Today we will begin to explore three different career clusters and pathways you can take during school to help you reach the career of your dreams.
WELCOME TO CAREER PORTALS
Who has heard of Career and Technical Education? Have students brainstorm the definition in pairs, in small groups or aloud as you write their answers on the board.
Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Definition:
Instruction that aims at developing foundational skills, core workplace competencies, and specific skill competencies in various occupational areas.

Allow a student to read the definition of Career and Technical Education. Provide students with an index card and have them rewrite the definition in their own words. Share responses.

If you choose to further explore the topic of Career and Technical Education, please see About CTE Presentation http://cte.unt.edu/home/about.html
Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- You are currently enrolled in the course Career Portals
- Career Portals is a CTE course
- You are a CTE student

Career and Technical Education, or CTE, as we commonly call it, is the set of courses, or classes, that help prepare you for the workplace during and after high school. Every one of you is enrolled in a CTE course – this is a CTE course. You all must have a certain number of CTE credits in middle and high school in order to graduate.
These are the 16 career clusters of courses that are offered within CTE.
For our class, we will focus on three clusters: Education and Training, Hospitality and Tourism and Human Services. The 16 clusters were identified by the U.S. Department of Education in 2000. Each cluster classifies workforce preparation programs that are obtained through career and technical education.
Have students read the descriptions for each cluster. This can be done in whole group, pairs, or small groups. Ask the following: What cluster do you think Cosmetology falls under? After the students have had time to answer, tell them the correct answer is Human Services. Explain that Cosmetology falls under the Human Services cluster because cosmetologists serve individuals by providing them with personal care services such as haircuts, hair up-dos, and pedicures. Ask the following: How many of you are interested in working with customers? For those of you who raised your hand, this could be a cluster you may be interested in.
The first cluster we will discuss is the Principles of Education and Training Cluster (PET).
The PET cluster is for students who are interested in working with children to become teachers, coaches, principals, counselors and other school officials. In this cluster you would take an introductory course called Principles of Education and Training, a course that teaches the fundamentals of teaching, the history of the educational system, and more. After the principles course, you would take Human Growth and Development which teaches students theories of human growth throughout the lifespan from pregnancy through the aging adult. Then, in Instructional Practices in Education and Training, the student has the opportunity to gain field experiences in the elementary setting, while at the same time having classroom instruction. Practicum in Education and Training also provides students with field experiences, but also helps prepare the student more for college and becoming a classroom teacher. Both of the field experience courses provide students with two – three credits as a part of the CTE graduation requirement.
The next cluster we will discuss is the Human Services Cluster. This cluster encompasses a wide variety of career options for students interested in serving the needs of families and individuals.
The Texas Education Agency has approved 12 high school courses in the Human Services cluster; however, not all high schools offer all courses.

Students who take the Consumer Services courses will discover how to become financially fit, meaning they will know how and when to apply for a credit card, how to balance a checkbook, how to calculate interest payments and more.

Students who are interested in Counseling and Mental Health Services will take courses in counseling individuals and families of all ages.

Early Childhood Development and Services gives students insights into the early intervention techniques and programs available to parents and teachers for young children.

The Family and Community Services cluster prepares students for careers that aid families and individuals within the community with special needs such as financial assistance, housing issues, disabilities, employment, social services and more.

Students who are interested in Personal Care Services will be exposed to a variety of careers that cater to an individual's personal care such as cosmetology, spa and fitness, funeral services and more.

Ask the following: Do you know which courses are currently being offered at our high school(s)? Discuss with the students which of the courses are offered.
The last cluster we will talk about is the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
The Hospitality and Tourism Cluster offers students field experiences in hotel, restaurant, and travel and tourism management. Students can also take Food Science as an optional fourth Science credit to fulfill their graduation requirement.
Click on logo to link to AchieveTexas Education and Training component. AchieveTexas is an interactive website that helps prepare students for college and the workplace. Students can explore all 16 career clusters on the website.
The purpose of CTE courses, and especially Career Portals, is to help you explore your future goals, lifestyle desires, career opportunities and much, much more!
Again, in Career Portals, we will mainly focus on the three main clusters - Education and Training, Hospitality and Tourism and Human Services.
All teachers are responsible for following the TEKS – Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – for each course taught. TEKS are a set of rules, or an outline, for what the teacher should go by when teaching a course.
In the Career Portals course, you will explore careers in each of the three clusters we briefly discussed earlier, along with the pathway to get to that career.
As you explore each pathway, you will investigate courses in high school and college needed for that career, along with personal skills and technical skills necessary for that career.
Also, you will compare and contrast the career with differing levels of education. For example, if you are a teacher with a bachelor’s degree, how does that compare and contrast with a teacher with a master’s degree?
As we discuss colleges, you will be able to explain what it means to be career and college ready. You will also develop your own personal achievement plan for your future.
We will also look at what it means to be financially smart by examining different banking services, how to use a credit card and more.
We will put all of the knowledge about the careers we have learned together to look at local, state, regional and national trends of the job market for that career.
At the end of the course, you will participate in an interactive mock interview. We will prepare for this by talking about different jobs, how to search for jobs, complete job applications, and create resumes.
We will look at several different ways for creating a resume, letter of intent, and a follow-up thank you letter. We will also discuss the importance of a positive job reference.
You will leave this class with a Career Portfolio!

With all of the documents we will create, you will be able to take them with you in a portfolio to be used in future classes or jobs.
A career portfolio is an organized sample of your best work, both inside and outside of the classroom. This can be a hard-copy paper portfolio, or it can be a digital copy that can be emailed out to potential employers.
Career portfolios are a part of the course requirement in all CTE courses throughout your educational career. Start saving samples of your work now so you can build a spectacular portfolio to showcase your work during future job searches.
Ask the following: Are there any questions about what we will cover during this class?
Teacher Note:
Depending on the career cluster you will explore first, instruct students to create their interpretation of the information from the appropriate upcoming slides. Have students focus on:

CTE
Cluster Name
Cluster Description
Cluster Pathways
YOUR TURN
Instruct students to create their interpretation of the information on this slide. It may be used as the coversheet for their class binder, folder or journal. Students may draw or use a computer to complete the task.

Criteria used for assessment of project:
Must include all five components
Creativity
Neatness
Spelling and grammar
Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Career Cluster

Description

Encompasses the management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services.

- Lodging
- Recreation, Amusements and Attractions
- Restaurants and Food/Beverage Services
- Travel and Tourism

Instruct students to create their interpretation of the information on this slide. It may be used as the coversheet for their class binder, folder or journal. Students may draw or use a computer to complete the task.

Criteria used for assessment of project:
Must include all five components
Creativity
Neatness
Spelling and grammar
Instruct students to create their interpretation of the information on this slide. It may be used as the coversheet for their class binder, folder or journal. Students may draw or use a computer to complete the task.

Criteria used for assessment of project:
Must include all five components
Creativity
Neatness
Spelling and grammar
Resources and References

Images:
Microsoft Office Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Websites:
Animation Factory
Free slide presentation templates
www.animationfactory.com

AchieveTexas
A college and career initiative designed to help students (and their parents) make wise education choices.
http://www.achievetexas.org/Education.htm

Career Clusters
Learning that works for America
http://www.careerclusters.org
Resources and References

Websites:

National Center for O*NET Development.
http://www.onetonline.org/help/online/

Learning that Works for America CTE™
Sponsored by The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)
http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/glance/at-a-glance.html

Texas Education Agency
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter130/index.html