



## Classroom to Career

### All In on Career & Technical Education

Every parent I meet wants the same thing for their kid. A good, stable job and a future they don't have to leave Rhode Island to find.

For too long, we've told young people that the only path to a successful career runs through a four-year college degree. But talk to the men and women in our building trades, the electricians, the plumbers, the ironworkers, the carpenters, and they'll tell you this work is good, well-paying, and worth being proud of. The same is true for our healthcare workers, our advanced manufacturers, and our marine technicians. And Rhode Island needs more people in all of these careers.

Building the pipeline of skilled trades starts with opportunity, and that's exactly what Rhode Island has been missing.

That's why, as governor, I will propose a \$100 million bond to fund career and technical education facilities across Rhode Island, building new schools and modernizing existing ones to train the next generation of tradespeople. This would be one of the biggest investments in career and technical education our state has ever made, and it's long overdue.

The trades helped build Rhode Island. This investment is how we make sure they keep building it.

- Helena



In 2022, Governor McKee promised that he would make job training “available to everyone free of charge.” What he delivered was \$800,000 for one program, at one campus. We need a comprehensive approach when it comes to career and technical education—one that values these careers and treats them as an excellent first choice, not just a fallback.

### **Create a Pro-Career Education Culture—and Fund Programs That Support It**

There is an unacceptable stigma around pursuing technical skills training over a four-year college degree. As governor, I will lead in changing this culture by championing and expanding Rhode Island's Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities. Parents should be proud to send their kids to get a skill, and Rhode Island should be a leader in making sure our high school graduates have the opportunity to do so.

But a culture change can only take our state so far; we also need to make a real investment in the successful and promising programs already in place and in creating new programs that will expand career education capacity at the high school level and beyond. That is why I am proposing a \$100 million bond to fund capital construction throughout Rhode Island to do just that.

This bond will go toward building and expanding CTE training facilities across Rhode Island, so that we have the ability to continue to provide essential skills training—and stable, good-paying careers—to our young people.

### **Focus on Building Skills in Growth Sectors**

I have released a plan to build 20,000 housing units in Rhode Island, paid for by a tax on millionaires. And I have pledged to install solar arrays with battery storage on public buildings as well as small businesses and residences. To accomplish these goals, we are going to need thousands of trained, skilled workers—from operating engineers to carpenters to painters to electricians.

Because the state is providing capital to encourage growth in these critical sectors, companies and employers can be confident that the business will be there. We also need to ensure that our workforce is ready to take advantage of the thousands of jobs that will result from these investments. That's why we will focus our investments in CTE on the skills needed in growth sectors across the state.

### **Partner with RI Businesses to Create a Skilled Workforce Pipeline**

Rhode Island businesses are in need of skilled workers, and they should be looking to our young people to fill those jobs. Under my administration, Rhode Island companies will work directly with our schools to inform our career and technical education curriculum so that students are learning skills that they can immediately put to use in a career right after graduation.

### **Expand Opportunities for Adult Education and Career Changers**

As governor, I will work to expand capacity at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) and New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) for adult learners pursuing CTE credentials in high-demand fields, including advanced and custom manufacturing, marine technology, life sciences, health care, and construction trades.

