

# News Release: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & STAFF CELEBRATE CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Students and faculty across all high schools throughout Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) will join other high school students and faculty nationwide during the month of February to celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month™. This year’s national theme is *Recognizing Classroom Innovators!* CTE Month provides CTE programs across the country an opportunity to demonstrate how CTE prepares students to become college- and career- ready and prepared to obtain high-wage, high-demand career fields.

“The activities planned over the next month will illustrate the rigor and relevance CTE courses offer our students,” said Pamela Smith, Coordinating Supervisor of Career Academy Programs. “By partnering with the business community, CTE programs are investing in students’ lives with the latest technology and skills that will prepare them to become successful employees as well as future leaders.”

CTE encompasses 94 percent of high school students and 13 million postsecondary students in the United States and includes high schools, career centers, community and technical colleges, four-year universities, and more. CTE is a major part of the solution to a myriad of national economic and workforce problems, such as high school dropout rates, a weakened economy, global competitiveness, and massive layoffs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly one-third of the fastest growing occupations will require an associate’s degree or a postsecondary vocational certificate. At a time when job opportunity is critical, CTE programs in every community are ensuring students are equipped with the needed skills to successfully enter the workforce.

For more information about Career and Technical Education programs, contact the Career Academy Programs Office at 301-669-6012 or visit online at: [www1.pgcps.org/careeracademyprograms/](http://www1.pgcps.org/careeracademyprograms/) (<http://www1.pgcps.org/careeracademyprograms/>)

The **Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)** (<http://www.acteonline.org/>) is the nation’s largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors, and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.