Just a few years ago, a headline in the Tribune Review was an attention grabber: 
Pennsylvania contractors report difficulty finding skilled workers.

That statement is still true today! The article continued “Pennsylvania echoed a nationwide trend in which firms are struggling to replace retiring baby boomers as younger people shun careers in the trades.”

“With the construction industry in most of the country now several years into a recovery, many firms have gone from worrying about not having enough work to not having enough workers,” said Stephen Sandherr, CEO of Associated General Contractors of America.

Central Westmoreland CTC offers entry level opportunities to learn a skilled trade one year at a time while still in High School. Savvy students, parents, and guardians may want to consider the programs we offer to improve a student’s earning potential throughout their lives. Finding a skill, that students are interested in, often helps to motivate them to improve their attendance and increase grade achievement. Self-esteem and self-worth are closely aligned with working; being employed also contributes to long term financial stability.

Attending our Open House on Monday, November 4th (and/or Prospective Student Night on February 6th) is a great way to meet instructors and see our facility to determine what opportunities we offer your children and which program may the best fit to match your child’s interests, skill set and career goals.
Are you ready for your future?

As students begin another school year, some terminology used often at the CTC is Program of Studies (POS) and SOAR. A Program of Study is a state approved CTE program that credits skills and tasks learned during high school at a Career and Technical School. The skills and tasks learned can lead to industry certification in a variety of areas. Students and their parents should be talking to their child’s teacher to learn about the possible certifications available. Local industry looks favorably on these certifications for many reasons and it is great information to include on a resume!

Another term used is SOAR. SOAR stands for Students Occupationally and Academically Ready. SOAR links the Program of Study with post-secondary institutions (technical schools and universities) to help students earn college credits. These links are known as Articulation Agreements. Many of Central Westmoreland CTC programs have these articulation agreements with various local and state post-secondary schools.

What are the benefits of looking into SOAR?
1. Students who are college bound can save money on college tuition.
2. Students are already on the right career pathway.
3. Students can save time in college by having earned college credit.

Students should consider the following if they plan to earn college credits:
1. Earn a high school diploma, with a minimum 2.5 GPA
2. Complete the PDE Program of Study competency task list.
3. Achieve competent or advanced on the NOCTI test.

This is just a snapshot of the information needed about college credits. Students can learn more specific information from their CTC school counselor and teacher as well as on the web at www.collegetransfer.net.

Career Objectives and Parent Signatures

Ms. Butala, Mr. Elder and Mr. Hayes are busy completing Career Objectives with each student in our building. The information requested by the PA Department of Education (PDE) will be collected electronically and entered into documents which will be printed out and require parent signatures so they can be returned to individual student files. This is the first-time that PDE has required parent signatures on these documents, so we greatly appreciate your timely cooperation. When they arrive at home, please sign and return them at your very nearest convenience.

If you wish to have a copy for your records, please let us know and your son or daughter will bring one home.

*Parents please review these documents as we near the end of our first grading period and have an open and honest discussion about the selections on the Career Objective forms.*