

Agenda

2021 Advance CTE Fall Meeting
Updated: September 14, 2021

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27	
Time (EDT)	Activity
11:30 – 11:55 a.m.	Welcome Address
11:55 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Plenary Session: Meeting CTE's Moment: Exploring Philanthropy's Role in Achieving CTE Without Limits Realizing the <i>CTE Without Limits</i> vision requires a shared commitment among policymakers, practitioners, industry partners and philanthropy. Philanthropy's unique role in promoting and accelerating innovation in both policy and practice is particularly critical to advancing this ambitious vision in the years to come. This panel will feature key voices from the philanthropic community on where they see the greatest opportunities and challenges ahead for ensuring each learner can find their career success. Speakers: - Alex Harris, Vice President for Programs, Castle Foundation - Chibuzo Ezeigbo, Program Officer, The Joyce Foundation - Jade Grieve, Education Advisor, Bloomberg Philanthropies
12:30 – 12:45 p.m.	Break
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Challenging the Limits: Breakout Session Series on Turning Challenges into Opportunity Get a deep dive into topics, including tackling the ongoing instructor shortage, innovative and effective uses for stimulus funds and the benefits of virtual postsecondary CTE.
Tackling the Ongoing CTE Educator Shortage Across the country, school districts and postsecondary institutions are facing instructor shortages as educators retire or leave the profession early. States and institutions are committing to building recruitment strategies and talent pipeline programs that attract diverse CTE instructors, administrators and leaders who are demographically representative of the learners they teach and have strong industry expertise. In this session, participants will learn about leading states' efforts to broaden and diversify their CTE workforce.	

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Speakers:

- Scott Smathers, State CTE Director, Kansas
- Sarah Williams, Interim State CTE Director, Tennessee

State Uses of Stimulus Funds to Support Long-Term Outcomes

States received unprecedented resources through multiple federal stimulus investments. Now, as secondary and postsecondary education begins to return to an in-person or hybrid model, state CTE leaders have the opportunity to implement innovative strategies that can support sustainable programs. This session will share examples of how states have or are planning to leverage stimulus funding for longevity, including Indiana's plans to expand online learning offerings.

Speaker:

- PJ McGrew, State CTE Director, Indiana

Virtual CTE Beyond COVID-19: Postsecondary Lessons Learned

In the last two years, virtual learning has become ubiquitous. While access to technology and virtual employer engagement remain challenges, new opportunities also have arisen, especially for postsecondary CTE. Because of the open-access nature of virtual learning, online postsecondary CTE has the potential to advance CTE without borders and allow postsecondary learners to access education more equitably regardless of location. This session will feature findings from research conducted by the Urban Institute on how the coronavirus has changed online postsecondary CTE, including how institutions may implement digital skills training and simulated work-based learning.

Speakers:

- Theresa Anderson, Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute
- Daniel López, Research Assistant, Urban Institute

A New Approach to Evaluating CTE Equity: Designing and Piloting a CTE Equity Index

An equitable CTE system means that each learner can access and has the means to succeed in the career preparation ecosystem. Perkins V provides some tools to advance equity in CTE, but it can be challenging to make sense of the data and identify learners, subgroups and institutions that need support. With input and guidance from an expert workgroup, Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group developed a CTE Equity Index that evaluates the

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inclusivity and equitable outcomes of CTE programs at the state or local level. In this session, participants will learn about the design of the CTE Equity Index and hear about the Kentucky Center for Statistics' early pilot of the index. Participants will also discuss how to develop and apply the CTE Equity Index in their own states and communities and receive an early version of the tool.

Speakers:

- Jessica Cunningham, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for Statistics
- Austin Estes, Data & Research Manager, Advance CTE
- Emily Passias, Director, Education Strategy Group

1:30 – 1:40
p.m.

Break

1:40 – 2:25
p.m.

Latest Research Impacting CTE Breakout Session Series

Discover the latest research impacting CTE including new research on employers' perspectives of CTE, best practices in connecting and promoting non-credit and credit pathways and a sneak peek of Advance CTE's annual State of CTE report on the national landscape of early postsecondary opportunities.

