

Behind the desk at CCC to the head of the class

Since 2015, funding for high school career and technical education (CTE) has been on the rise in Oregon. During that time, however, the number of CTE instructors has declined. Fewer CTE teachers mean fewer CTE programs in the skilled trades.

Enter the Clackamas Community College CTE Licensure Prep certificate program, a one-year, fully online program that provides the necessary skills to become an effective teacher. Topics include classroom management, instructional strategies and foundations to career and technical education. CCC was the first community college in Oregon approved for such a program and has made great strides.

Meet Kaylee Tolley. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business management in 2014, she worked in transportation management in the San Francisco Bay area before moving to Oregon and landing a job as a sales and showroom manager. But she quickly discovered her true dream was to become a teacher.



Kaylee Tolley is CCC's first CTE Licensure Prep program graduate.

In 2018, Kaylee began working at Newberg High School where she helps students meet their credit recovery and essential skills requirements. "Working in the high school has brought me more joy than I ever could imagine," Kaylee said of the experience. "I'm grateful to be surrounded by people who lift me up on my journey to becoming to a teacher."

The principal at Newberg High School recommended CCC's Licensure Prep program after Kaylee expressed an interest in teaching, and she enrolled. "I completed the entire program online while also working full time and being

very involved at the high school. I loved the online setting, the flexibility and how the faculty made the classes so engaging," Kaylee said. "CCC's Licensure Prep program is an extremely affordable way to get your foot in the door as an educator without getting a bachelor's or master's degree in education."

Kaylee is the first graduate of the college's CTE Licensure Prep program. "I'm excited for what my future in education holds and hope to teach business and marketing at the high school level," she said. The skills she learned have prepared her to go from behind the desk, to teaching in front of the class.

Learn more about how you can share your industry expertise by becoming a CTE teacher at www.clackamas.edu/cte-licensure-courses. For more information about the program, contact Laurette Scott at laurette@clackamas.edu.

