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Research consistently substantiates what Career & Technical Education professionals have long understood and experienced:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) improves student retention and academic performance - in both high school and post-secondary education - while instilling in students the skills to move toward economic independence.

These findings were described in Spring 2013 in the Arizona State University's Morrison Institute's report *On the Rise*, based on data collected and analyzed from a variety of schools around our state. The same conclusions were also reported last year in the *Harvard Pathways to Prosperity* report.

Despite the proven benefits of CTE, statewide enrollment in CTE is rapidly declining due to the last minute elimination of ninth grade funding for JTED students in 2011. Declining enrollment eliminates opportunities for students to participate in CTE and, because CTE is based on student enrollment, fewer opportunities for students to participate in CTE results in further cuts to funding for CTE the following year. The state's best interests are achieved by more students gaining skills through applied learning in CTE/JTED courses, not less.

The ACTE AZ Board of Directors strongly supports the restoration of ninth grade funding.

Now Therefore be it resolved that the ACTE AZ Board of Directors hereby supports the passage of HB2176 with the proposed strike everything amendment to restore full funding for ninth grade students who participate in CTE through a JTED program.

Respectfully submitted,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink are arranged horizontally. The first signature on the left is for Stephen Weltsch, the middle one is for John Mulcahy, and the one on the right is for Doris Wojtulewicz.

Stephen Weltsch
ACTEAZ President

Dr. John Mulcahy
ACTEAZ President-Elect

Doris Wojtulewicz
ACTEAZ Past-President

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<i>Jayne Fitzpatrick</i>	Jayne Fitzpatrick	AME