

## CTE: THE KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security:

Includes the **\$350 billion** U.S. security market<sup>1</sup>

Is projected to be the **fourth-fastest growing** Career Cluster<sup>2</sup>

Will employ more than **3 million** in protective services by 2020<sup>3</sup>

What is the pathway to these fulfilling and essential careers?

Career and Technical Education!



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# Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security:

## The Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security sector:

- Is essential to the United States' continuing commitment to safety and justice
- Includes lawyers, paralegals, police and homeland security, as well as public and private security and corrections staff
- Is an established and growing industry across the nation

## What jobs are available in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security?

By the end of the decade, we will see growth in a wide variety of jobs that fall under the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster<sup>®</sup>, from traditional occupations to new employment opportunities made possible by technology. Occupations dedicated to legal and protective services are expected to increase by 14 percent by 2018—more than the national average.<sup>4</sup> Growth will be driven by population increases as well as a rising need for legal services. As law firms attempt to control costs, paralegals will be in demand, with jobs increasing by almost 17 percent through 2022.<sup>5</sup> Growth will be even higher, at 20 percent through 2018, for emergency management specialists needed to implement disaster relief.<sup>6</sup> Police, fire and ambulance dispatcher jobs will also be on the rise, as well as positions for probation officers, correctional treatment specialists and security guards.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the demand for private detectives is projected to increase by 21 percent through 2020.<sup>8</sup> The greater use of technology in legal and protective services will also fuel job growth for IT professionals and forensic science technicians.

The law and security sector has a high share of jobs for individuals with some postsecondary education or an associate degree, and these workers can earn well above the median wage. This includes more than \$60,000 annually for firefighters as well as for supervisors of police, firefighters and prevention workers.<sup>9</sup> Paralegals, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), correctional officers and patrol officers also make above the national median wage of \$35,540.<sup>10</sup>

By 2018, more than 80 percent of jobs in this sector will necessitate at least some postsecondary education, with 40 percent open to those with more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor's degree.<sup>11</sup> EMTs, correctional officers, security guards and others employed in this field typically need licenses and/or industry certifications, and background checks are often required. Jobs in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security require academic, employability and technical skills, including skills in enforcing laws, responding to emergencies, collecting evidence and preparing for hearings and trials. Examples of occupations in this sector include:

- police officers
- paralegals
- IT specialists
- FBI agents
- bailiffs
- forensic science technicians
- accounting and finance staff
- firefighters



## Endnotes

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## How does CTE prepare the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security workforce?

Career and technical education prepares high school, postsecondary and adult students for careers in law, public safety, corrections and security through:

- the national Career Clusters® Framework—including Career Clusters and pathways in law, public safety, corrections and security as well as government and public administration—which outlines course progressions that help students explore career options and prepare for college and career success.
- CTE courses in corrections, law enforcement, forensic science, criminal law and procedures, security services, fire science and more, all integrated with rigorous academics.
- work-based learning experiences, such as internships with state Departments of Public Safety and Departments of Corrections
- career and technical student organization enrichment experiences, such as SkillsUSA competitions in criminal justice, crime scene investigation and firefighting as well as Business Professional of America events in topics such as legal office procedures<sup>12</sup>
- opportunities to earn stackable postsecondary certificates and degrees, as well as industry-recognized certifications such as the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' Public Safety Telecommunicator and International Academies of Emergency Dispatch's Emergency Medical Dispatcher certifications<sup>13</sup>

## What are promising programs in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security?

**Jack E. Singley Academy** in Irving, Texas offers six specialty areas for students.<sup>14</sup> One of these six, the **School of Law and Public Service**, which was named a 2014 Excellence in Action Award winner by Advance CTE, offers five career pathways in turn: law enforcement, law, homeland security, cyber security and firefighting. The first pathway gives students the opportunity to enter the **Jail Internship Program** created in collaboration with the Irving Police Department, where they work for 25 hours a week in supportive roles at the local correctional facility to gain familiarity with its operations.<sup>15</sup> Students also have the chance to take dual credit courses taught by Irving police officers and earn credit at local community colleges. Upon completion of this program, many students work as dispatchers, record keepers, and other positions for local jails and courts.

The **Fire Science Program** offered at **Southern Maine Community College** provides students with education and experience that qualifies them for careers in fire protection. This program teaches students reactive skills necessary to respond to fire and other emergency incidents, proactive skills such as code development and enforcement as well as life safety education to prevent and mitigate incidents, and employability skills that include supervision and management.<sup>16</sup> Students earn either a one-year certificate or two-year associate degree, and many engage in work-based learning by living in fire-EMS stations throughout their college careers. Those who complete the program often become firefighters for municipalities and wildlife management agencies, industrial fire protection specialists and fire insurance inspectors, among other occupations. Students who wish to continue their education can apply their credits from this program toward a four-year degree in one of several different fields at the University of Southern Maine, Husson University or the University of Maine at Augusta.