

CVES MISSION

Champlain Valley Educational Services is committed to being a valued and trusted partner by supporting students, schools, and communities to excel through high-quality education, training, and shared services.

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CV-TEC Celebrates Grand Opening of New Career and Technical Education Center

PLATTSBURGH, NY – Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) and CV-TEC celebrated the grand opening of the new CV-TEC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking an exciting new chapter in career and technical education for young professionals throughout the North Country.

This milestone would not have been possible without the commitment and collaboration of CVES' 16 component school districts. Through their shared vision, continued partnership, and funding of the project, the component districts made this investment in the future of North Country young professionals possible. Their ongoing support—and their decision to provide students with access to CV-TEC programs—remains a foundation of the new building's success and its impact on the region.

The new CTE Center is the result of years of planning, collaboration, and investment in the future of CV-TEC young professionals and the regional workforce. The state-of-the-art facility expands opportunities for young professionals to gain hands-on experience, develop technical and employability skills, and explore careers in high-demand fields.

"Today is a tremendous milestone for CVES and CV-TEC, but most importantly, it is a milestone for our young professionals," said Dr. Mark Davey, CVES District Superintendent. "This new facility reflects our commitment to providing young professionals with the tools, experiences, and opportunities they need to discover their passions and prepare for their futures. We are proud to officially open the doors to this incredible center and look forward to seeing all that our young professionals will accomplish here."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony brought together CVES and CV-TEC staff, young professionals, community and business partners, education leaders, and invited guests to celebrate the completion of the new facility and its role in advancing career and technical education throughout the region. Among the special guests was New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty A. Rosa.

The ceremony also showcased the hands-on skills developed through CV-TEC's programs. Welding young professionals created the ceremonial ribbon from metal, demonstrating their craftsmanship and technical abilities. Instead of traditional scissors, CV-TEC young professionals used a plasma cutter to cut the ribbon, creating a memorable demonstration of career and technical education in action.

"What began as an ambitious idea has become a transformative learning environment because so many people worked together with a common purpose: preparing students for successful futures." said Dr. Eric Bell, CVES Deputy Superintendent. "We were fortunate to work with an exceptional team throughout this project to make this vision a reality. We are excited to see this facility serve as a catalyst

for student learning, workforce development, economic development, and a stronger future for the North Country.”

Following the ceremony, members of the media and invited guests participated in guided tours of the new CTE Center. The tours offered a closer look at the facility, instructional spaces, equipment, and the career and technical education programs available to CV-TEC young professionals.

“This new CTE Center gives our young professionals an environment that truly supports the way they learn best, through experiential and career connected learning, real-world applications, and opportunities to build competencies that are future focused,” said Michele Friedman, CV-TEC Executive Director of Career and Technical Education. “We are incredibly excited about what this facility means for our young professionals, our programs, and our community. Our CV-TEC Team Members have worked very intentionally to create meaningful learning experiences, and this new center allows us to build on that work and provide even more opportunities for young professionals to discover their interests and prepare for successful careers.”

This project was supported by \$3 million from the NYS Empire State Development Workforce Development Capital Grant Program. Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Hope Knight said, “Strategic investments that bridge education and economic opportunity are vital to our state’s future. Empire State Development, through the Office of Strategic Workforce Development, is proud to invest \$3 million in this state-of-the-art CV-TEC center to empower North Country young professionals with the hands-on skills needed for high-demand careers. Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, these initiatives are building a stronger, more dynamic workforce and economy across the region.”

Additional funding for the project was received from the Department of Agriculture through a \$5 million school food infrastructure grant. Richard A. Ball, New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, said, “One of our top priorities at the Department is helping connect our farmers who are growing fresh, delicious, nutritious food right here in New York State with the people who need it most, which includes our students. Forging a pathway between our farms and our schools is a win for everyone, and the Regional School Food Infrastructure program does just that. I’m so proud to see the project awarded to one of the first recipients of the program come to fruition and congratulate the team here at CVES BOCES on their truly exceptional and inspiring work. I know the ripple effects of this new commissary kitchen and education center will impact the region and its students and families for years to come.”

The new CTE Center strengthens the connection between education and the workforce by giving CV-TEC young professionals access to modern equipment, technology, and learning environments that reflect current industry practices. These experiences help them develop technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, collaboration, and confidence as they prepare for their next steps.

The facility represents CVES BOCES and its component districts' continued investment in career and technical education and the future of the North Country workforce. After years of planning and collaboration, the new center provides young professionals with opportunities to explore career pathways, gain real-world experience, and build the skills they need to pursue their goals.

About CV-TEC

CV-TEC, a division of Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES), provides career and technical education opportunities that prepare students for college, careers, and life beyond high school. Through hands-on learning, industry-aligned instruction, and career-focused experiences, CV-TEC helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to pursue their goals and contribute to the workforce and communities they call home.