Leveraging Employer Support and Participation in CTE

This session will provide participants with an overview of Advance CTE's latest research of over 300 employers, which provides tangible data points that can be used to leverage employer interest in and support for CTE. Participants will gain fresh insights into employer awareness of and attitudes towards CTE, the extent of support for increased investment in CTE, and what skills employers value the most. Now, more than ever, expanding and strengthening CTE's partnerships with employers is necessary to help CTE meet its moment by ensuring high-quality and equitable CTE

Speaker:

- Stacy Whitehouse, Senior Associate for Communications and State Engagement, Advance CTE

Connecting Noncredit and Credit Pathways to Ensure All Learning Counts

A key action within *CTE Without Limits* is for CTE leaders to build and leverage trusted systems to translate competencies and credentials into portable credit through key levers such as the expansion and standardization of credit for prior learning policies and assessments. This session focuses on

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strategies for measuring learning so that learner's success is determined by their skills, not by a system's ability to recognize it. Attendees of this session will learn about the policy priorities for promoting noncredit and credit pathways for learners as outlined in the *All Learning Counts: State Policy Toolkit* from the Lumina Foundation and about Louisiana's annual crosswalk for prior military experience and for industry-based certifications.

Speaker:

- Deidra Jackson, Managing Partner, Opus Strategies / Lumina Foundation

Getting a Head Start: Early Postsecondary Opportunities in CTE

CTE Without Limits calls on states to expand, simplify and standardize early postsecondary credit, articulation and transfer policies to better facilitate high-quality early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs) for every learner. This session will preview Advance CTE's 50-state report on EPSOs and enable participants to hear from state leaders on programs that specifically address common barriers to EPSO participation, particularly for learners from historically marginalized communities.

Speaker:

- Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director, Maine

Reconnecting Graduates with their Educational Aspirations: Successes and Barriers

States play an important role in ensuring that each learner feels welcome in, is supported by, and has the means to participate in a career preparation ecosystem. High school graduates, especially low-income learners and learners of color, have experienced significant disruption to their career aspirations as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. To better understand these challenges, the factors that contribute to them, and the role states can play in preparing learners for careers, researchers from Strada Education will present results of a national survey of disrupted secondary and postsecondary learners, including equity implications, potential supports for these learners, and solutions to barriers to success.

Speakers:

- Melissa Leavitt, Director of Research Strada Education

- Nichole Torpey-Saboe, Director of Research, Strada Education

2:25 – 2:35

Break

p.m.

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2:35 – 2:40 p.m.	Welcome Back + Sponsor Video
2:40 – 3:15 p.m.	Plenary Session: States Leading <i>CTE Without Limits</i>
3:15 – 3:45 p.m.	States Leading <i>CTE Without Limits</i> Vision Breakout Series
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Advance CTE Business Meeting (Members only)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28	
Time (EDT)	Activity
11:30 – 12:05 p.m.	Welcome and A Celebration of Leadership: Advance CTE's Star of Education Awards
12:05 – 12:35 p.m.	<p>Plenary Session: Meeting CTE's Moment: Federal Workforce Development Strategies to Build a Diverse Talent Pipeline</p> <p>The U.S. workforce and economy experienced massive disruption and upheaval in the last two years. While signs point to a strong economic recovery, without an intentional focus on equity, that recovery will be inequitable and the pre-pandemic skills gap is at risk of growing. With the recent infrastructure investments and the pending reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), this session will explore what the federal government is doing to build a career preparation ecosystem that will ensure robust and diverse talent pipelines and close skills gaps.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brent Parton, Senior Advisor for Workforce Development, U.S. Department of Labor - Pronita Gupta, Special Assistant to the President for Labor and Workers - Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President

