

PEATC
Parent Educational Advocacy
Training Center



Opportunities Offered Through Career
Technical Education

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Global Competitiveness

- If India & China successfully train 1% of their population, their skilled workforce would be nearly equal to our entire workforce
- Proliferation of Internet, communications makes doing business possible from anywhere on earth



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An Aging Workforce

- 150 million Americans currently in the workforce
- 77 million 'Baby Boomers' nearing retirement
- Only 40 million Gen X'ers and Y'ers available to replace them
- More than 1/3 of our workforce will be older than 50 before President Obama's first term is over.



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Current & Future
Opportunities

- The new "green" economy
 - Strong focus will be on changing energy systems, retrofitting existing buildings for better efficiency, new energy pipelines, etc.
- Infrastructure improvement proposals by President Obama
 - Roads, bridges, tunnels, new schools, communications, etc. all part of the plan



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Current & Future
Opportunities

- Common thread among them:
Many skilled workers will be needed
- Among top needs will be engineers, energy technicians, welders, mechanics, computer system techs
- Already a shortage of skilled workers in all of these fields, in addition to pending retirements



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Opportunities for Disabled Workers

- First and foremost, little distinction is made between abilities of non-disabled & disabled workers
 - 2/3 of accommodations cost less than \$500
 - 1/4 cost nothing at all
 - With many valuable workers reaching older age, many accommodations seen as necessary to maintain even flow and access



Opportunities for Workers with Disabilities

- Gap between available jobs & available skilled workers growing to 35 million or more in 5 years.
- With the looming retirements of Baby Boomers, if you have the skills, you are needed
 - 50 million Americans with disabilities may provide companies with a vast, underutilized resource of workers



Nation's Top Growth Occupations

- Health
 - Registered Nurses
 - MH Counselors
 - Dental Hygienists
- Tech and Engineering
 - Network Systems and Data Communications
 - Computer Software Engineers
 - Computer Systems Analysts
- Education
 - Elementary Teachers
 - Postsecondary Teachers

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
2008 Occupational Outlook Handbook



What CTE Can Offer

- Health
 - Registered Nurses ✓
 - MH Counselors ✓
 - Dental Hygienists ✓
- Tech and Engineering
 - Network Systems and Data Communications ✓
 - Computer Software Engineers ✓
 - Computer Systems Analysts ✓
- Education
 - Elementary Teachers ✓
 - Postsecondary Teachers ✓

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
2008 Occupational Outlook Handbook



Careers in Automation

- Manufacturing incorrectly seen as dead career choice by many
 - Is manufacturing down in the U.S.? Yes, but not as much as you'd think
 - Still world's 2nd largest exporter of goods
 - 61% of all exports are manufactured goods
 - double the rate from 10 years ago



Careers in Automation

- So where are the jobs?
 - Fewer unskilled jobs, yes
 - As old assembly lines gave way to automation, U.S. manufacturing now requires many more skilled workers
 - Manufacturing really is just like every other industry – if you are skilled, you can find work



Automation Opportunities for Disabled Workers

- Engineering and design
 - Nearly 10% of engineers have disabilities
- Computer systems analysts
 - Highly accessible jobs for all Americans
- Sales engineers
 - Diagnose a company's needs and match them to the right products



Role of CTE in Economic & Workforce Development

- CTE reinforces student interest in high need occupations
 - Work-based learning opportunities give students a sense of investment in a career
- CTE improves performances in core curriculum
 - Integrated learning opportunities shown to improve NCLB test scores



Role of CTE in Economic & Workforce Development

- CTE constantly adapts to the needs to state and national economic/workforce needs
 - Mandated by law to provide programs for high skill, high wage, and high demand occupations
- CTE increases high school graduation rates
 - By providing relevancy in education, students are more likely to stay in school



Role of CTE in Economic & Workforce Development

- Provides training for all of the programs under the High Growth Job Training Initiative
- Enhances student engagement and retention in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields



Career Clusters

- Nationally, 16 career clusters leading to over 80 different careers
 - Offerings differ from state to state, school to school
- Clusters are programs of study that include seamless connections between high school and college
 - Often include articulation agreements for college credit in HS



Career Clusters

- Concept: Clusters provide broad knowledge and skills that are applicable to any of the careers within the cluster
- Provides students with the ability to change their mind about their goals without having to start over



Community Partnership

- Lehigh Valley (PA) provides an outstanding example of how community and business partnerships can work in CTE (www.lcti.org)
- The Lehigh Career & Technical Institute has formed public/private partnership coalitions according to programs of study



Community Partnership

- These coalitions have been given a full decision-making stake by the school – everything from curriculum to personnel decisions
- In exchange, local businesses have been extremely supportive, providing equipment, job shadowing, externship, and preferential hiring opportunities to students



Community Partnership

- Results:
 - LCTI has become a cornerstone of Lehigh Valley's economic development
 - Found that businesses relocated to Lehigh Valley because they could ensure a solid workforce pipeline (eg, it's now called "Wall Street West")
 - Most LCTI programs are very accommodating to persons with disabilities
 - Proper equipment donations help considerably, as did business expertise in making these accommodations



Important Notes About CTE

- CTE is NOT a separate track!
- CTE has entry points for learners of all levels – adults are welcome too!
- CTE students are expected to go on to postsecondary education



Disabled Students & CTE

- Many advocates worry that increased accountability & rigor in Perkins IV will limit access for students with disabilities
- Many great examples of students with all varieties of disabilities thriving in CTE
- If you have concerns, talk with your superintendent or state CTE officials – they will work with you



Summary

- Even in a tough economy, if you have skills, you can find work
- All Americans will need some form of postsecondary education
- CTE is a fantastic way for all Americans to obtain the skills they need to succeed
- CTE is a solid pathway to accessible occupations



Education Resources

- National Career Pathways Network – <http://www.cord.org/ncpn-index.cfm>
- Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) - www.ACTEonline.org
- National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) - www.careertech.org



Resources

- ICW's page on Disabled Workers: <http://www.uschamber.com/icw/strategies/disabilityemployment.htm>
- CTE Robotics Competition: <http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/robotics/4298356.html>



Resources

- Why Disabled Techies Rock: http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/11/smallbusiness/disabled_techies_rock.fsb/index.htm
- Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities: <http://www.cpst.org/hrdata/documents/pwm13s/C444D022.pdf>



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