



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sumter County Schools Will Celebrate Career and Technical Education Month

[Bushnell, Florida] – Students and faculty throughout Sumter County Schools will join others across the nation during the month of February to celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. CTE Month is designated to celebrate and highlight the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across Florida.

“In partnership with the Florida Department of Education next month, we will be sharing the rigor and relevance CTE courses offer to our students,” said **Richard Shirley, Superintendent**. “By partnering with the business community, CTE programs are investing in students and providing them with the latest technology and skills that will prepare them to become successful employees and future leaders.”

CTE is a modern approach to higher education and training, and it can accelerate personal and professional success. With little to no barriers to enrollment and 17 career pathways to choose from, individuals can acquire the skills needed through real-world, hands-on experience.

As teachers prepare CTE students for their future careers as skilled professionals, students engage in hands-on learning with real life applications. These approaches to teaching are linked to greater understanding, comprehension, and retention.

Career and Technical Education offers a way for students to gain skills and earn certifications in some of Florida’s most critical and desirable industries. Unlike traditional higher education, CTE programs can set individuals on the right path in less time with less cost. That means they can get into a career today without the worry of debt tomorrow.

In Florida, there are currently more than 772,000 K-12 CTE students, more than 338,000 postsecondary CTE students, and 15,000 Registered Apprentices engaged in workforce education.

In Sumter, students fill over 3,000 seats in CTE courses in grades 6-12. In the 22-23 school year, Sumter students earned nearly 1,500 industry certifications and over 1,600 digital tool certificates.

*For more information about **Sumter County Schools**, call **352-793-2315**. For more information about Career and Technical Education in Florida, visit GetThereFL.com.*

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: February 1-29 2024, has been designated Career and Technical Education Month" by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS: career and technical education offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness

WHEREAS: students in career and technical education programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement; and

WHEREAS: career and technical education provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursue established programs of study and career pathways; and

WHEREAS: leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity and information technology; and

WHEREAS: career and technical education prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS: career and technical education programs ensure that employers have access to a qualified and thriving workforce, ensuring America is a strong and competitive economy;

WHEREAS: over 3,200 students are currently enrolled in 30 different CTE programs in 4 Secondary Schools in Sumter County;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the School Board of Sumter County, Florida, that we recognize **February 2024** as "**Career and Technical Education Month**";

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the School Board and that copies thereof be distributed to the news media for publication to the world at large.

THIS RESOLUTION unanimously adopted this 16th day of January A.D., 2024.



Chairperson, Sumter County Schools

Superintendent of Sumter County Schools