

right direction. Our goal in CTE is to expand each student's options, not limit them."

High schools through out the IMESD have increased CTE as a result of increased funding from the state. Pendleton School District (PSD) has P-Tech, a facility dedicated to CTE learning. Programs offered include Hospitality and Tourism, Agriculture, Visual and Media Arts, Business Management and Administration, and Engineering (Industrial and Engineering Systems). Through PSD's School to Careers program, 90 students have been placed in over 44 Pendleton businesses. This collaboration with business benefits the students and the community, says KC Arthur, Food Service Director at St. Anthony Hospital, one of the participating businesses. "CTE benefits the community by getting youth into the workforce, students help with some of the very basic tasks which benefits the business, it gives youth the hands-on experience of working outside the confines of a classroom."

Hermiston hired three CTE teachers this year to focus on career skills. Like Pendleton, they partner with local businesses to provide real-world learning experiences. Students are provided opportunity to engage in work such as project-based learning, school-based entrepreneurship, and student leadership. Hermiston offers CTE in Health Sciences, Consumer and Family Sciences, Business and Management, Agriculture, Welding, Industrial and Engineering Systems, and Arts, Information, and Communications.

CTE is focused on preparing youth to further their education and skills to ensure they are qualified for high wage career positions in the future. This type

of education provides youth with the opportunity to apply classroom learning in a business setting. Many studies have shown that when learning is applied to real-world situations it enhances and reinforces the learning. Relevance is important to retention of knowledge, for instance students who struggle with fractions can apply the math in cooking, where fractions are very common and necessary. By applying fractions in real life retention is increased.

Recent studies are showing important benefit of CTE courses is that they have a positive impact on dropout rates. Not all students learn in the same way, so CTE's more "hands-on" learning style appeals to students who do not learn well from lectures or reading. Whether a child wants to be a teacher or a plumber, CTE is beneficial because ultimately education will need to be applied to the world of work. Some students will have to attend a university to enter their career fields; others will gain their education while working. Either way it is important to expose youth to the work place in advance.

An article by Tim Nisbett can be found on oregonlive.com illustrating the benefits of vibrant CTE programs. *A Tale of Two Letters* can be found at <https://bit.ly/2OX199f>. It is a short but very good read.

If you are an employer interested in providing learning experiences in your business, please email Jennifer Pambrun at Jennifer.Pambrun@imesd.k12.or.us. She can connect you to schools in our area looking for student placement opportunities.

Pendleton home economist Virginia Justice and her husband have two college-aged daughters.

Mom & Baby Support Group



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in Conference Rooms 3 & 4**

**This support group is Free and
specifically geared toward
Moms and Caregivers.**

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