





CTSOs: ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE ¹

Objectives

- To understand benefits and opportunities provided by Career and Technical Student Organizations. (CTSOs).
- To analyze how CTSOs are an integral part of career preparation.
- To identify the purpose and goals of various CTSOs.

Main Menu

-  Career & Technical Student Organization Overview
-  Types of Career & Technical Student Organizations



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Career & Technical Education (CTE) Classes

- Are available to students interested in exploring workplace competencies
- Can be organized into 16 Career Clusters
 - based on the knowledge and skills required



Career Clusters

- Include:
 - Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 - Architecture & Construction
 - Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
 - Business Management & Administration
 - Education & Training
 - Finance
 - Government & Public Administration
 - Health Science

Career Clusters

- Include:
 - Hospitality & Tourism
 - Human Services
 - Information Technology
 - Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 - Manufacturing
 - Marketing
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
 - Transportation

Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

- Are vocational nonprofit student groups which offer a unique platform for career and leadership development through innovative programs
 - each group is structured for vocational students interested in a specific occupational area



Vocational: Educational training which provides experience in a particular occupation

CTSO Programs

- Reinforce academic CTE instruction
 - supporting and contributing to classroom learning through co-curricular materials and chapter activities, providing an immediate application of materials at the time it is studied



The Role of CTSOs

- Play an integral part in specific career clusters, majors and courses by supporting and enhancing employability
 - developing relationships with business contacts
 - developing, improving and expanding on occupational capabilities
 - training through realistic learning experiences directly related to occupations

CTSOs

- Offer career-oriented programming and competitive events
 - such as mentor training, structured work plans and competitive classroom projects which stimulate real-life situations
 - allowing members to demonstrate and validate their mastery of essential occupational concepts, skills and knowledge



CTSO Goals

- Are established to help students build a strong foundation for their future in areas such as:
 - academic and career achievement
 - leadership development
 - professional development
 - community service



CTSOs

- Are found at the school, state and national levels
 - each group operates independently with school-based chapters, state-based associations and national offices, creating opportunities and experiences to practice and improve technical and people skills
- Provide many leadership opportunities through conferences, competitions, community service, philanthropy and other activities

CTSO Leadership Opportunities

- Include:
 - developing and running organizational programs
 - including everything from mentoring younger students to cleaning up a public park
 - holding organizational office at the local, state or national level
 - taking on responsibilities and representing the organization

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - providing personal development
 - helping students mature, allowing them to grow and assume active roles in their community
 - developing people skills
 - supporting development of interpersonal relationships and teamwork
 - developing leadership skills
 - assisting students in developing positive roles in their community

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - providing for experiential learning
 - helping students acquire a hands-on approach to learning through leadership training and competitive events
 - developing responsibility
 - teaching students to take responsibility for their actions and to be accountable
 - developing self-confidence
 - helping students experience success through leadership roles and competitive events

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - providing opportunities for recognition
 - allowing students to become involved in a wide range of activities allowing them to showcase their skills and talents
 - providing a positive atmosphere
 - providing an encouraging and positive environment from peers and adults
 - developing a sense of community
 - helping students become involved in the community

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - improving communication and decision-making skills
 - offering opportunities for public speaking and participation in meetings
 - gaining new friends and developing respect for others
 - providing opportunities for social development and meeting individuals who share their interests
 - becoming a role model and mentor
 - helping students interact with alumni and younger students

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - developing an appreciation and understanding for cultural diversity
 - exposing students to a wide range of cultures and individuals in a variety of environments
 - fostering a sense of belonging
 - providing a positive alternative to groups which may be harmful
 - offering opportunities to earn scholarships and awards
 - helping students earn recognition for their efforts

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - offering opportunities to travel
 - providing students the chance to compete in numerous activities at various levels
 - promoting career awareness
 - teaching students about various career opportunities
 - reinforcing workplace fundamentals
 - helping students develop life-long skills, such as communicating, problem-solving, managing time and working as a team

Personal & Professional Benefits of CTSOs

- Include:
 - providing lifelong connections to professional and civic organizations
 - relationships and skills gained in CTSOs are transferrable to other organizations

CTSO Membership

- Totals more than two million students nationwide
 - participation in CTSOs promote a higher level of academic engagement and motivation, community engagement, employability skills and career success
 - students active in CTSOs have higher educational goals
 - students who participate in CTSOs have higher grade point averages and are more likely to attend college



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Types of Career & Technical Student Organizations

- Include:
 - Business Professionals of America (BPA)
 - DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)
 - Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
 - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
 - National FFA

