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Illinois
State Board of
Education



CAREER CONNECTED ILLINOIS

Opportunities for Success

FEBRUARY 2023

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

266k
students

112
CTE programs

16
clusters

7
pathway
endorsements

How Can I Raise Awareness for CTE Month?

Every February, the CTE community celebrates Career and Technical Education and the role that it plays in preparing students for success in college and careers. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the great things that are happening throughout Illinois in our programs! Are you looking for ways to promote CTE Month in your area? If so, check out the ideas below from Advance CTE.

- [Participate](#) in the 2021-22 CTE Month-NASA HUNCH Student Video Challenge: How Can Space Exploration Solve Climate Change?
- [Host a school visit](#) and invite members of your local community to learn about your school's strong CTE programs firsthand.
- [Engage your policymakers](#) and the media to encourage them to attend events and tell you CTE story, or use social media to do the same.
- [Work with business and industry leaders](#) to ensure they understand the role CTE plays in readying their future workforce.
- Purchase pens, pencils, lanyards, and other [CTE Month merchandise](#) to use at events or at your school.
- [Download our CTE Month logo](#) for use with any print or digital outreach.

Please note, the “CTE Month” or “Career and Technical Education Month” must be followed by the trademark sign (®) the first time it appears in a document or visual presentation.

Full article from Advance CTE at [this link](#).



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

Career & Technical Student Organizations

Our Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) student leaders have collected how their CTSOs are celebrating February and growing their CTE and career cluster knowledge. Below are some of our Illinois CTSOs and their relation to one of ISBE's highlighted career clusters.



Celebrate



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

**Career and
Technical Student
Organizations
provide students
with leadership
opportunities.**

Future Business Leaders of America High School - Marketing

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will be hosting FBLA Week during the second week of CTE Month! National, state, and local programming pertaining to marketing, business, and leadership education will cater to the over 190,000 members across the country. Illinois FBLA is ecstatic to market these programs with our dynamic social media (@illinoisfbla on Instagram) and structured [website](#). See more [information](#) on FBLA Week activities.

FBLA Collegiate - Finance

FBLA Collegiate also takes part in FBLA Week.! Dr. Marc Morris, an associate professor of accountancy and finance at Southern Illinois University, talked about the importance of investing and financial literacy at the Winter Webinar on Jan. 23. The Stock Market game also is held about that time, so many of FBLA's Finance members will engage in that as individuals and teams within their chapter. Many members also will start preparing for and registering for the State Leadership Conference, which is scheduled for April 14-15. There will be tests to determine ability in competencies in major related fields, such as finance, accounting, marketing, operations, technology, and so on, through public speaking, and case studies.

Curious to learn more and ask questions? Message FBLA on instagram (@IllinoisFBLAC) or email them at ilfbla.collegiate@gmail.com.

Science Olympiad: STEM

Science Olympiad is proud to be hosting several regional competitions in preparation for our state competition at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign! Meanwhile, the Illinois Science Olympiad Youth Advisory Committee (ISOYAC) is thrilled to be opening state officer applications to high school students throughout Illinois. ISOYAC is proud to recognize student achievements through Illinois Science Olympiad teams and to continue cultivating student leaders. From advocating for the future of careers in science to expanding equitable STEM-based opportunities, ISOYAC is beyond elated about CTE Month! Check out the [Illinois Science Olympiad website](#) for more information.

FFA - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

The Illinois Association of FFA will be hosting its FFA Week **Feb. 18-26**. FFA chapters and agriculture classes will celebrate the week by hosting a wide variety of events, including petting zoos, Agricultural Olympics, FFA banquets, and so much more. The Illinois Association of FFA is ecstatic to celebrate FFA Week this year with 18,000 new FFA members! This incredible progression was made possible by support from the Illinois

Department of Agriculture. Be sure to follow along with all of the FFA Week fun by checking out social media on Instagram (@illinois.ffa) and Illinois Association FFA on Facebook.



Health Occupation Students of America - Health Sciences and Technology

The Illinois Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) are working diligently toward their State Leadership Conference this upcoming March. Students are preparing for competition in a variety of events that promote careers within the fields of health science and beyond. The Illinois HOSA team is excited to see what students prepare in their individual and team events. Please refer to the [Illinois HOSA State Leadership Conference webpage](#) for more information regarding competition. Be sure to follow Illinois HOSA on Instagram (@hosa.illinois) for additional updates!

