

Washtenaw CTE Partner Spotlight – Shamar Herron Video Transcript

Shamar Herron, Executive Director – Michigan Works! Southeast:

No longer is it Dearborn versus Detroit or Ypsilanti versus Ann Arbor. No longer is it Michigan versus Ohio. It is the Midwest versus Mumbai. It is the Midwest versus Shanghai. We need to continue to prepare our young adults for a global economy that rests on being highly skilled.

CTE is hands-on application. So it's really the full side of the workforce. We have our young people who are preparing to go off to our two- and four-year institutions, and then we have our young people who are preparing to go directly into the workforce. That is where I see CTE serving as a tremendous catalyst. You're allowed to learn and grow in a specific skill set that you're going to be able to take with you for the rest of your life. This is an opportunity for young people to not incur debt, but still gain valuable skills. When you have these technical education credentials, you're coming out certified. So you can step into any employer and say, "I am ready to utilize these skills." That typically leads to higher wage employment.

Our young people have rigorous curriculums that they have to go through and standards in order for them to become certified in whatever work that they're doing. You can rest assured that they've had the training, they've had the mentorship, they've had the insights from industry on how to deliver a quality product no matter what it is along the CTE spectrum. And so that's a piece that I know we can all hang our hat on is the preparation of our future workforce rooted in quality, but also allowing our young people to build confidence in ways that will exponentially benefit our lives.

[Graphic: The Future Moves with Us]

[Graphic: Washtenaw CTE (Career Technical Education) logo]