

SkillStack® Best Practices to Boost Enrollment & Retention in CTE programs

Drawing them in:

- When holding Registration and/or Career Fair events, have a table or tables with fun signage about the CTE programs at your school.
- Having current and/or past successful students from the program man the table and promote why others should or would want to enroll in your CTE program.
- Have an employer related to your CTE program there as well to show students how they can apply their skills & knowledge after completing your program.

Awareness of Resources to pay for the CTE course and programs

- When holding Parent Teacher Conferences and/or FAFSA night, have all of the CTE teachers near each other and invite a local College Transition/Early College Coordinator familiar with SkillStack® to host a table nearby. The Transition/Early College Coordinator will be able to provide valuable information on how programs such as Advanced Opportunities, Idaho Launch, and CTE scholarships can assist with any funding for CTE tuition, testing, and supplies.

Enrollment Retention Strategies (Making the Career Connection)

- During the first week of class is when we need to have the most impact on our students. With any type of presentation, story, or article, we want to grab their attention, draw their interest and keep them motivated to the end.
- During the first day of class, a good activity to start off with is a video or guest speaker from the Career field your CTE program feeds into. Showing or Telling a success story from an outside resource can be very motivating and inspiring to students who may not be certain on the direction they want to take out of high school. Some students feel like they had no choice to be in your class and this may be the one true connection they feel they have control over. Providing them with experiences that allow them to connect their personal desires with real word success can be a driving factor in enrollment retention in your class.
- During the course, try to have an outside employee resource come and give a guest presentation on how students can get involved in their industry. If they can bring company swag – even better, kids love free stuff.
- During the Course, try to plan at least one field trip to an industry related business so that students can experience the connection between what they are learning and resources in their community.
- During the course, try to encourage/arrange for 4-6-hour mini externships that allow students the opportunity to job shadow the career of their choice related to your course as an assignment to provide students with that extra connection and help them discover their options for their future.

Celebrating Success & Job Readiness

- SkillStack® is designed to allow students the opportunity to obtain college credit for courses they complete. College credits of any amount are a great way to celebrate extra achievements at graduation.
- The SS system allows students to create a digital portfolio they can share with employers or on a resume or application that shows skills obtained towards specific careers.

My Badges

Portfolio URL:

<https://skillstack.idaho.gov>

- By prioritizing student success and achievement, Idaho's Workforce Readiness and CTE diploma requirements appropriately recognize that CTE enhances the traditional high school experience.



- SkillStack® allows the students the opportunity to print certificates of achievement for each microcertification they earn. This in-turn allows them to create a paper portfolio they can share with employers, especially if they are young and new to the workforce. Every successful educated experience looks good on a resume.

If you have more great ideas on how to increase CTE enrollment and/or Retention, we would love to hear from you. Please email Tonya Tracy, CEI Senior Transition Coordinator at tonya.tracy@cei.edu