Business Professionals of America - Business Management and Administration

Business Professionals of America (BPA) has had area competitions throughout this month during which students compete in a wide range of events tailored to give insight into the world of business and its practices. The leaders of Illinois BPA are proud of the students who qualified for the State Leadership Conference, which will take place on Feb. 23-25, and continue to support them as they learn integral business skills, such as honing their organizational skills and preparing for real-world business presentations. If you have any questions, follow the Illinois BPA Instagram (@illinoisbpa).

Search and Learn About Your EFE Region

Our Education for Employment (EFE) system directors have sent out information about their schools and programs. If you want to learn what is available in your EFE region, please visit [CTE System Search](#). We are hoping this resource helps students, parents, and community members learn about their local EFE region and the programs available there.

Valley Education for Employment System 130

The Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES) region, which includes 17 member school districts and two area career centers in Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, Lee, and

LaSalle counties, will celebrate February as national CTE Month with a variety of student-focused activities.

- The second annual Crosstown CAD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design) Cup challenge between Batavia and Geneva high schools will take place Feb. 8. Batavia and Geneva students will compete against each other in preparation for the regional IDEA Competition design (team-based) challenges that will be hosted later in the month at Waubensee Community College. Local business and industry professionals judge the design team challenges and offer feedback and support for improvement. Judges will include representatives from various companies, such as Burgess-Norton, Mortenson, and Smith and Richardson.
- VALEES regional automotive technology students will compete in a team-based challenge at Waubensee Community College on Feb. 25. High school teams will rotate through stations designed by community college faculty and industry professionals to simulate real-world automotive problems. A team trophy will be awarded.
- The Waubensee Community College Health Professions and Public Service Division will host over 100 VALEES regional high school students interested in a future career in health care at the Aurora Fox Valley campus on Feb. 14 and 21. Students will tour the health care campus and engage in a panel discussion with faculty from health care programs, including Medical Assistant, Nursing, Basic Nurse Assistant, Health Information Technology, Emergency Medical Technician - Basic, Massage Therapy, and Phlebotomy.



Students learn about EMT requirements.

Madison County CTE System 450

Madison County CTE System 450 hosts CTE Month events and will have these events in 2023:

- The Madison County CTE System will host its annual CTE Month social media challenge throughout February to help promote CTE and highlight the amazing programs in Madison County. CTE programs will submit photos and stories of the great things happening in their programs to the CTE office. All CTE teachers that submit content will be entered into a weekly drawing for a prize to show our

appreciation for all they do. The CTE office will then share these items through social media using #ilcte. See [previous year submissions](#).

- The Alton Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Chapter will be hosting FCCLA Section 8 Competition on Feb. 24. FCCLA students from across the region will showcase the skills they have developed through their Family and Consumer Science programs and demonstrate leadership skills by participating in proficiency events and showcasing community service projects. Winning students will earn the opportunity to compete at the FCCLA State Competition. See [photos from last year's event](#).

Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System EFE 110

Districts in the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System have closed out January and student course requests for the 2023-24 school year, so they are shifting their focus to professional development and future planning during the month of February.

Districts across the region are working with businesses aligned with many of our CTE content areas to host teachers and counselors, showing them what they do within their organization and the career options that are available. This is the second year in a row that districts are working to get counselors and teachers out into the community. These types of opportunities will also be included in our annual County Institute Day activities at the beginning of March.

District leaders will also be meeting with the fire chiefs from multiple municipalities across the region to work on a plan for those students interested in becoming a firefighter or emergency medical technician (EMT). Plans will include a listing of core content and CTE courses that will be offered within the region along with career exploration and career development opportunities available in each of the municipalities.

Wilco Area Career Center EFE 100

Wilco Area Career Center takes a varied approach to celebrating CTE Month as it highlights the achievements of their staff and students. They began the month by releasing the Wilco scholarships to students and will conclude the month by naming the National Technical Honor Society students. Throughout the month, we highlight classroom events on social media utilizing #ilcte. Our students are also actively engaged in qualifying for state competitions through our CTSOs. We set one week aside to celebrate our staff and their hard work. Each day staff receive a token of our appreciation for their dedication to the field. We also encourage staff to present and attend the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education Conference. This year we have seven teachers, support staff, and administrators attending, with five presenting. February is CTE Month, but we work throughout the year to promote the positive impact of CTE.

