



"CTE STUDENT SUCCESS: ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT"

JOEL ARVIZO, NATIONAL HOSA PRESIDENT

Career and Technical Education has such an amazing and vital role to play in students' lives and careers. Why is CTE so amazing and vital? Career and Technical Education is **active learning** allowing students to express themselves, learn from peers, and interact with the community where academic programs alone fall short. The architects of Career and Technical Education had a vision of how best to integrate academic, career and leadership development into a career focused program. Overall, Career and Technical Education provides opportunities for students to learn, interact, and take advantages of experiences that will impact them for a lifetime!

On February 13, 2003, I joined with other National Officers from the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) to participate in a live webcast from the Russell Senate Building in our Nation's Capital. The webcast was moderated by Representative **John E. Petersen** from the 5th Congressional District in Pennsylvania who is a strong advocate of CTE. This was an important event for the national officers and viewers because it was a time for reflection and expression. Congressman Petersen asked a series of questions focused on how Career and Technical Education had shaped our lives and built a foundation for a promising career. The underlying message was that Career and Technical Education has made a profound impact on millions of young people as evidenced by the testimonials of those that served on the panel.

On my return flight home, I realized how important Health Occupations and Health Sciences Education have been in my life and in the lives of students and graduates across this great country. The knowledge and skills developed in our Health Sciences classrooms were reinforced through the unique learning experiences

and developmental opportunities provided by HOSA—as one of the ten national student organizations. In particular, HOSA compliments the learning in the classroom through the competitive events program, the leadership development opportunities, and the involvement of the health care community to name a few of the value-add benefits. Having the opportunity to be active in the educational process is invigorating and motivating—the opportunity to apply "knowledge, skills and attitude" from the classroom and HOSA chapter to real experiences was **priceless**. The twenty-seven (27) year partnership between Health Occupations/Health Sciences and HOSA truly prepares HOSA members for success in their personal life and career in the health professions.

The national officers that participated in the webcast were consistent in their message—Career and Technical Education and the CTSOs provide unique opportunities for young people and adults in pursuit of personal and career success.

To view the archived webcast, go to <http://www.nccte.org/events/profdevseries/20030213/ind ex.asp>. Listen to the questions that Congressman Petersen presented and inform yourself and others of the issues that Career and Technical Education legislation faces in the Congress and State Legislatures. We need everyone's support and active involvement in the reauthorization of the Perkins Legislation which provides funds for the continuation of Career and Technical Education. While it is great that I have been associated with Career and Technical Education—Health Sciences and HOSA—we must be an outspoken advocate so that others realize the bottom-line benefits of CTE and CTSOs.



U.S. Representative John Petersen (R-PA) moderated the February 13, 2003 Webcast featuring Career and Technical Student Organization National Officers. (L-R) Julia Abramova, SkillsUSA; Joel Arvizo, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); Stefanie Botelho, Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda; Alfonso Dager, Technology Student Association; U.S. Representative Petersen (R-PA); Tim Hammerich, National FFA; Katrina Harper, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; Amit Patel, Business Professionals of America; and Nicholas Rezny, DECA.