

# Ideas on How a Business Can Partner With Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

Through Career and Technical Student Organizations, or CTSOs, students gain professional-world skills that complement what they're learning in the classroom. Student organizations help students align classroom instruction with employability and career skills, using applied learning, leadership development opportunities, and hands-on demonstrations of career-connected work experiences.

As a business, you can engage with CTSOs offered by local schools to expand your reach and promote your company to as many local students as possible. Below are Key Steps for engaging and partnering with local Career and Technical Student Organizations.



## 1. Identify CTSOs that align with your business

Identify and review the CTSOs available to South Dakota students. SDMyLife provides a list of CTSOs with a summary and link to each of the organization's websites. As you review the available CTSOs, consider all occupations at your company and identify the CTSOs that align with those occupations. These student organizations cover a variety of industries and occupations, allowing you to partner with multiple CTSOs, based on your company's opportunities.



## 2. Identify Partnership Opportunities with Local Schools

Connect with schools in your region to find out what Career and Technical Student Organizations are offered locally. Each CTSO will have a school district contact that you can meet with to discuss planned CTSO activities/ events and opportunities for your business to partner with the student organization on. Examples of ways to partner may include:

- Judge at state competitions
- Review and provide input on activities/events
- Sponsor activities/events
- Offer career mentorships to student's preparing for events
- Conduct business tours
- Be an industry guest speaker
- Host job shadows and other industry-related WBL experiences
- Provide workforce data about your industry
- Be an available resource for student and faculty industry-related questions



### 3. Establish a CSTO Engagement Plan

Determine the activities/events your company will support for CTSOs offered by schools in your area. Based on your company's resources (time, staff, financial, etc.), develop a plan to engage with and support local CTSOs. Elements of the plan can include: Your company's availability

- A schedule of CTSO events
- The level of engagement your company will have with the CTSO
- Your company's primary contact for the CTSO partnership
- The school's CTSO contact

### The following is a list of approved South Dakota Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs).



- [Educators Rising](#) - Educators Rising provides high school students with authentic opportunities to experience teaching, sustain their interest in the profession and help them cultivate the skills they need to be successful teachers.



- [FBLA](#) - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America brings business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.



- [FCCLA](#) - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America provides personal growth, leadership development, and career preparation opportunities for students in Family and Consumer Sciences education.



- [FFA](#) - FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



- [HOSA Future Health Professionals](#) - HOSA Future Health Professionals enhances the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science education students, therefore, helping students meet the needs of the health care community.



- [SkillsUSA](#) - SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. SkillsUSA's helps its members become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.