to Business, Yearbook,
Consumers Education, Computers I,
Computers II

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Administrative Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Burlington System Division,
Hastings, Nebraska

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services

CAREER PATH

After graduating high school, I went on to get my bachelors degree. I graduated in 2020 with a double major in Accounting and Business Administration with a concentration in human resource management. Hating my accounting internships, I decided to the business major. I then really fell in love with HR and knew that's what I wanted to do. Learning that for most companies HR is less about helping people and more about getting away with hurting them, I found unions were a place that I could fight for workers rights every day. Not long after that realization I found a job 8 hours away and moved within the month. Although it is an entry level position, I know that I will be able to move up and create more positive change in the coming years.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Written and verbal communication skills, time management, task management, multitasking, strategic listening, and adaptive learning.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Don't be scared to not know what career path you want, just use that time to explore your interests, take classes that aren't required and you will stumble on something you find passion for.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I use skills learned in my high school computers classes every single day. Whether it's creating mail merges to make work quicker and easier or using excel to aggregate data and put it in a presentable understandable form for presentations, there is not one class that I rely on more.



Alexis Roth



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Ridgewood High School,
Norridge, IL -- Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Web Development

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Data Engineering Specialist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Zoro, Chicago, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology

CAREER PATH

My career path started in wanting to be a web designer, when I graduated from Ridgewood High School I changed my mind and decided to pursue a degree in computer networking at Robert Morris University. In my Junior year at Robert Morris I took a SQL class and then decided I wanted to work with Data. I found an internship at a networking event with Zoro they are a subsidiary of W.W. Grainger. I interned there for a year and then after I graduated was hired on full time.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Knowing SQL and Python. We use Google for most of our technologies so knowing BigQuery and Airflow.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always take your professors and teachers up on networking opportunities.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The web design class I took helped in starting to learn how to code on the backend which helped me grasp SQL and Python easier.



Sebastian Sanchez



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Proviso West High School, Hillside, IL
Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Manufacturing

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Tool and die maker

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Perfection Spring and Stamping,
Mt. Prospect, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and
Trades

CAREER PATH

TMA Courses

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Mechanically inclined

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Introduced me to manufacturing.



Gabrielle Anderson

**Gabrielle
Anderson**

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL -- Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Certified Nurses Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Certified Nurses Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Shorewood, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I was certified through Wilco Area Career Center.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being able to properly care for someone, responsibility.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

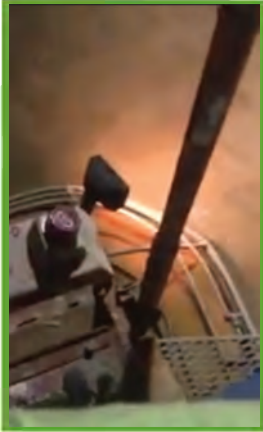
Take every piece of advice from experienced people in your field.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Going to clinicals every week and having the hands on experience.



Shannon McNeal



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Illinois School for the Deaf
Jacksonville, IL – Morgan County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

All types wood classes I could take.

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Laborer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Affton, Missouri

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

Applied for Vee-Jay, took 2 classes 3 month course. Became certified worker for them.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Able to be on foot for 10 hours+ a day.
Able to measure, and lift 50 lbs+.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

If there's a job/career you really want, be devoted! Learn the little things as well. A lot of little things are applied to a career. Add all of those little things, it'll be a big factor in the career you're in! Good luck!

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Really focusing on wood working, was able to learn in CTE the things to try and accommodate to make things work. Was very applicable to working at Vee-Jay. Also emphasizing learning how to read tape measures.



Amya Morales

Amy
Morales

CAREER PATH

Few College of Dupage credited classes during high school.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School,
Plainfield, IL – Will County County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Area Career Center-
Intro to Health & Medical Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Jimano's Pizzeria

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Patience, determination, collaborative, and conversational.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Be patient and keep yourself well informed.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The Wilco classes I took. They helped me form an idea of what I was getting myself into and narrow my options of what field/position to pursue.



Miranda Elder

Miranda Elder

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, IL – Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Team Member

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Buona Beef

CAREER PATHWAY

Finance and Business Services,
Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Travel Nurse

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Medical assisting, nursing school, leadership, and communication.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Make friends with your teachers because they are trying to do what's in your best interest.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Medical Assisting



Joseph Carco



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School,
Plainfield, IL Kendall County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Welding

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Welder/fabricator/mechanic

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

B&R Repair, Lemont IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and
Trades

CAREER PATH

I would not be where I am today if it weren't for the welding program at Wilco. It gave me the perfect opportunity to learn new skills and the basics for my career choice, as well as the opportunity to meet my current boss/employer at a job fair at Wilco.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Good work ethic, communication, teamwork, BASIC welding knowledge, mechanically inclined, and being observant.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take in as much as you can, always be observant, practice your trade as much as possible, and work hard.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was able to get a lot of good practice time with my trade in my Wilco class, great guidance from an experienced instructor, as well as learning a lot out of the books about it. This gave me a big head start and a lot of confidence for when I went to apply these things in real life at my job.



