

**Blake Nielsen** is recognized as one of the best Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in the state of Utah.

**MAY 2024**  
**CTE TEACHER OF THE MONTH**

**SCHOOL:** Spanish Fork High School | Advanced Learning Center | Nebo School District

**TEACHER:** Manufacturing Career Cluster | Manufacturing and Production Career Pathway

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** Blake uses technology to engage students creativity which has resulted in students designing unique woodworking pieces.



## GET TO KNOW BLAKE NIELSEN

**BACKGROUND:** Blake taught in Provo School District and is currently teaching in Nebo School District at Spanish Fork High School and at the Advanced Learning Center. Throughout his career, Blake has taught construction, woodworking, mechanical and architectural drafting, and CNC machining.

**EDUCATION:** Blake went to school at Snow College and then transferred to Southern Utah University where he earned a degree in Technology and Engineering Education.

**TEACHER:** Blake teaches woodworking and drafting and provides a learning environment where students can learn and grow. The detailed instruction and encouragement Blake gives to his students is a testament to his success as a teacher.

**CLASSROOM:** Blake holds students to a high standard and works to ensure each student can safely and effectively use all the equipment in the shop. Safety is a high priority and Blake continually gives safety training and reminders to his students. Blake enjoys teaching and helping students build projects that they are proud of, while watching them advance their skills. Students use technology to build intricate pieces of furniture and personalized projects that are built to last a lifetime.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** Many of Blake's students have gone to work in industries that use CNC machines because of what they learned in his classes. Blake has set the stage for his students to be prepared and successful in the manufacturing industry. His students are able to adapt to new technologies and processes in this ever-changing world.

# BLAKE NIELSEN

MAY 2024 CTE TEACHER OF THE MONTH

In **Nebo School District**, and across the state of Utah, Blake has implemented CNC machining. He has trained countless woodworking teachers in drawing, creating CNC files, and using CNC machines to design, develop, and create unique woodworking projects.

“

Blake can see the future and is an early technology implementer. He has worked hard to learn how to use the CNC machines and then has graciously shared that knowledge with others. Students want to be a part of using technology and Blake helps them step into that world.

Alan Ashton  
CTE Director, Nebo School District

”

The skills students learn in Blake's classes are transferable to many other manufacturing settings, such as CNC machining, 3D drafting and design, and manufacturing engineering.

“

Blake is such a forward thinking teacher. He has a great understanding of what skills are needed in the woodworking and manufacturing world and how to teach those skills in a classroom. New machines and technologies do not scare Blake. Many teachers look to him for guidance on machine use and project design.

Colton Williams  
CTE Education Specialist, Utah State Board of Education

”

