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Career and Technical Education (CTE) as a New Adventure for USU Moab and the Moab Community

By Steve Hawks and Bruce Miller

With the passage of Senate Bill 69, the College of Eastern Utah (CEU) officially became part of the Utah State University system on March 4, 2010. Following the merger, USU quickly created the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education (ASTE) within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to provide administrative guidance and leadership for all Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered throughout the state, including those that were previously available only through CEU.

USU Moab was subsequently given the mandate by the Utah State Legislature to become not only the provider of higher education degrees in Moab, but also the provider of certificate and degree programs in a variety of career and technical education disciplines. This transition officially took effect in July of 2020. In the years since the merger with CEU, USU Moab has pursued a variety of strategies to develop resources to offer community-driven programs in such diverse areas as: accounting practices, web business, IT support and web development, software development, digital design, small business operations/entrepreneurship, engineering drafting and design, apprentice electrician, welding, allied health, medical assistant, nursing, outdoor product design and development, construction technology and management, and automotive technology.

Strategic Workforce Initiative awards have provided ongoing funding for programs in the life sciences, welding, and outdoor product design and development. USU Moab administrators continue to work closely with community and business leaders to identify essential CTE programs that can support economic diversification in the community and help fill gaps in workforce skills needed for economic development. The long anticipated USU Moab Academic Building provides exceptional new space to continue the development of CTE programs that will be foundational to the development of the Moab community going forward.