Types of Career & Technical Student Organizations

- Include:
 - HOSA (National Health Occupations Students of America)
 - SkillsUSA
 - Technology Student Association (TSA)
 - Educators Rising
 - National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

Business Professionals of America (BPA)

- Is an organization for students interested in pursuing a career in a business or office setting, including jobs such as:
 - business managers
 - office administrators
 - software engineer
 - information technology consultant



Business Professionals of America (BPA)

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - exhibit and expand their technical skills
 - develop their professional skills
 - network with peers and professionals across the nation
 - become involved in practical experiences
 - gain scholarships

Business Professionals of America (BPA)

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Sherrell Wheeler
 - Tomorrow's Business Professionals
 - National Technical Honor Society

Business Professionals of America (BPA)

- Offers competitive events based on workplace knowledge and skills in four areas
 - administrative support
 - information technologies
 - financial services
 - management, marketing and human resources

For more information on Business Professionals of America visit

www.bpa.org

DECA

- Is the acronym for Distributive Education Clubs of America
- Is an organization for student interested in pursuing a career in the marketing, finance, hospitality and management industries with jobs such as:
 - public relations coordinator
 - financial analyst
 - hotel manager
 - sales manager

DECA

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - develop workplace and technical skills for business and industry
 - develop relationships with business contacts
 - make higher education accessible through scholarships
 - attend conferences
 - expand on leadership skills

DECA

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Don DeBolt
 - Marriott International
 - NAPA

DECA

- Offers competitive events based on workplace knowledge and skills, including:
 - business simulation events
 - case study events
 - prepared business presentation events



For more information on DECA visit www.deca.org

Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA)

- Is an organization for students interested in business or business-related careers, such as:
 - accountant
 - banker
 - auditor
 - business operations manager



Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA)

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - create interest and understanding of business
 - build skills to succeed in the business world
 - build a portfolio of career accomplishments
 - showcase leadership skills
 - strengthen confidence
 - earn recognition for achievements
 - travel to state and national conferences

Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA)

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Knowledge Matters
 - LifeSmarts Safety Smart
 - FBLA Distinguished Business Leader

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

- Offers competitive events which test students business knowledge and skills, such as:
 - accounting events
 - banking and financial events
 - community service project events
 - electronic business events

For more information on Future Business Leaders of America visit
www.fbla-pbl.org

National FFA

- Is an organization for students interested in pursuing a career in the agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources industries, with jobs such as:
 - chemical production
 - food science technicians
 - animal scientists
 - oceanographer
 - farm and ranch managers

National FFA

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - strengthen their confidence
 - develop interpersonal skills in teamwork and communication
 - increase the awareness and importance of agriculture
 - gain knowledge on agricultural careers
 - increase citizenship

National FFA

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders
 - Chevrolet
 - AGCO Intivity
 - John Deere

National FFA

- Offers competitive events which students learn by doing, in order to gain advanced career skills in areas such as:
 - food science and technology
 - agricultural communications
 - wildlife management
 - production agriculture



For more information the National FFA Organization visit www.ffa.org

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA)

- Is an organization for students interested in family and consumer sciences, including jobs such as:
 - home economist
 - teacher
 - human development consultant
 - kitchen inspector
 - nutritional consultant



Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA)

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - set and accomplish goals
 - become strong leaders within their families and communities
 - develop character
 - understand how to make healthy choices
 - focus on important topics in their communities
 - gain recognition for accomplishments

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA)

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Beth Middleton Memorial
 - Raye Virginia Allen State President
 - Coleene Jossy Memorial
 - Frank W.H. Fort Civic Engagement/Leadership

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA)

- Offers competitive events which allows students to be recognized for their achievements, leadership skills and career preparation in areas such as:
 - financial planning
 - hospitality
 - early childhood
 - interior design



For more information on Family, Career & Community Leaders of America visit www.fcclainc.org

HOSA

- Is the acronym for National Health Occupation Students of America
- Is an organization for students interested in pursuing a career in health care including jobs such as:
 - surgical assistant
 - medical transcriptionist
 - dentist
 - pharmacist
 - veterinarians



HOSA

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - establish occupational goals
 - develop workplace skills
 - understand current health care issues
 - network with business leaders and peers
 - gain a competitive edge for career success
 - seek internships

HOSA

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Delmar
 - Who's Who Among American High School Students
 - HOSA

HOSA

- Offers competitive events which promote career opportunities in the health care industry, such as:
 - health science events
 - health professions events
 - emergency preparedness events
 - leadership events
 - teamwork events
 - recognition events

