Hi, my name is Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan, and I’m program coordinator for the Career and Technical Special Populations Training and Resource Education Center at Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Welcome to this webcast on Texas Education Agency’s Career and technical Education Certification Guides. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 envisions that all students will achieve challenging academic and technical standards and be prepared for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions. Additionally, Certification opportunities are an avenue through which Career and Technical Education in Texas fulfills its goals under the state law: Section §29.181 Texas Education Code, _Each public school student shall master the basic skills and knowledge necessary for: (1) managing the dual roles of family member and wage earner; and (2) gaining entry-level employment in a high-skill, high-wage job or continuing the student’s education at the postsecondary level._

Earning an industry certification gives students a sense of accomplishment, a highly valued professional credential, and helps them become employable with higher starting salaries. Valid reliable certifications are also evidence of technical skill attainment.

While not endorsing or recommending any particular certificate or license, TEA provides many resources for districts to enhance students’ professional growth and development. The Career and Technical Education industry certification guide is one such resource. Prepared by the CTE staff at the guide TEA the guide is organized by alphabet and included the credential description, the regulatory entity, the procedural requirements for applying, the instructor qualifications, the TEKS covered, the testing prerequisites and the exam fees. Additionally, sources such as AchieveTexas and Instructional Material Services at Texas A&M University provide certification guides based on individual career clusters.

Before offering certifications, TEA also advises that districts should consult with local business and industry partners to determine which certifications or licensures would be most valued by local employers. In some instances, certain certifications may be best developed in partnership with postsecondary programs. To do this we recommend that CTE instructors take part in a CTE advisory committee.

Further, school districts are required to report the extent of technical skill attainment in their annual Perkins application/evaluation. Students earning industry recognized certifications and licensures is one way to determine the extent of technical skill attainment in Texas.

To access all the resources we talked about on this webcast please visit our website at [http://ctsp.tamu.edu](http://ctsp.tamu.edu).