



Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.

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## Career and Technical Education Center receives \$100,000 donation for programs, outreach

*The donation was presented during a special event on Tuesday, April 12*

**SALEM, Ore.** – Through the charitable donation by Ashley HomeStores Salem, Salem-Keizer Public Schools' Career and Technical Education Center is slated to receive a \$100,000 donation to help fund ongoing program improvement and outreach. Ashley's donation will help assist in furthering the center's already successful programs reach new heights.

"A lot of people would say that they are scared and afraid of what's to come. However, I am not. I actually feel very excited," said CTEC cosmetology student Angelica Hernandez. "I feel excited because being at CTEC helps me figure out what I want to study, what I want to do, and it has given me hope."

The CTEC donation is one of several made by Ashley HomeStores this year as they join the Salem-Keizer community. CTEC will use the funds for workforce development, scholarships, industry equipment and alumni outreach efforts.

CTEC is a public-private partnership between SKPS and the Mountain West Career Technical Institute. The center opened in the fall of 2015 and hosts 10 CTE programs: Residential Construction, Manufacturing, Welding and Engineering, Cosmetology, Video and Game Design Animation, Autobody Repair and Painting, Drone Technology and Robotics, Business Development and Leadership, Law Enforcement, Sustainable Plant Science & Technology and Culinary Arts and Management.

### The power of Career and Technical Education

Career and technical education students have experienced increased graduation rates when compared to other students. Salem-Keizer students who participated in at least one CTE course during their high school careers had a graduation rate of 90 percent in 2021, 10 points above the state average. This rate increases to an impressive 99 percent for students that are classified as CTE concentrators.

"At CTEC, we know that when industry and education come together, students succeed and the community benefits," said CTEC Principal Rhonda Rhodes. "It goes beyond our high graduation rates. A high school diploma is not the end game for our students. When they leave prepared to thrive in the workforce, everybody wins."



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*Cutline: Students from CTEC programs gathered with staff and alumni to accept the donation of \$100,000 from Ashley HomeStores on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.*

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Led by Superintendent Christy Perry, [Salem-Keizer School District 24J](#) is the second-largest school district in Oregon. Nearly 6,000 employees serve 40,000 students who speak more than 100 different languages in 65 schools throughout the cities of Salem and Keizer.