

CTE MONTH

**WEEK 4: Local Innovation,
Global Impact**



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

Well-designed career and technical education programs prepare students for careers that not only impact their community but play a significant role in the global economy. To ensure that Illinois' CTE programs keep pace with the needs of the labor market, programs must instill innovative practices, utilize state-of-the-art technology, and continuously evaluate instructional alignment with industry standards. Not only should CTE programs equip students with academic and technical skills, students must also be ready to navigate their careers in light of our increasingly globalized workforce.

“With an anchor in preparing students for the careers of their choice and a focus on the critical academic, technical, and employability skills needed for success, CTE offers a natural platform on which to build global competencies. Globally minded CTE programs can provide the rigorous and authentic setting necessary to prepare students for the competitive world economy, while offering a more engaging, motivating, and relevant education experience”

(Monthey, Singmaster, Manise, and Blossveren Kreamer, 2016, pp. 2)

To learn more about innovation in CTE, including global competencies, see the Resources section below.

Around the State



Spoon River College - Students and industry partners have been requesting a Culinary Arts program at Spoon River College for some time. The cost of such a program has been prohibitive and made the development of the program challenging until a collaborative partnership developed between Spoon River College and the Canton YWCA. The program will be under the umbrella of the Small Business Management program. General education and small business management classes will be offered on the campus of Spoon River College or online. The kitchen-based classes will be held at the YWCA. The goal of this innovative program is not just to develop chefs but rather to help prepare students for a successful career in the field of food service management. The program also gives the student the tools necessary to be a successful entrepreneur with hopes of expanding business ownership in the area.



Innovation abounds in **Illinois Central College**'s active Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapter. This year, members decided to go one-step further to align with PBL's mission of "bringing business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs" by launching a mentoring program. Local business leaders stepped up to serve as mentors for PBL members. The career aspirations of each member provided the foundation for the mentor/mentee match. Some of the activities the teams do together include touring the mentor's workplace, attending a community event, participating in a community service activity, or just having lunch to discuss the mentee's overarching career goals.



ECC's Dir. of Digital Technologies, Jemel Townsend, presents to students enrolled in the criminal justice special topics course

Elgin Community College Criminal Justice Students Work to Solve a Mysterious Death

Students enrolled in a criminal justice special topics course at Elgin Community College (ECC) are actively working to solve a homicide. ECC partnered with the Cold Case Investigative Research Institute (CCIRI) in Atlanta, Georgia, a nationwide volunteer network. The network is made up of 27 colleges and universities, forensics professionals, and students that assist victims' families and law enforcement by working on unsolved homicides, missing persons, and kidnapping cases. The case assigned to ECC students involves the death of a 24-year old model and aspiring actor from Georgia who was found dead near Death Valley, CA, almost five years ago.

[For Full Article](#)

Resources

- ✓ Workforce GPS Webinar: [Make Industry Experts into Expert Instructors to Increase Student Success](#) (February 28)
- ✓ [Preparing a Globally Competent Workforce Through High-Quality Innovative CTE](#)
- ✓ Pathways to Results Implementation Briefs and Lessons Learned
 - [Student Voices: Bringing Meaning to the Numbers](#) (Black Hawk College)
 - [Engaging CTE and Math Faculty in Curricular Change](#) (Black Hawk College and Kishwaukee College)
 - [Integrating Contextualized Math in the MultiCraft Curricula](#) (Sauk Valley Community College)
 - [Ready & Interested: A Multipronged Approach to Improving Retention & Completion Among Males of Color](#) (Harry S Truman College)
 - [Employing Content-Based Curricula in Nursing to Improve Equity & Outcomes for Students](#) (Illinois Central College)
 - [Improving CTE Student Retention and Transfer with Degree Audit & Reengagement Strategies](#) (Rend Lake College)
- ✓ [National Center for Innovation in Career and Technical Education](#)
- ✓ [Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education](#)- Advance CTE

A special thank you is extended to the CTE field for sharing pertinent information and events with the ICCB to help us celebrate and highlight the great work done across Illinois. In addition, the ICCB would like to thank Natasha Allan and Melissa Andrews, Associate Directors for CTE, for their work in enhancing CTE Month with these weekly briefs.

Career and Technical Education Month® is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. [Learn more at ACTE Online.](#)

We celebrate CTE every month! Don't forget to send us news, initiatives, or achievements so that we can highlight CTE at your college. [Submit an article and photo to Melissa.Andrews@Illinois.gov](mailto:Melissa.Andrews@Illinois.gov)

