

May 2024

Gordon, H. R. D., & Schultz, D. D. (2020). The history and growth of career and technical education in America. Waveland Press Review by Dauran McNeil

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Recommended Citation

McNeil, Dauran (2024) "Gordon, H. R. D., & Schultz, D. D. (2020). The history and growth of career and technical education in America. Waveland Press Review by Dauran McNeil," *Online Journal for Workforce Education and Development*. Vol. 12: Iss. 1, Article 4.

Available at: <https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ojwed/vol12/iss1/4>

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Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been an instrumental force in driving economic development, shaping learning experiences, and advancing workforce development in America. *The history and growth of career and technical education in America* elucidates a contemporary and comprehensive synthesis of the history, philosophy, legislation, and organizational structure of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in a relevant and updated context. Through an updated perspective, the authors strive to provide readers with an insightful exploration of the evolution, foundational principles, legal frameworks, and structural components that shape the landscape of CTE. Gordon and Schultz (2020) have written an outstanding scholarly text for students, scholars, and stakeholders of CTE. This review will provide a conspectus of the book, highlighting its key features and limitations, while also providing practical recommendations for maximizing this book.

The abundance of text information is structured in a reader friendly format for readers, especially students. The authors provide an introduction to the origins and leadership of CTE which lays the foundation for the following chapters that examine the development, legislation, trends, and issues of CTE. In addition, the book's chapters explore topics of minority representation, global connections, implications for multigenerational workforce and education programs connected with CTE. Contrary to the title, the book extends beyond the historical view and growth of CTE in America to making connections with globalization of CTE, factors influencing CTE, and bridging the gap with the next generation. The book provides a historical account, in-depth analysis, and emphasis regarding the relevance of each chapter topic.

This book has several features that make it attractive for use as a text for students. The recent edition is available in paperback and electronic copy. The authors deliver the content in a reader friendly approach that is clear and simple to understand. The use of subheadings, tables, lists and graphs allow for the organization of information for readers' understanding, awareness, and conceptualization. The design and style make the book appropriate for adaptation within higher education institutions, CTE programs, curriculum, and libraries.

For educators, this book delivers a pedagogical structure of the content in an accessible format. For example, each chapter follows a standard inductive summary in an outline layout. The authors also provide questions and activities for discussion and further exploration of the topic. This highlight can facilitate class discussion and assignment components within higher education setting. Another resourceful feature of the book is the additional reading selection provided at the end of each chapter. This feature can aid in the development of course design and

student learning outcomes. There are student and instructor resources to accompany the book for course design and implementation.

While the title of the text implies a focus on CTE within America, several chapters delve into a broader global perspective, expanding the scope to encompass international considerations. On this premise, focus is given to CTE within other countries and the need for an international curriculum. The strengths and challenges of different countries around the world are examined. Assessment and comparison of CTE programs is also discussed for greater awareness and interdependence.

When comparing this text with a similar text titled *Overview of career and technical education* (Scott, 2014), it is undoubtedly clear that Gordon and Schultz (2020) offered a comprehensive approach to the content of the subject matter. In contrast to Scott (2014) contextual text, Gordon and Schultz (2020) scope for each chapter extends beyond a mere cursory examination of history, theory and philosophy of CTE, delving deeper into its development and broader implications. For example, the authors provide instructional prose throughout the text guiding the reader through each chapter. This approach effectively articulates significant contributions to the field of CTE, tracing its evolution, examining key influential factors, addressing pertinent issues and trends, and elucidating implications for the future. Due to its pedagogical and organizational structure, the text is well-suited to support the adoption of any introductory or foundational CTE course. Philosophies, theories, and learning approaches are addressed which further supports the adoption into any CTE program or curriculum. The authors present the content in a conversational tone to capture the interest and curiosity of any reader, especially students.

Creditability and reliability of the work can be ascertained in the fifth continuous edition of the book. Also, earlier versions of the book were cited in many CTE publications such as Friedel (2011); Retallick and Miller (2010); and Aliaga et al. (2014). A minor limitation of the book is the absence of a list or outline of keywords or terminologies for each chapter. The inclusion of such a feature could have further enhanced the book's educational value by aiding in the development of learning competencies.

Overall, the book is carefully designed, offering a pedagogically sound approach to unraveling the history of CTE within America, catering to the needs of both students and instructors. The authors have done phenomenal work to capture and tell the history, development, issues, and future of CTE. In addition, the authors have integrated features to achieve student learning outcomes aligned with the content. This text is highly recommended for any CTE program to provide the foundational knowledge and competencies for a successful CTE experience. Furthermore, this book is a valuable resource for faculty seeking to develop or revamp existing courses that focus on CTE or workforce development. The extensive research and wealth of information on CTE underscores its vital role in

the future of workforce development. This book stands out as an excellent choice for a textbook in related courses and is equally valuable for practitioners in the field of CTE or avid readers.

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