



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

January 2024

Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

MIKE HASSLER: Utah January 2024 CTE Educator of the Month

We are pleased to announce that Mike Hassler, Work-Based Learning Coordinator in Washington School District, has been selected as the January 2024 CTE Educator of the Month. “Mike’s passion and dedication to the Work-Based Learning Program have paved the way for thousands of students to attain their career aspirations,” said Breckon Heywood, CTE Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education



BACKGROUND: In the workforce development arena, Mike is known as “Gator Mike” for his fierce determination and dedication to creating high-quality career opportunities for students. Mike has built the workforce development framework in Utah’s secondary educational system for employers across state lines to increase their recruitment and talent acquisition opportunities.

EDUCATION: Mike graduated from Dixie State University (now known as Utah Tech University) specializing in classroom-to-workforce strategies, industry buy-in, marketing, recruiting, data management, job placements, LinkedIn for the classroom, and process improvement.

WORK-BASED LEARNING COORDINATOR: Mike focuses on identifying students’ goals/dreams and then packages this into a solution-based opportunity for employers. Developing grit is the single greatest attribute a student can develop while in high school in order to cross the bridge from a random job to a career opportunity. Students in Washington School District know that the WashK12 Career Development Program will literally change their lives as they go all in to discover their passion, set careers goals, and turn their dream into a career.

STUDENT SUCCESS: “Mike truly values the needs of others and has helped me tremendously. I wouldn’t be going the direction I am if it wasn’t for him. He has helped me find the drive and confidence in myself and has given me so many opportunities. Not only has he helped me find confidence in myself but in my career goals and helped me pursue a career in education. He truly is a life changer in all the best ways!” said Maicey, former WashK12 student.

Advice to Students

Utah high school seniors were asked, “What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school? Throughout the year, their responses will be shared in this newsletter.

Jackson: Future Welder/Mechanical Engineer



“The CTE courses I took in high school have provided me with indispensable knowledge and skills that I have applied to my everyday life and continue to do so. Courses allowed me to gain proficiency and comfortability with hand and power tools, as well as machinery and raw materials. They taught me to be resourceful and creative as well as cautious and precise. The soft skills I gained from CTE courses were problem solving, communication, discipline, gratification, and the ability to ask for help. These skills have translated to all aspects of my life including my education. Ultimately, they have led me to be a more efficient worker, a fast learner, an agreeable colleague, a valuable employee a dedicated student, and a happier individual.

“Find a field that aligns not only with your abilities and talents but your interest as well. You will find that you will excel much faster and further in a field that you enjoy studying and progressing in, rather than one that may be considered ‘easier’ or more popular amongst your peers. You should be fascinated by every aspect of your chosen pathway and excited to learn more about it the next time you have class. Whatever you choose to apply yourself to give it your all.”

Utah CTE Scholarships and Tuition Awards

High school seniors, have you applied for a Utah CTE Scholarship and Tuition Award? **Applications are due Friday, January 26, 2024.** Work with your high school counselor and CTE teacher to complete the application. Take advantage of this opportunity to receive a scholarship/tuition award to attend one of 13 Utah postsecondary institutions.

[Application](#) | [Qualifications](#) | [Postsecondary Institution Criteria FAQs](#)



2024 Utah Legislative Session

The [2024 General Session](#) of the 65th Utah Legislature begins on Tuesday, January 16 and continues through Friday, March 1. You can track the education bills via the Utah State Board of Education Bill Tracking document at <https://bit.ly/3Whp3Pt>.

Utah State Board of Education | Career and Technical Education
250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Calendar:

January 11: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

January 18: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

[Utah CTE Calendar](#) | [ACTE Calendar](#)

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.