

Career and Technical Education Month (February)

Celebrated at Orange High School

Submitted by Denise DePalma, Health Occupations teacher, Orange High School

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month is an annual celebration held in February for Career and Technical Education community members' achievements and accomplishments nationwide. To honor the month, the Orange High School CTE team held a CTE fair for parents and students on February 10 and 11, 2016. Students from the Orange High School (OHS) and Orange Preparatory Academy (OPA), as well as parents, had the opportunity to see firsthand the activities that take place in the many CTE classes offered here in Orange. The event allowed the OHS CTE team to raise awareness of the critical role that CTE has in preparing students for a rapidly changing workplace.



Pictured: Health Occupations students with Mr. Jason Belton, OHS Co-Principal (center) and Ms. DePalma (right).

The Career and Technical Education Departments represented at the fair included: Business, Accounting, Digital Media, TV Production, Graphic Arts, Web Design, STEM/Smart Lab, Comp TIA+ CISCO, Culinary Arts/ Nutrition, Health Occupations and Structured Learning Experience.

The participants were able to have their blood pressure taken, view student driven technology and digital art projects and taste food prepared by the culinary students. In addition, students and teachers were on hand to explain the classes in each track and offer

advice to those, regardless of the career or education that the students are considering.



Pictured: Scenes from the CTE Fair held on February 11 and 12 at Orange High School.

Here are some facts to consider that were published by the Association for Career and Technical Education:

- High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates.
- CTE prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills.
- Health care occupations, many of which require an associate degree or less, make up 12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.
- STEM occupations such as environmental engineering technicians require an associate degree and will experience faster than average job growth.
- Middle-skill jobs, jobs that require education and training beyond high school but less than a bachelor's degree, are a significant part of the economy.
- CTE fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, high-demand areas.



Pictured: Scenes from the CTE Fair held on February 11 and 12 at Orange High School. Students visited various information tables and the displays were open to parents during Parent Teacher Conference. Brochures describing the CTE courses were on each table and will soon be posted on the district website under the Curriculum Department's CTE Program.