

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, career and technical education (CTE) offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness; and

WHEREAS, students in CTE programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement; and

WHEREAS, CTE provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, enabling them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursuit of established programs of study and career pathways; and

WHEREAS, leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, CTE prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that employers have access to a qualified workforce is a crucial step in ensuring productivity among the business and industry communities as well as continued American economic growth and global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Hughes Act, the first act of Congress to provide funding for CTE;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February, 2017 to be

Career and Technical Education Month

in Washington and urge all people in our state to become familiar with the services and benefits of the CTE programs in Washington State and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.



Signed this 24th day of January, 2017

Handwritten signature of Governor Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee