

Pima County JTED is Economic Development 101

The Pima County Joint Technical Education District (JTED) provides tuition-free Career and Technical Education courses to 13,462 students, who are enrolled in more than 25 programs - from AgriScience to Welding – at 36 high schools and nine central campus locations. The District reaches more than 10,000 square miles of Pima County, Rio Rico and San Manuel. JTED programs are open to all high school age sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and to students who have not earned a high school diploma, including GED earners, who are under the age of 22, and reside in one of the 13 JTED member school districts.

The Pima County JTED offers many programs which lead to industry certification, direct-to-industry employment, college credit, and internships. The District works with 12 business leaders serving on its Business and Industry Advisories, and 15 advisory committees, which are comprised of business owners, community leaders, and educators.

- Of the 30 jobs projected to grow at the fastest rate over the next decade in the U.S. only seven require a bachelor's degree according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- By 2020, employment in middle skill occupations – occupations that require either an associate's degree or a postsecondary vocational credential – is projected to increase by nearly 20 percent.
- Students who take at least three CTE courses during high school earn on average \$2,500 more per year than other students according to the National Governors' Association for Best Practices.
- The high school graduation rate for students who complete a JTED program is 99 percent, compared to Arizona's overall high school graduation rate of 76 percent.

Findings from the recently released ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy report *21st Century Career and Technical Education Pathways on the rise*:

- For Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), taking three or more CTE classes in the same program area leads to a reduction in the range of 20 percent to 60 percent in a student's likelihood of dropping out of high school.
- A national study found that 39 percent of men with a postsecondary certificate earn more than the median male worker with an associate's degree and 24 percent out-earn the median bachelor's degree holder. For women, 34 percent of those with a postsecondary certificate out-earn those with an associate's degree and 23 percent have a higher average salary than women with a bachelor's degree.
- "...many modern middle-income jobs will require knowledge and skill obtainable through high school CTE classes and certification and associate's degree programs in community colleges. In some cases, these degrees and credentials provide access to jobs that pay well beyond a middle-class income."
- Students who participate in high-quality CTE programs featuring a strong element of core academic content and career education have better learning outcomes, higher academic achievement and greater persistence in postsecondary education.
- The Alliance for Excellent Education estimates that if half of Arizona's 24,700 high school dropouts in 2010 had instead graduated from high school, the economic impact on Arizona would include \$91 million increased state tax revenue.