

## Preparing young people for the jobs of tomorrow

# This is Afterschool



### It's time to rethink CTE!

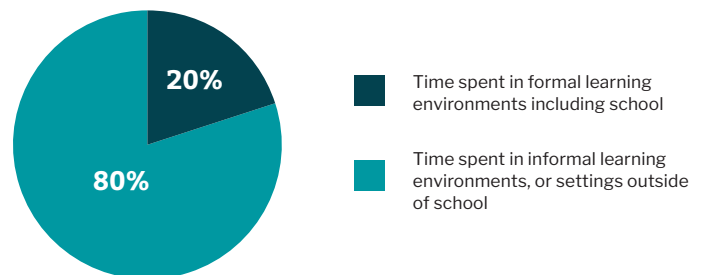
To address the nation's skills gap and prepare our emerging workforce for the changing economy, young people need access to expanded learning opportunities made possible by afterschool and summer learning programs. These programs are critical partners for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and help young people develop skills that employers need.

### Learning doesn't just happen in school.

For students in elementary through high school, **more than 80 percent** of their time is spent **learning outside of school**— at afterschool and summer programs, in libraries, museums, science centers, at home or in the community. **Fewer than 20 percent** of their 16 waking hours are **spent in school**.<sup>1</sup>

### Afterschool: An Ideal CTE Partner

Afterschool provides a flexible learning environment and has a proven track record for combining enrichment, academics and real-world experiences to serve more than 10 million young people in all 50 states. Afterschool programs have expertise leveraging resources from multiple community partners, including businesses, parents, libraries, schools, museums and health centers.



### Program Spotlight:

#### unCommon Construction | New Orleans, LA

The unCommon Construction afterschool program in Louisiana works with individual schools in New Orleans to provide students on CTE pathways with 120 hours in internship credits through real, on the job, paid experiences in construction. The organization works with students after school and on weekends to build market-rate homes and homes for low-income community residents, which are sold to provide resources for the next project. Through the program students develop leadership, employability and financial literacy skills. Students also earn an income and internship credit at their school, as well as a vested Equity Award for good attendance that they can access when they graduate for anything education or career related. Though the construction industry is 8% female, unCommon Construction has worked with 42% female participants!

## State and local partnerships between CTE and afterschool have successfully leveraged resources to create comprehensive programs and curriculum that would not be possible working alone.

### STEM Spotlight

Many CTE career pathways require STEM skills and interest. Afterschool STEM programs boost students' performance in math and science and put them on the path to pursuing a STEM or CTE career pathway. A study of afterschool STEM programs found that among participating students:<sup>2</sup>

80%

gained a deeper understanding of science careers

78%

increased their interest in STEM

73%

developed a "STEM identity," a personal belief that he/she can do well and succeed at science

72%

developed perseverance and critical-thinking skills

### Afterschool and CTE speak the same language

#### Effective career exposure starts early and is diverse

Afterschool programs serve students along a continuum from Pre-K to high school using flexible, student-driven curricula that get kids excited about learning. Time in afterschool—about 1,080 hours per year—is used to help kids explore careers, build skills and learn by doing through hands-on projects.

#### Employability skills matter

Kids who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs develop self-control, confidence and skills that employers demand. A majority of parents nationwide say afterschool programs help kids gain workforce skills, such as team work, leadership and critical thinking.

#### Career learning means real experience and transferable skills and credits

Afterschool programs partner with schools and businesses to help students gain credentials, earn college credits and participate in work-based learning opportunities. Kids in afterschool also are more likely to be promoted to the next grade and to graduate.

#### For every occupation, our workforce and leadership can look more like our communities

Afterschool programs serve a significant number of young people from low-income and racially diverse backgrounds and can play a key role in tackling diversity issues in non-traditional and under representative career fields.

### How to build collaboration

- Include the state afterschool network and afterschool partners in the state planning process.
- Provide language and guidance in the state plan to let districts know about the opportunity to partner with afterschool providers and intermediaries to leverage CTE funds.
- During the state and local district needs assessment processes, identify places where students lack quality career learning opportunities in school and out of school.
- Provide examples of collaboration and creative braiding of funds for comprehensive programs.
- Create joint professional development opportunities between CTE staff and out-of-school time professionals.
- Ensure coordination from elementary through college by engaging the community at every phase.

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> <http://life-slc.org>

<sup>2</sup> [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e45463\\_e14ee6fac98d405e950c66fe28de9bf8.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e45463_e14ee6fac98d405e950c66fe28de9bf8.pdf)

