

## GENERAL TALKING POINTS ABOUT CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- The purpose of the FCS/FCCLA Day at the Ca is to pay tribute to Iowa students for excellence in career and technical education and career and technical student organizations. In Iowa, there are over 19,000 students in thirteen (13) career and technical student organizations participating at the middle school, high school, community college and four-year institutional levels.
- The United States Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Education strongly endorse the career and technical student organizations objectives and their cooperation and support in strengthening programs of career and technical education. Career and technical student organizations strive to improve the quality and relevance of instruction, develop student leadership, enhance citizenship responsibilities, overcome sex and race discrimination and stereotyping, and serve students of special populations, especially with respect to efforts to increase the participation of students who are members of special populations. The director of career and technical education in Iowa provides overview for the success of career and technical student organizations.
- The following point is the relationship between the leadership competencies taught in career and technical education and the initiatives in the Iowa Learns Council as written. This input was received from Dale Gruis:

Career and technical educators have been excited to hear about findings of the Iowa Learns Council. Career and technical education programs can be an integral part of efforts to provide rigor, relevance and relationships.

**Rigor** – Student competitions challenge students to apply classroom learning, and take their understanding to a higher level. Students that are involved in career and technical student organizations apply their academics by demonstrating the application of technical skills, communication skills, math skills and science skills.

**Relevance** – Career and technical student organizations provide relevance for learning by allowing students to apply academic skills in context. Students are more engaged when they apply academic skills within the context of real-world applications.

**Relationships** – Career and technical student organizations provide a structure for developing small learning communities. Students focus on an area of interest, and network with other students with similar interests. More importantly, they develop relationships within their communities through service learning projects. All people search to develop an identity, and volunteerism provides students with the opportunity to develop a positive identity.

Like all students, CTSO students attend classes and learn. CTSO students go the extra mile by being involved in organizations that provide organized opportunities to develop leadership, individualism, and volunteerism.

- The students lead the student organizations. They elect their own officers, develop bylaws and carry out their goals and objectives.
- Parents, administrators, advisors, teachers, friends and relatives are commended for their support giving students the opportunities to pursue the many learning experiences offered in their career and technical student organization.
- Student organizations provide the learning laboratory for students to practice leadership skills.