EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

FIVE WAYS THAT PAY

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ALONG THE WAY TO THE B.A.

Anthony P. Carnevale
Tamara Jayasundera
Andrew R. Hanson
There are 29 million “middle jobs” in the United States that pay $35,000 or more on average and don’t require a Bachelor’s degree.
There are five Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways that educate and train Americans for these jobs.

- Associate’s degrees
- Industry-based certifications
- Employer-based training
- Postsecondary certificates
- Apprenticeships
The United States invests roughly $1.4 trillion in human capital development each year. National spending on the five CTE pathways totals $524 billion annually.

National Spending on Human Capital Development Totals $1.4 trillion (in billions of $)

National Spending on Five CTE Pathways Totals $524 billion (in billions of $)
The 29 million “middle jobs” represent one out of every five jobs in the American economy and nearly half of all American jobs that pay middle-class wages.
More than 11 million middle jobs pay $50,000 or more annually, and 4 million pay $75,000 or more.

At least some postsecondary education or training is becoming the entry-level requirement for many jobs.
The United States is ranked second internationally in baccalaureate attainment, but ranks 16th in sub-baccalaureate (CTE) attainment.
Information systems that make the connections between CTE programs and job openings transparent are the crucial reform going forward.
The five CTE pathways make further education more affordable.
Career and Technical Education: Five Ways That Pay Along the Way to the B.A. comprises a full report and an executive summary. Both can be accessed online at cew.georgetown.edu/ctefiveways.