

CAREER READINESS FOR ALL

“An economy built to last demands that we keep doing everything we can to help students learn the skills that businesses are looking for.”

- President Obama

President Obama has set the ambitious goal that all adult Americans commit to at least one year of higher education or career training and that America once again lead the world in college graduates by 2020. Reaching this goal is crucial if we are to maintain our economic competitiveness. Our economic competitors often outrank the United States in the rigor and relevance of the education provided to young people in their middle and high school years, with many nations offering the opportunity to enroll in educational programs that develop skills essential for college and career success. Meanwhile, the need for investing in programs that train students and adults for in-demand jobs in our technology-driven economy will address a persistent skills gap in the employment market and help increase the employment rate.

The President’s 2014 budget request maintains a strong commitment to initiatives that link education to the career training and skills development needed for the United States to out-innovate and out-compete the rest of the world.

- **Reauthorized Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (\$1.1 billion).** The President’s budget would fund a reauthorized Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The reauthorization proposal would strengthen alignment among secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and business and industry; create a better accountability system for improving academic outcomes, technical skills, and employability outcomes; and provide competitive funding to promote innovation and reform in CTE.
- **High School Redesign (\$300 million).** The budget request supports a new competition that would fund district partnerships with (i) postsecondary institutions and (ii) business, industry, non-profits, or community based organizations to redesign high schools. Redesigned high schools would ensure that students graduate from high school with college credit and career-related experience, putting them on a path to career and college success. Special consideration would be given to partnerships that focus on areas with limited access to quality career and college opportunities, such as high poverty and rural districts, as well as to partnerships with employers that can provide students with career-related experience or career-related credentials.
- **Dual Enrollment Program (\$42 million).** This program would provide grants to establish or expand dual-enrollment programs for students in high school or adult education programs. The initiative would promote dual-enrollment programs that are aligned with career pathways and target local workforce needs. Research has shown that participation in dual-enrollment programs is linked to increased high school graduation, higher rates of college enrollment and persistence, and higher college credit accrual rates.