Valley View School District has participated in the following activities for CTE Month:

1. College, Career, and Trades Fair Day
2. Prior to Registration and Eighth Grade Night
 - a. Enrichment Fair is held. (All electives showcase their courses in the gym; students can walk through during lunch time and ask questions.)
 - b. Home room drop-ins spotlight each of the disciplines we offer.
3. Lunch Time Activities
 - a. Jeopardy/trivia games are held.
 - b. Showcase outside with swag (pencils) for every student who asks a question.
4. Weekly Career Spotlight
5. Hallway Displays

Plainfield East High School organized an Explorations Day/Electives Fair in November for current students. Students completed a Google Survey to collect information on their interests. The EFE director used the ISBE Career Guide to help guide the survey. Students were "assigned" a category with a list of possible classes that would fit their interests based on the survey. All students had the opportunity on one of the days of the

fair to walk around the Plainfield East High School fieldhouse and take a look at classes they were interested in, watch live demos, and speak to current students as well as alumni who had majored in the field. It was a great opportunity to show off the CTE world.

Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois 'Design the Design' Competition

Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois (CEANCI) recently offered regional graphic design students an opportunity to utilize their skillsets and knowledge in the classroom for various industry projects.

Once CEANCI gathered interested student graphic designers, we reached out to area business partners asking them for their projects. We collected six projects and submitted them to students to choose from. Two school districts, composed of four high schools (Rockford Auburn, East, and Roosevelt, and Rockton Hononegah), had students interested in competing in the "Design the Design" competition.

Next, students were given approximately nine weeks to work on their projects; throughout that time frame, they were required to provide two rough sketches, a digital rough draft, and a final digital design. At each phase of the student submissions, they worked with professional graphic designers, Google Drive, and email to learn from the competition judges about various ways they could alter or adjust their projects. CEANCI chose this type of communication as we realize that this embedded some type of communication skill that may not currently exist. Overall, 30 students submitted designs, with 10 finalists selected by the professional competition judges. Each of the finalists was provided with a "Design the Design" T-shirt and certificate.

The 10 chosen finalists presented and explained the various stages of their design project at the final design presentation and award ceremony, which was hosted by Rock Valley College. Area educators, family members, business partners, and the CEANCI team were present to support these young professionals! The industry competition judges had a very hard time selecting the top four finalists but after much deliberation came up with the following winners, which were announced at the end of the evening by CEANCI System Director Tabatha Dougherty:

- **Typography Award** - Autumn Mohring, Hononegah High School
- **Vision Award** - Ella Prentice, Hononegah High School
- **Progress Award** - Lucille Schwartz, East High School
- **Illustration AND Best of Design Award** - Lucas Furukawa, Hononegah High School

CEANCI is so proud of the students who chose to engage in this work-based learning opportunity and to their instructors for allowing classroom time for this. CEANCI also was very grateful for the wonderful business partners and all they do to provide projects, their time, and ongoing support throughout the school year. Without the partners' engagement, the students would not be able to use their skillsets and knowledge gained through these CTE offerings to think outside of the box and see the value in project-based learning. CEANCI has more than 200 partners who provide numerous activity engagement choices.



Congratulations to the 10 CEANCI 'Design the Design' Competition Finalists!

Photo credit: Gary Payne of KMK Media. He also served as a competition judge.

West Aurora High School College, Career, and Wellness Fair

The West Aurora High School College, Career and Wellness Fair, now in its third year, hosted 782 students from 14 regional high schools for a morning of career exploration. There were over 70 business and industry partners from every college and career pathway endorsement category, 126 colleges, and 34 wellness partners. Planning partners for the fair also included Batavia and Geneva high schools. The commitment of the West Aurora, Batavia, and Geneva planning team of counselors to hold up career exploration and local opportunities for employment, internships, and apprenticeships after high school alongside college is commendable. Additionally, the true partnership and collaboration of the planning team to invite all VALEES and Kane County schools expands opportunities for regional students.



ISBE CTE Professional Development Calendar

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

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

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

SY 2023 Skilled Trades Career Expo for CPS Students

The Chicago Public Schools Office of College and Career Success is hosting the [SY 2023 Skilled Trades Career Expo for CPS Students](#).

When

- Wednesday, March 1 (High School Day 1)

- Thursday, March 2 (High School Day 2)
- Friday, March 3 (Elementary and Middle Schools only)

About the Event

CPS students will explore careers in the construction trades, architecture, STEM, engineering, and related fields through this innovative trades expo designed for youth engagement.