Isaac Palmiter

Isaac
Palmiter

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Welding I and II (WILCO), Woods I, AMPED.

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Stud Welder

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

G&W Electric, Bolingbrook, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

This is my first welding related job. Stud welding was not taught at WILCO but my previous experience with welding processes definitely helped me get in the door.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Teamwork, Ability to read and understand a blueprint, honesty, overall competence.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Have a plan for how to get more training after you graduate. Virtually all jobs require two or more years of experience in the field relevant to it. Whether it's trade school, the military, an apprenticeship or even practice at home if available. EDUCATE YOURSELF.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The safety training given in the WILCO Welding programs taught pretty much everything (and honestly way more than) the company's safety training. The "soft skills" that were often brought up were also very helpful in getting the job.



Andrea Jaros



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Office

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Unemployed

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology, Human
and Public Services (including Family and
Consumer Sciences)



CAREER PATH

Health information management- Medical Office my senior year at WILCO, Associates degree in Health Information Management from Joliet Junior College, RHIT credential as of January 30, 2020 from AHIMA, Edna K. Huffman award recipient.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

A degree, or credential. Determination. Detail-oriented.

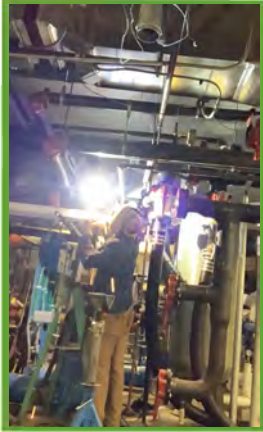
ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Do your best. Get good grades. Study hard. Make your dreams come true.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I kept pursuing my dreams and continued in the medical field.

Andrew Deangeles



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lemont High School
Lemont, IL - Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco Career Center Welding program

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Pipefitter Apprentice

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

McCauley Mechanical
Bridgeview, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades

CAREER PATH

Well, straight out of high school I had the ability to become a pretty good welder and throughout a few different processes, I almost immediately had jobs lined up and chose become a welder and applied for the 597 Pipefitter. Passed a few tests and at 19 I had my career mapped out and work has been amazing.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Welding, fabrication skills, and strong math skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Keep going and if you don't love it try something else, do something that makes you feel good when you're done and you'll have an amazing life.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learning how to become a good welder so young was crucial to the time frame of my accomplishments.



Guadalupe Barajas



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction to Health and Professions

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For my future career you need skills such as problem solving, attention to detail, team work, and leaderships skills, just to name a few.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice would be to take this seriously, for this program is like a key that can open many doors in the near future.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

This program is what made me stand out in my college applications.



Peter Evanoff



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Building Trades at Wilco Area Career Center

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Journeyman Plumber

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Omega Plumbing, Joliet, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

I received my education at Wilco Area Career Center in Romeoville, IL. After graduation I began working for my father in our family business for four years. My own personal journey began by completing a five year apprenticeship at Local 130. I took my state plumbing exam which advanced me with my current employer at Omega Plumbing.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Critical thinking, organizational skills, problem solving, customer service oriented, and attention to detail with a great work ethic.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

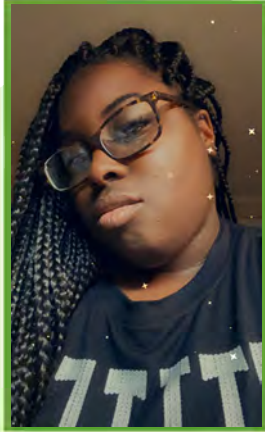
My advice would be to take advantage of the opportunities to enroll in your area Career Center to gain various skills in the trade in which you are pursuing a career.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I learned that working hard, having an open mind and a positive attitude are some underrated, very valuable attributes to maintain. Also, taking a project from start to finish and delivering a quality service to my customers.



Jasmine Hunt-Code



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Child Development

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Crew member

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Sonic, Houston, Texas

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

Physical Education

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Stay on top of all your school work. Make the best of this program, it really helped me out.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taught me how to raise my children the correct way.



Jackie Ruiz



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Teacher Assistant

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Creme de la Creme, Romeoville, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Career Exploration and Development

CAREER PATH

I took two years of preschool at my high school and took a CPR class to get certified.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being with kids and have patience.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Making mistakes is okay and asking questions are all okay. Never give up you will always learn from the mistakes and grow from them as well with asking the questions. Believe in yourself.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

My teachers believing in me as well as my classmates.



