

## CTE gets a boost in Kansas



Last week I had the pleasure of joining Gov. Sam Brownback for the signing of legislation that will provide a solid boost to Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Kansas. The legislation includes a number of provisions that will help increase access to and the affordability of CTE for Kansas high school students.

Through the legislation, funding is provided to pay the tuition of Kansas high school students who enroll in a CTE course or program at nearby Kansas community or technical colleges or institutes of technology. In addition, funding is available to school districts to help provide transportation for students who enroll in postsecondary CTE courses while in high school. While Kansas middle and high schools provide excellent opportunities for students to pursue education within a career pathway, these new benefits will assist students in getting a jumpstart on completing their CTE pathway. That will allow them to enter the workforce sooner and begin earning a competitive wage.

Another provision of the legislation provides a cash incentive to Kansas school districts for each high school senior who graduates having achieved an industry-recognized credential in a high-need area. In part, the incentive is to be used to provide eligible students with up to half the cost of a credential assessment.

Earning an industry-recognized credential in high school provides students with a leg up in an otherwise crowded job market. It will give those students the opportunity to earn a competitive wage right out high school, which can help in pursuing additional education through a community or technical college, or even a four-year university.

I applaud Gov. Brownback for making CTE opportunities a priority in his Road Map for Kansas. To ensure Kansas students can take full advantage of the legislation's provisions, the Kansas State Department of Education is joining with the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas

Department of Commerce to make information available to Kansas high schools about these new CTE opportunities and the benefits of career and technical education.

I invite you to join me in ensuring all Kansas students are able to take full advantage of the quality career and technical education opportunities available to them, whether in high school or beyond.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Diane DeBacker  
Kansas Commissioner of Education