- Meet industry partners
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Networking, application opportunities, and more

This event can accommodate up to 2,000 high school students and up to 1,000 elementary and middle school students. We will do our best to accommodate as many schools as possible. Much like last year, the trades event is only open to CPS school groups. Walk-ins are not allowed.

More Information

If you have questions, email LearnPlanSucceed@cps.edu.

In the Spotlight

Thank you for your nominations of outstanding students, teachers, programs, and business partners from across the state of Illinois. We are excited to recognize these individuals and celebrate their achievements. We love to hear your stories! Submit your nominations at isbe.net. We are always accepting new submissions to include in our Spotlight section.

Student Spotlight

Nancy Evans, instructor in the Certified Nursing Assistant program at Wilco Area Career Center, nominated Sara Lawani for this section. Ms. Evans said Sara shows “exceptional skills in the classroom with participation and willingness to learn and demonstrate skills. She assists other classmates in a team approach.”

[Nominate a student here.](#)



Sara Lawani was nominated by her teacher, Nancy Evans.

Teacher Spotlight

[Nominate a teacher here.](#)

Program Spotlight

McLain Schaefer, director of Leaders Innovating for Tomorrow (LIFT) for Mattoon CUSD 2, nominated the HVAC/Green Energy/ Robotics/Electric Vehicle for the Program Spotlight. He wrote, "Under the leadership of Mr. Dan Compton, the HVAC/Green Energy/

Robotics/Electric Vehicle pathway at LIFT has led students to receive industry certifications and career credentials in HVAC and industrial robotics in the first semester of this program. In addition, Mr. Compton was able to expand this program to be able to offer a course in electric vehicles in which students are building a fully functioning, street legal, electric vehicle!"

[Nominate a program here.](#)



LIFT program students show off work attire.

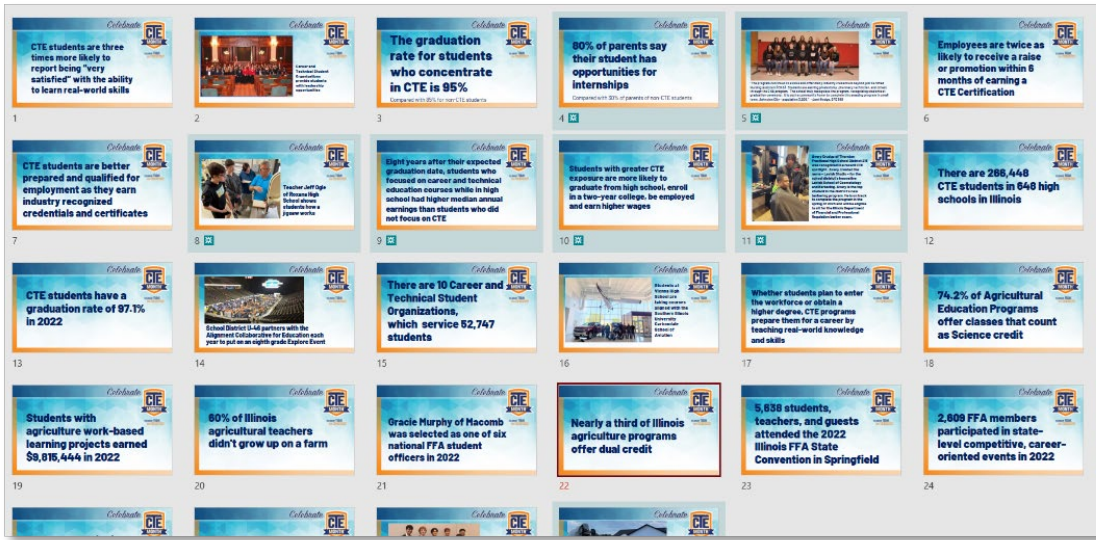


Students watch as Mr. Compton instructs on HVAC wiring.

Business Partner Spotlight
[Nominate a business partner here.](#)

CTE Month Materials

Click the image below to access a folder full of CTE Month graphics that are social media ready! Share on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.



Career Guides

Check out our Career Guides, share them, or order printed copies at llcareerguide.com.

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CAREER GUIDE

HIGH SCHOOL
EDITION



EXPLORE!

Dozens of in demand
career pathways

WHY CTE?

Find out why CTE
offers so many
opportunities

PLAN YOUR FUTURE

Create a plan
for success after
high school

CAREER ASSESSMENT

What are you passionate about?
Use the pullout workbook found inside.



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