Jazmin Cazares

Jazmin
Cazares

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lockport Township High School
Lockport, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Undergraduate animal sciences student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

CAREER PATHWAY

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

CAREER PATH

My current career path is to become a veterinarian. To do this I have majored in animal sciences, done internships in the animal field, and joined animal based clubs.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being able to work with others, multitasking, problem solving, organization, patience, and effective communication skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

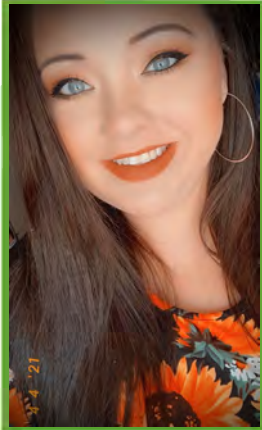
Take all the career based opportunities giving to you because you never know if you'll ever get them again. Try to reach out for career experience as much as you can.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Being able to learn about all the different careers in the animal field and being able to handle a variety of species was very beneficial as it prepared me for a lot of my college classes and internships.



Lacey Hopper



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Early Childhood Education

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Assistant Center Director

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

KinderCare Learning Center - Woodridge, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services (including
Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

After graduating high school in 2012, I attended Joliet Junior College to work on my general education courses. In the summer of 2013, I was working as a nanny when an opportunity came to me to apply for a job at KinderCare. I started my career working as an assistant teacher in the 2 year old class. After working for KinderCare for about 8 months, I enrolled in the Child Development Associate (CDA) Program at Rasmussen College. I took some time off and then went back to complete my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education, also through Rasmussen College, and I am currently working on my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Leadership to work towards my goal of becoming a Center Director.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

For an entry level position, you need a high school diploma and to be at least 18 years old. To grow in this field, you need to be dedicated to personal and professional growth as well as have a genuine love and passion for working with young children and their education.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Follow your heart! When you make your career something you truly love, you'll never work a single day of your life.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Overall, my experience at Wilco helped me to solidify my decision to make early childhood education my life's work. My instructors (Ms. Birsá, Mrs. Yeates, and Mrs. McConaughy) were always so supportive and encouraging while providing the education and feedback I needed to better my practice.



Melanie Angulo

Melanie Angulo

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Intro to health professions/medical assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Employee

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Dunkin, Plainfield, IL
Tony's Fresh Market, Plainfield, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Medical assistant, RN, or vet assistant.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, comprehension, and to be there for patients and whoever needed.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention, ask questions, and study hard because overall it's a fun class and you learn lots of information.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The way it goes and how much skills are involved.



Junior Okhaifoh

Junior
Okhaifoh

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Wilco

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology
and Trades

CAREER PATH

UTI

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Work smart and work hard.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Just keep doing what you know how to do and break that door
that is holding you back.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I don't have any experience.



Samantha Peters

Samantha
Peters

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield East High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Assisting

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Sales Associate at Farm and Fleet

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Romeoville, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I am going to JJC to take my basic classes and then I am going to a university in order to get my med degree.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

I need to be able to understand the human body. know the diseases and other problems that can occur with the body.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

You have to make sure that you study hard because it is a challenging test.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I know how to correctly take care of patients and how to take their vital signs.



Ashley Hines

Ashley
Hines

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Phlebotomist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Morris Hospital

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Got let go during pandemic and entered retraining with office of unemployment.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

People ready.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

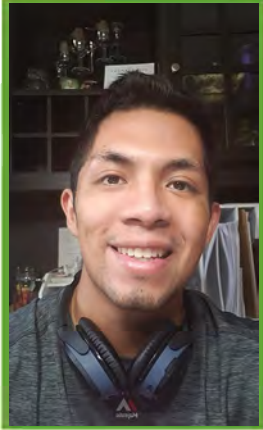
Choose something.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Helped me to understand and listen to people needs.



Hector Dondiego



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Intro to Health Professions
(Medical Terminology) and
Emergency Medical Technician

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Co-Op Technical Intern - Senior

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Information Technology

CAREER PATH

Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, having a background in Object-Oriented Programming, and experience with Artificial Intelligence (at least some knowledge).

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Detail-oriented, soft-skills (interpersonal), Team-oriented, Excel, SQL, Python, knowledge and experience with Object-Oriented Programming.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

It is okay to change your mind about what you truly want to do for your career. Work, intern, or volunteer at places where your desired career is prominent to catch a glimpse of what working in the field will be like. Ask for advice from your teachers and colleagues in the field.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

The Emergency Medical Technician course helped clarify my decision to pursue a Pre-Medicine degree and attending Medical School. I realized that working in the Medical/Healthcare field wasn't my thing.



