

Over the course of the current OCL study – "How CNY Works" – which launched in September 2016, we have been examining the diversity and future of CNY's economic base. Session 9 will focus on the role of Career and Technical Education programs in preparing our future workforce. We will discuss questions with both educators and CTE students.

Questions for Educators:

1. What is meant by "career and technical education" (CTE)?
2. How has CTE changed and evolved over the years?
3. There was a time--perhaps 20 years ago--when NYS educational leaders seemed intent on de-emphasizing CTE, in order to focus on preparing every high school student for college. In your opinion, is this changing? How is CTE viewed today?
4. Please describe your school's approach to career education in terms of:
 - a. Overall philosophy and goals
 - b. Subject matter and areas of concentrate, and why
 - c. Range of classes offered
 - d. Ratio of instructors/students
 - e. Relevant background for instructors – are they individuals with experience in industry? – and others involved – e.g., mentors
 - f. Budget for CTE programming
5. What kinds of students participate in and do well in CTE?
6. What % of your school's total student population is involved in CTE?
7. How do you determine which CTE options to offer? Do you try to sync these offerings with career paths that seem particularly promising for the future? If so, how do you assess this match?
8. What happens to your CTE students after they graduate? Do they find employment? If so, is it in a field related to their areas of study? Do they go on for further training? If so, is it on-the-job training, technical training, or a general academic program?
9. Do you track or follow up on your graduates in any way (so as to assess how well you are fulfilling your objectives)?

Questions for Students:

1. What makes CTE 'right' for you?
2. What, specifically, are you studying? How does your classroom experience differ from your peers who are not in a CTE program?
3. Do you see yourself preparing for a particular career? Are you connecting with companies where you could pursue this career after you graduate? Are you connecting with professionals who work in the field that interests you?
4. What do you like about the program you're in and the classes you're taking?
5. What could make your experience better?
6. After you graduate from your program, what will you do next?
7. Do you see a connection between what you're studying and what you envision for the future?

Thank You: We extend our grateful appreciation to today's panel members representing CTE programs in the Syracuse City, East Syracuse Minoa, and West Genesee school districts, as well as OCM BOCES and Onondaga Community College– and to our hosts at Public Service Leadership Academy.

Next Up: Session 10, Friday, 1/27 @ Progressive Expert Consulting, 650 James St., Suite 302, 12:00 – 1:30 PM. This session will examine small and family businesses in CNY. Session 11, Monday, 1/30 @ SUNY Oswego Metro Center, 12:00 – 1:30 PM. This session will examine the economic impact of third party hiring in CNY. Session 12, Tuesday, 1/31 @ Metro Center, 11:30AM – 2:00PM. Our final session will examine the economic and social impact of low-wage and temporary work – this session will include a presentation, film screening, and post-film panel discussion.