



# CHUH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

November 2017

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## Career Technical Education

As the national spotlight shines on workforce development to address the skills gap, the German model of apprenticeships has been offered as the gold standard from which the United States can learn. Every year in Germany, close to a million students participate in the nation's dual system of education. Programs combine the classroom with on-the-job training, a clear pathway to higher education and a high-quality job, contributing to Germany's low unemployment rate and its leadership in advanced manufacturing.

America's Career Technical Education (CTE) system provides many students with similar benefits to that of the German program. It enables students to enhance their core high school academic courses with technical, real-world skills that prepare them for the future. In other words, CTE is a powerful tool already addressing the skills gap. It can open more doors and is an essential part of the solution.



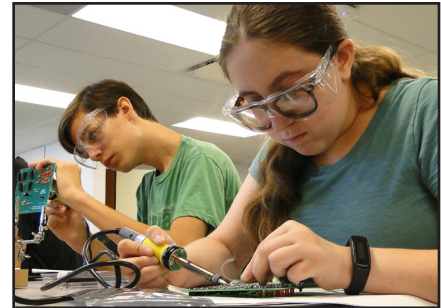
*Instructor Jeff Porter works with Automotive Technology students, helping them diagnose engine conditions in his Engine Performance course.*



Students and parents don't fully embrace CTE as a viable educational option. In Germany, the vocational education program is just as prestigious as attending a university. In the U.S., CTE is often mischaracterized as an inferior educational pathway to "College Prep." CTE provides an excellent starting point for young people to explore their passions and learn about careers in growing, high-paying fields such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, and healthcare.

These skilled positions represent more than half of all job openings anticipated through 2022. They require more than a high school education, yet less than a four-year degree, and a technical skill set.

The Heights Career Tech Prep Consortium, which consists of five school districts, provides students with access to more than two dozen program areas that are designed to prepare them to launch into the local and global economy with the necessary technical skill sets. High school students can apply to programs as varied as Audio Engineering, Biotechnology, Sports Medicine & Exercise Science, Automotive Technology, Teacher Academy, Finance, Pharmacy Technician or the Firefighter Academy and often earn not only an industry-recognized credential but college credit as well.



CTE is a great start on a pathway for future success. A recent survey by Advance CTE affirmed that students and their parents are extremely pleased with the educational outcomes of CTE programming and are twice as likely to be very satisfied with the overall school experience than parents and students not involved in CTE.

Students and parents who participated in the survey expressed that college remains a priority. Eliminate the "either/or" mentality of Career Tech and College Prep and ensure all students have access to high-quality educational choices that lead to college and promising careers.

The Heights Career Tech Prep Consortium welcomes those wanting to learn about the power of CTE, the promise of student success, and the benefit of a highly-skilled workforce to the annual **Career Tech Fair at Cleveland Heights High School from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16, 2017.**

Learn about the programs serving high school students from Bedford, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights, Shaker Heights, and Warrensville Heights high schools. Students will present how Career Technical Education serves as a viable complement to traditional educational pathways.



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## Equity Task Force

The Equity Task Force (ETF), which consists of college professors, district administrators, school personnel, and community members, was established in 2014-2015 to help develop Strategic Plan Goal II: Education, Empowerment, and Opportunity. Our task was to look at our district data addressing the current level of academic performance of our students of color against the level of performance in the state.

One of the critical suggestions coming from the ETF was the establishment of an equity policy with a focus on closing achievement gaps. The Board of Education adopted the CH-UH equity policy in 2016. The equity policy is the only one of its kind among Cuyahoga County schools.

In 2015-2016 the group expanded with a focus on action steps to use culturally responsive teaching. The training demonstrated how a personal lens impacts perceptions of others.

The ETF has conducted presentations with over 260 staff members including teachers, principals, security monitors, paraprofessionals, and the Building Leadership Teams. Our presentations focused on Stereotypes, Self-Identity, Macroaggressions, and the History of Marginalization for people of color in America.

For the 2017-2018 school year, internal and external stakeholders will be working to collaborate with the community and enact the equity vision. Lisa Hunt, Family Engagement Specialist, is scheduling training with our Parent Ambassadors and the CH-UH PTA Council. The ETF will also train counselors, gifted specialists, AP teachers, and Board Members.

The ETF is seeking individuals to become Equity Trainers. These individuals will receive intensive training in our equity series addressing Self Identity, Stereotypes, Macroaggressions, Mental



*Dr. Sandy Womack, Jr. with attendees at his Nov. 7th session on the History of Marginalization.*

Mindsets, Implicit Biases, and the History of Marginalization.

If you would like more information about becoming an Equity Trainer, please contact Director of Principal Leadership and Development Sandy Womack at [s\\_womack@chuh.org](mailto:s_womack@chuh.org) or (216) 320-2071.

## MSAN Student Conference

The District hosted the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Student Conference on October 18-21. A total of 21 school districts from around the country participated. Students listened to two keynote speakers: Jeff Johnson, award-winning journalist and Heights High alum; and Jamie Almanzan, equity training coach.

Students also participated in team building activities with motivational speaker Elec Simon, attended college visits, and worked on school action plans to incorporate with their district.

The students were engaged, presented insightful information, and offered positive feedback in regards to the overall conference. Educational Services would like to give a special thanks to Nate Williams, O'Dasha Blue, and Shawn Washington for their hard work in making the conference a success.

[Watch The MSAN Student Conference Recap Video](#)



### Submit Your PD Proposal

The Educational Service Team is seeking proposals for the next District PD Conference Day on Feb. 9, 2018.

If you, a group, a guest speaker, or department would like to facilitate professional development, [please complete this form](#) for the Educational Services Team to review.

**The deadline to submit proposals is Dec. 2, 2017.**

After review of the proposals, you will be notified by the Assistant Superintendent's office if your proposal has been selected.