Hailey Miller

Hailey
Miller

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Reed-Custer High School
Braidwood, IL, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

I took the CNA program my junior year and
now I am in the Medical Assisting Program.

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, teamwork skills, attention to detail, confidence,
decision making, adaptability and flexibility, endurance,
organizational skills, diplomatic skills, leadership skills, and
multitasking skills.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Take it seriously. Do your work and pay attention but have fun
with the class.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I got to see the way residents/patients actually get treated and
cared for.



Jayla Franklin

Jayla
Franklin

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Nursing Assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Unemployed

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Unemployed

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications, Health Sciences and
Technology

CAREER PATH

Getting prepared for the nursing field.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It made me realize and confirm that I wanted to be a nurse.



Victoria Orozco

Victoria
Orozco

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Bolingbrook High School
Bolingbrook, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

N/A

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Part timer

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Journeys, Bolingbrook, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

Teaches me how to communicate better.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Good communication, quick on my feet, etc.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

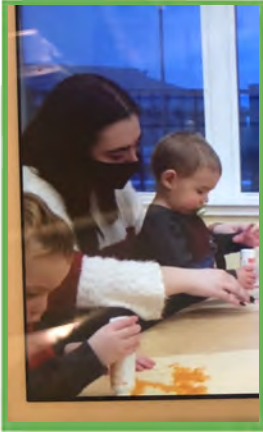
Work hard! It'll be worth it.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Taught me skills I will need for my future career and got me started in the health field.



Lauren Heun



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield North High School, Plainfield, IL
Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Assistant teacher

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

KinderCare in North Aurora, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Human and Public Services
(including Family and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

ECE level one and two credentials, CPR training, currently earning my associates in early childhood development.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Monday through Friday open availability, experience working in a licensed child care facility, basic credentials.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Pay attention!! It's more useful than you think.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I was already ten steps ahead of everyone by having my level one and two credentials.



Vanessa Robles



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

East High School, Rockford, IL
Winnebago County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Educators of Beauty

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Cosmetologist

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and
Communications, Human and Public
Services (including Family and Consumer
Sciences)



CAREER PATH

Human Services

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Being able to interact with new people with no problem.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

My advice for CTE students would be try if there is nothing you can miss but trying something you were interested in. You might love it and full fill and carry on with the course or you might not. But I will promise that there will not be a dull moment.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It made a difference in my career because I got to see what was going on the salon floor without me being a full time student. Got to meet so many wonderful classmates and was able to build relationships before enrolling in for full time.

Emily Johnske

Emily
Johnske

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Medical assistant

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Student

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

An ER nurse.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication, confidence, empathy, and teamwork.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always try your best and never give up.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

It helped me decide if I was going to like the medical field.



Madeleine Betouni

Madeleine
Betouni

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Cook County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Waitress

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Cracker Barrel, Romeoville, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology, Human
and Public Services (including Family
and Consumer Sciences)

CAREER PATH

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

College

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always try your best.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Learned a lot of helpful life skills.



Nicholas Patela

Nicholas
Patela

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Plainfield South High School
Plainfield, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Fire Science

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Paid on call Firefighter

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Genoa Kingston Fire Protection District
Genoa, Illinois

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I went through the fire science program at Wilco, then while attending welding classes at a community college I placed an application in at Genoa Kingston Fire District for the firefighter position.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

You need a good sense of being on time, which incorporates being 15 minutes early as being on time and being on time as late. You need to have a calm and caring behavior. Do you need to show respect to earn respect.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

The only advice I can give is please listen to the older generation they have the wisdom and the experience which you were going to need to learn from, so you'll be able to teach the next generation after you the important lessons.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

Having a great instructor lead me on the path I have today.



Natalia Fudala



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Romeoville High School
Romeoville, IL - Will County

CTE DEPARTMENT/CLASSES ENROLLED IN DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Math, English, History, Science, Wilco

CURRENT JOB TITLE

Clubhouse in Romeoville

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Wesglen Clubhouse, Romeoville, IL

CAREER PATHWAY

Health Sciences and Technology

CAREER PATH

I plan on attending Joliet Junior College and taking my electives and classes that are necessary in order to become an ultra sound tech.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS NEEDED FOR THIS CAREER

Communication and patience.

ADVICE TO HIGH SCHOOL CTE STUDENTS

Always pay attention during class because there's a lot of information given to you that you shouldn't want to miss.

HOW HAS CTE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE/CAREER?

I took an introduction to Health class in Wilco and it gave me a lot of insight on the body and how it works.





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