



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **County Board of Education passes resolution in support of Career Technical Education**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – The Santa Clara County Board of Education passed a resolution recognizing February as Career Technical Education (CTE) at its Feb. 18 meeting, honoring the work being done throughout the county to ensure that all students have hands-on preparation for a variety of growing career paths.

CTE refers to courses that blend rigorous academic and technical training to give students real-world training and exposure to employers in the career field of their choice, including Information Technology, Health Science, Education and Agriculture. Students who complete CTE programs leave high school equipped with marketable skills and industry connections that will serve them well as they pursue post-secondary education and opportunities.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) supports CTE programs throughout the county in a variety of ways, including teacher credentialing resources, strategic partnerships with employers and community stakeholders and professional development for teachers that is aligned to CTE standards, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.

“I’m pleased that we can take this time to celebrate the tremendous work being done by our CTE teachers and students to build a workforce truly suited to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. “CTE is an option that provides students with a school-to-career connection, fosters economic productivity and contributes to the preparation of 21st century global citizens.”

Research has shown that students who participate in CTE courses are less likely to drop out of schools, and more likely to improve their grades and attendance in other classes.

“Before I was able to take my first CTE course, I was at risk of failing out of school,” said Zachary James, a former student at Metropolitan Education’s (MetroED) Central County Occupational Center who received \$80,000 in scholarships through his involvement in CTE. “It wasn’t because I was a bad student, but rather, I was not engaged and I felt school was not relevant to my

interests. I was not successful in the traditional educational setting. My junior year at Leigh High School, I took the Video Production course at MetroED and for the first time, I loved going to school.”

CTE gives high school students experience in practical applications of basic skills and provides leadership opportunities in prospective fields of study, while providing motivation to those who might otherwise consider dropping out of school.

[See more information](#) about CTE programs supported by the SCCOE.

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