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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Column: Career and Technical Education Month February 2019

Did you know that Wisconsin has 300,000 students across 16 technical colleges, with nearly 500 two-year and short term programs? The month of February is Wisconsin Career and Technical Education Month. Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide students with a mix of academics and career education which prepares them for the workforce.

CTE enriches our student's education. K-12 students who are involved in technical education are more academically engaged, graduate at higher rates and oftentimes go on to postsecondary educational programs. Wisconsin's CTE programs promote a wide variety of postsecondary options by allowing students to develop their work skills through employer mentoring as well as form connections to postsecondary education.

This session, I introduced a bill that increases grants for school districts to help create Career and Technical Education programs. This bill will help address Wisconsin's workforce shortage and increase our funding for these valuable programs. This bill will ensure that our schools can continue to offer these opportunities for our local students.

Wisconsin's cutting edge, rigorous, and relevant #CareerTechEd prepares students for good paying, skilled and high-demand careers. CTE allows students to develop necessary leadership, 21st Century and employability skills, which help with career prospects and professional skills. Students also get a head start on a technical education through CTE as well.

For more information on Wisconsin's Career and Technical Education programs, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/cte>.

Joan Ballweg is the State Representative for the 41st Assembly District. You can contact her Capitol office at (608) 266-8077; by mail at P.O. Box 8952, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53708; or email at Rep.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. You can also like her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WIRepBallweg>.

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