



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, career and technical education (CTE) serves as the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, offers lifelong learning opportunities, and contributes to Florida’s leadership in the national and international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, increasing the availability to all Floridians of high-quality CTE programs and credentials has been a priority of this administration since the beginning; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 this administration issued Executive Order 19-31 to ensure for high quality CTE programs by commissioning an annual audit of all CTE programs resulting in the phase-out of over 500 programs that no longer aligned to meet industry demand; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1507 (2021) provides a clear blueprint for a massive expansion of CTE and the integration of all workforce services in view of a more seamless and accessible experience for Floridians in need of training or upskilling; and

WHEREAS, CTE provides Floridians with a school-to-career connection, helping students experience practical and meaningful applications of numerous skills; and

WHEREAS, secondary schools in all 67 school districts, all 28 Florida colleges and 48 technical colleges and centers offer high-quality CTE coursework, certifications, skills-based education, degrees, and cocurricular programs; and

WHEREAS, more than 772,000 K-12 CTE students, representing the highest number of CTE students enrolled at the K-12 level in the State’s history, more than 338,000 postsecondary CTE students, and 15,700 Registered Apprentices in Florida engage in this type of meaningful education; and

WHEREAS, expanded access to high-quality apprenticeship programs by registering over 50 new programs since 2019 for a total of over 300 programs, and increasing the number of apprentices to over 15,500, up nearly 33 percent since 2018; and

WHEREAS, more than 484,000 secondary students are enrolled in one of over 1,800 registered Career and Professional Education (CAPE) academies and more than 15,100 registered career-themed courses; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Florida’s K12 students earned over 168,000 industry certifications and over 59,000 digital tool certificates, up from 2018; and

WHEREAS, \$118 million dollars in CARES Act dollars, including Governors’ Emergency Education Relief funds, were awarded to Florida’s colleges and districts to increase enrollment and completion in high quality, in-demand CTE short-term credentialing programs; and

WHEREAS, a \$35 million investment in Florida’s Rapid Credentialing Grant Program has allowed public postsecondary system institutions to award over 18,000 industry certifications or certificates to unemployed or underemployed COVID-19 impacted workers in less than a year; and

WHEREAS, in 2020-2021, the Florida College System conferred nearly 38,000 rapid credentials, an approximate 7 percent increase from 2018-2019; and

WHEREAS, Florida has invested over \$30 million from the Job Grant Growth fund this fiscal year to expand training in critical logistics, commercial vehicle driving programs, nursing programs and other high-demand professions to meet immediate supply chain and workforce needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 2022, as *Career and Technical Education Month in Florida*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Governor

