

## Preparing Your Students for Advanced Technological Education Next Steps

Use the following suggestions to help develop experiences for your students that will prepare them for entering an advanced technological program after high school.

1. Using your notes, prepare a self-assessment and implementation plan that covers each of the competencies discussed in this lesson. In terms of preparing your students for community college or technical school enrollment, what are you already doing effectively and which areas need improvement? Identify new ideas and resources you can integrate into your lesson planning and specify how you will accomplish this. Identify specific concepts and the units of instruction through which you will accomplish these key learning outcomes.
2. Devise a project-based learning experience that matches your students' interests and abilities. This gives them an opportunity to apply technical skills and classroom learning as well as engage their troubleshooting and teamwork skills—all in the context of investigating and solving a real-world problem. For students, it's great preparation for two-year ATE programs. For you, it provides an opportunity to assess learning within your curriculum and evaluate the effectiveness of your teaching. Identify specific concepts and the units of instruction through which you will accomplish these key learning outcomes.
3. Reach out to your local community college or ATE center and discuss whether your students can take classes or even explore potential careers using their industry network. See if there are any activities that can be used in the high school classroom that relate to important job skills, or any projects that would allow your students to work alongside a community college student or working professional in a team situation. You may also discuss strategies to strengthen your own technical skills, bring new technology to the classroom, and make your lessons more relevant to the real world. Use this link to locate a center near you: <http://atecenters.org/centers-map/>.
4. Design a high school career and technical education competition in which students need to use soft skills to improve their job performance. This could include interviewing sessions, developing a community service project, or developing a school facilities improvement project.