For more information on HOSA visit www.hosa.org

SkillsUSA

- Is an organization for students interested in trade, industrial, technical or health occupations including jobs such as:
 - electrician
 - automotive service technicians
 - computer technician
 - cosmetologist



SkillsUSA

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - enhance character and self-confidence
 - gain insight on potential careers
 - experience professional settings
 - interact with future employers in business and industry
 - gain scholarships, awards and honors
 - travel to local, state and national competitions

SkillsUSA

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - Marsha Daves
 - Robert Flint Student Leadership Development
 - SkillsUSA Alumni Merit
 - The mikeroweWORKS Foundation
- Competitor

SkillsUSA

- Offers competitive events which support career and technical education, helping students excel in relation to the following:
 - professional development
 - employment
 - public relations
 - ways and means
 - community service
 - social activities

For more information on SkillsUSA visit www.skillsusa.org

Technology Student Association (TSA)

- Is an organization for student interested in the following industries:
 - design
 - communication
 - power
 - energy
 - biotechnology
 - engineering
 - manufacturing
 - construction
 - transportation
- Benefit students interested in the following jobs:
 - computer hardware engineer
 - biologist
 - video game designer

Technology Student Association (TSA)

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - enhance problem-solving, decision-making and critical-thinking
 - enhance technological literacy
 - work on complex activities from start to finish
 - develop relationships with business and industry leaders
 - network with peers and professionals with similar interests
 - receive recognition for achievements

Technology Student Association (TSA)

- Partners with organizations in order to award various scholarships, such as:
 - William P. Elrod Memorial
 - Future STEM Teacher
 - JWU Technology Student Association (TSA)

Technology Student Association (TSA)

- Offers competitive events which enhance students learning experiences, especially in the area of technology, such as:
 - computer-aided design (CAD)
 - digital video and music production
 - structural engineering
 - technology problem solving
 - webmaster



For more information on the Technology Student Association visit

www.tsaweb.org

Educators Rising

- Is an organization for students interested in pursuing a career in the education and training industry, including jobs such as:
 - teacher
 - principal
 - guidance counselor
 - librarian
 - coach



Educators Rising

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - gain an understanding of the role of an educator
 - work with experienced professionals
 - explore best practices for teaching
 - understand planning, preparation and delivery of lessons
 - document growth and progress
 - attend state and national conferences

Educators Rising

- Partners with organizations in order to award various PDK Prospective Educator Scholarships

Educators Rising

- Offers competitive events to help students develop strong leadership traits found in high-quality educators, such as:
 - essay writing
 - ethical dilemma
 - job application
 - public speaking
 - researching learning disabilities

For more information on the Educators Rising visit www.educatorsrising.org

National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

- Is an organization for postsecondary students interested agriculture, agribusiness or natural resources, including jobs such as:
 - food science and safety specialist
 - ranch manager
 - forest technician
 - zoologist



National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

- Prepares students for employment by providing opportunities to:
 - gain industry certifications
 - develop individual leadership abilities
 - obtain hands-on experience
 - learn from experts in the industry
 - make industry connections and partnerships
 - gain recognition for accomplishments

National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

- Offers competitive events covering all areas of agriculture and agriculture-related occupations in order to gain advanced career skills in areas such as:
 - ag machinery
 - agricultural sales
 - crops
 - equine science
 - livestock
 - horticulture
 - soil science

For more information on National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization visit www.nationalpas.org

Becoming Involved

- Requires contacting your student advisor to direct you to the organization leader
 - who will then help you become a member and guide your participation

State advisors of each of the organizations are also more than willing to help find the right CTSO for you.

Establishing a CTSO

- Involves five steps:
 1. reviewing the list of state approved CTSO's and selecting the organization which best benefits your school and would attract the most participation
 2. obtain organization establishment approval
 3. select a staff member to act as the student advisor
 4. contact the state organization advisor for assistance
 5. review and follow membership protocols specified by each organization

Resources

- <http://www.ctsos.org/>
- <https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=762#.WNrAOIWcF1M>
- <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/ctsos/>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cte/vso.html>
- www.ed.gov
- www.eric.ed.gov
- www.careerclusters.org
- www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/CTE/perkins.html
- <http://www.tsaweb.org/sites/default/files/CTSO-Guide.pdf>

Acknowledgements

Brand Manager

Stevi Huffaker

Graphics Editor

Melody Rowell

V.P. of Brand Management

Clayton Franklin

Quality Control Director

Angela Dehls

Executive Producer

Gordon W. Davis, Ph.D.

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