

**Awards for Innovation
Final Report**

Title of Research Study:

Guiding Guidance Counselors: Using expert opinion to promote CTE

Investigators, Institution

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Strand Project Addressed

The strand descriptions covered in this proposal were curriculum development initiatives and professional development for CTE pre-service and beginning teachers. This proposal addressed these strands by providing the information needed to educate guidance counselors and provide information for CTE teachers (pre- and in-service) that will be valuable in establishing working relationships with guidance professionals, a key part of program development and promotion.

Overview of Research Study

This project sought to positively impact CTE in Illinois by providing leaders in the CTE field an assessment of the current knowledge levels of Guidance counselors of the opportunities for careers in the CTE fields and further study at the post secondary and university level. This information can be used to developed strategies, tool and methods to educate and provide support to Illinois guidance counselors in better advising students of the many opportunities in CTE fields. It will also benefit CTE by establishing closer ties with a wider range of guidance counselors and helps to enhance relationships between the groups.

Objectives/Research Questions

The goal of this project was to determine the perceptions of high school guidance counselors of the CTE fields as an academic program in higher education and as a career choice. To achieve this goal, the specific objectives were:

1. Establish GC knowledge levels about available higher education opportunities in CTE in Illinois.
2. Determine the knowledge level GC of the career opportunities and job outlook for CTE careers.
3. Identify methods and strategies to provide GC with information and training on the opportunities in CTE for higher education and careers.

Project Deliverables

The project deliverables were:

1. A report on the findings of the electronic survey, identifying areas of strength and weakness in the knowledge of guidance counselors on the CTE fields (Agriculture, Business and Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Occupations, Public Safety and Security, and Technology). This report is provided as Appendix 1.
2. A report on the findings of the Delphi study to identify methods and materials to enhance GC knowledge of CTE areas. This report is provided as Appendix 2.
3. Presentation at the Connections Conference. This was accomplished on March 26, 2009. About 15 individuals attended the session where the project was outlined and an update of progress was provided.
4. Create a plan to guide future development of materials and methods to educate GC and promote CTE in a comprehensive approach. This is provided as Appendix 3.