



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, as the 15th largest global economy, Florida recognizes the pivotal role of career and technical education (CTE) in cultivating expertise within key industries; and

WHEREAS, Florida stands at the forefront of fostering essential education in sectors crucial to the state's sustained growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Florida is responding to the need to generate 2 million new jobs by 2030, by placing a specific emphasis on in-demand sectors of skilled workers, notably in semiconductor, aviation, aerospace, cybersecurity and information technology; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has demonstrated unparalleled commitment to workforce education through a historic investment exceeding \$12 billion, making Florida the #1 state in the nation in workforce education; and

WHEREAS, Florida has achieved record-breaking Career and Technical Education enrollments, with over 818,000 K-12 students and nearly 512,000 postsecondary students, reflecting a remarkable 30% increase in postsecondary enrollment since 2018-2019; and

WHEREAS, adult education programs serve over 189,000 individuals, and the state has expanded Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs, now reaching a record 582 programs and serving more than 11,000 students since 2021, giving adult learners the opportunity to earn a meaningful credential while obtaining their high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, Florida's apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs now support a record 25,000 active participants, representing a 11% year-over-year increase, accompanied by a 14% growth in newly registered apprenticeship programs, thereby fortifying the state's pipeline of skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, Florida has awarded 524,000 rapid credentials since 2018-2019, underscoring its steadfast dedication to workforce readiness. In 2024-25 alone, 80,972 credentials were conferred, marking a 5.4% increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant, aimed to expand registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, has awarded more than \$105 million, with over 350 grant proposals funded and over 20,000 participants served; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program has allocated \$240 million to bolster workforce education and training, supporting 80 agencies and 812 newly created or expanded programs and increasing workforce capacity for awarded programs by 94 percent; and

WHEREAS, Florida's career planning and work-based learning platform, Xello, is providing students and parents the ability to engage in career exploration, planning and connecting students with employment opportunities across the state with more than 2.4 million student accounts; and

WHEREAS, the state's first-of-its-kind outreach and recruitment campaign, Get There—Florida's Workforce Education Initiative, continues connecting students and job seekers with high-value career pathways; and

WHEREAS, initiatives such as the Your Way campaign have encouraged individuals to achieve educational milestones, including obtaining high school diplomas and improving English proficiency, and the Future of Work Florida campaign underscores Florida's commitment to preparing students, parents and businesses for a dynamic and prosperous future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 2026 as *Career and Technical Education Month in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 29th day of January, in the year two thousand twenty-six.



Governor