



How Employers Can Play a Role in Education



The Southwest and West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC) is an educational service agency that has over 60 public and private schools members with approximately 50,000 students, and serves and 18 county (12,000 square mile) region. The SWWC provides special education, technology, payroll, finance, curriculum support, insurance, student enrichment, and Carl Perkins services to its members.

Current Issues for Career and Technical Education in our Region:

- Lost 21 State-approved CTE programs in past 5 years
- Have 35% fewer students taking CTE courses now than in 2008
- Severe CTE teacher shortage in Minnesota and the Nation
- Lack of a pipeline into college CTE programs and high growth and high wage careers

Glimpse at our Labor Market:

- Low unemployment rates
- Aging labor force and general population
- Not enough young people going into skilled trades to make up for baby boomer retirements
- Higher percentage of people that have just a high school diploma or less (compared to MN)
- Half of job openings are in Healthcare and Manufacturing
- Lower wage levels than metro and other parts of the state
- Employers are DESPERATE for skilled workers

What Students are Saying:

- 64% plan to go to a 4-year college
- 12% plan to go to a 2-year college
- 65% cite family as primary source of career advice
- 76% plan to leave the region for their first career
- 54% do not think/are unsure if there is education/training in the region that will lead to a good career

Student CTE Course Interest Survey

Top 5 Ranking of CTE Course Interests by Gender

Female

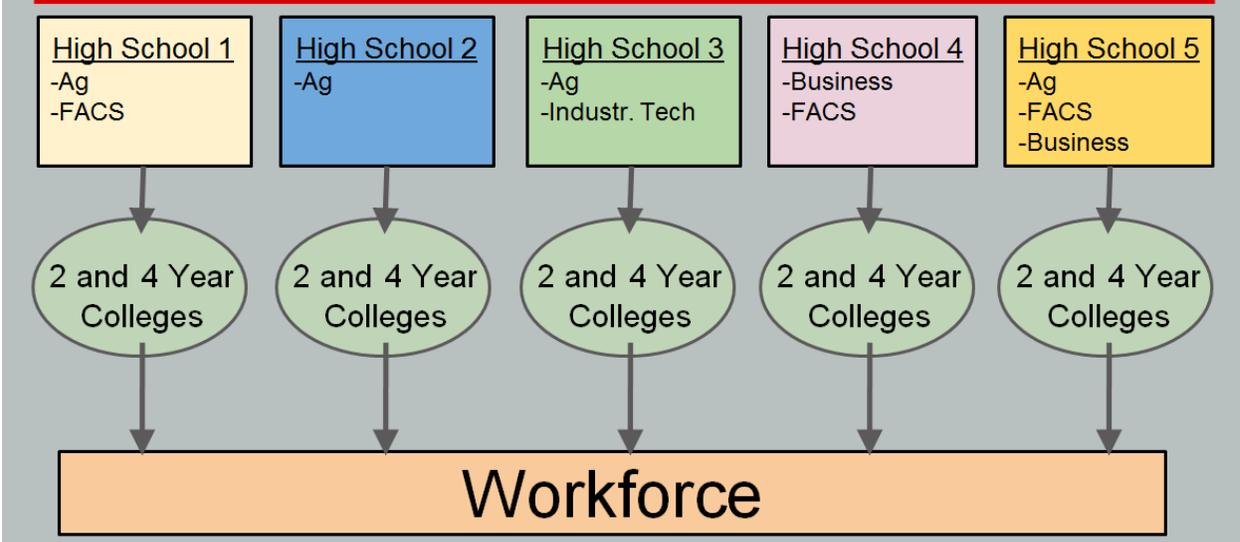
1. Medical and Health Careers
2. Internship
3. Career and Education Planning
4. Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice
5. Entrepreneurship

Male

1. Mechanics
2. Construction
3. Manufacturing
4. Engineering
5. Robotics

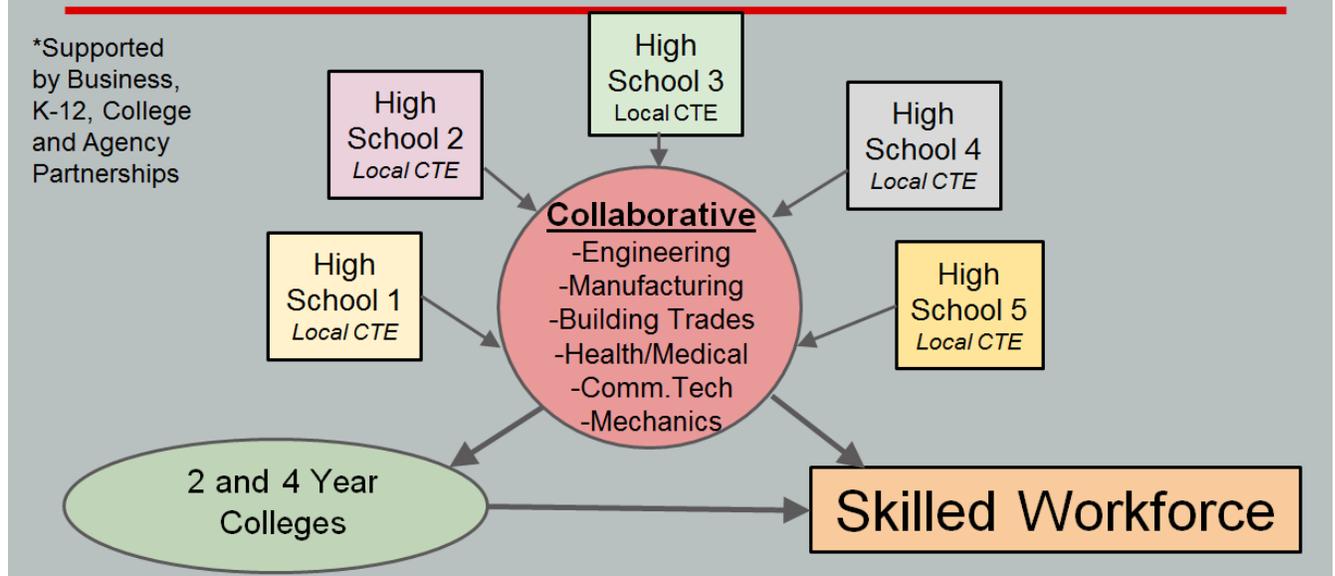


Current Career & Technical Model



- The current model is NOT sustainable.

Collaborative Career and Technical Model



Employer's Roles

- Advisory Committee
- Work-based Learning (job shadowing and internships)
- Guest Speakers
- Potential Employers

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