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12:35 – 12:45 p.m.	Break
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Challenging the Limits: Breakout Session Series on Equity, Quality and Leadership Explore ways in which you and your staff can ensure a strong CTE system in your state including promising approaches to the comprehensive local needs assessment, leveraging federal programs to expand high-quality and equitable CTE, leading with an equity lens and using data to drive transformational change.
Leveraging the CLNA to Meet the Needs of Employers and Learners As states embark on the next round of the comprehensive local needs assessment, it is a critical time to reflect on what worked - and what didn't work - to improve the process going forward. This session will dig into lessons learned from Colorado, Nevada and South Carolina and next steps for leading an effective CLNA process that drives positive and equitable outcomes for learners in your state. Speakers: - Sarah Heath, State CTE Director, Colorado - Angel Malone, State CTE Director, South Carolina - Craig Statucki, State CTE Director, Nevada Aligning Federal Programs Toward Equitable Learner Outcomes Innovative and equitable CTE in states will be most impactful when federal programs that serve common individuals are aligned. Such collaboration allows for unique learner needs to be met, while also implementing efficient and non-duplicative strategies. <i>CTE Without Limits</i> calls for cross-systems alignment and collaboration, especially to ensure support for historically marginalized communities. Coordination across partners and programs is needed to realize the vision for CTE. This session will provide insight into how states can use federal programs outside of Perkins V, or in partnership with Perkins V, to bolster the state's vision for CTE.	

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Speakers:

- Molly Bashay, Senior Policy Analyst, Education, Labor, and Workforce Justice, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- Caroline Treschitta, Policy Analyst, National Skills Coalition

Leading Through Change

It's a challenging time to be a leader. Nearly every aspect of our world has been disrupted and when, where and how we work and how we manage and lead our teams is no exception. Join us for a conversation about building and supporting our teams to lead with an equity lens and achieve excellence, while taking care of yourself as a leader.

Speaker:

- Carissa Moffat Miller, Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers

Leading CTE with an Equity Mindset

State CTE leaders have the responsibility to identify and dismantle the institutional and systemic barriers that limit access, opportunity and outcomes for learners, particularly those who have been historically marginalized and excluded from high-quality CTE programs. This session will highlight some of the bold commitments Maryland, Ohio and Wisconsin have made to advancing equity in CTE at the secondary and postsecondary levels, including leveraging Perkins V and Methods of Administration, collecting and sharing disaggregated data to make it actionable, and conducting system-wide audits to identify gaps in opportunities and achievement.

Speakers:

- Rebecca Crance, Equitable Access Program Administrator, Ohio
- Colleen McCabe, State CTE Director, Wisconsin
- China Wilson, Equity and Civil Rights Compliance Specialist, Maryland

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Using Data to Drive Transformational Change

Equipped with accurate, transparent and trustworthy data, state CTE leaders can shepherd a transformation of their CTE system and improve equity and quality statewide. But how can state leaders shift from compliance to improvement and build a CTE data ecosystem that drives systems change? In this session, participants will learn how to use CTE data to drive transformational change and will hear from two leading states, Delaware and Nebraska, that are seizing the opportunity window that Perkins V provides to bring their vision for an equitable and high-quality CTE ecosystem into reality.

Speakers:

- Katie Graham, State CTE Director, Nebraska
- Jonathan Wickert, Education Associate - Postsecondary Programs, CTE, Delaware

1:30 – 1:40
p.m.

Break

1:40 – 2:25
p.m.

Role Alikes

2:25 – 2:35
p.m.

Break

2:35 – 3:05
p.m.

Plenary Session: CTE Without Limits: The Future of Non-Degree Credentials

For the past few years, advocacy efforts have been underway to open up federal financial aid to support short-term CTE programs that lead to non-degree credentials. When executed effectively, these programs can provide learners - especially working learners - with the skills needed to achieve career success and self-sufficiency. However, some researchers find that these programs lead to low-wage, dead-end jobs. As state CTE leaders grapple with the nation's persistent skills gap, what role can and should non-degree credentials play? This session will examine the degree discrimination associated with non-degree credentials, as well as the cautions and potential they present.

Speaker:

- Martha Ross, Senior Fellow - Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution

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3:05 – 3:50
p.m.

Challenging the Limits: Breakout Session Series on Centering Learners

Understand how to take a learner-centered approach by digging into topics including social emotional learning and CTE, elevating authentic learner voice, understanding social capital's intersection with CTE and more.

Social Emotional Learning and CTE

The coronavirus pandemic and athlete experiences at the Tokyo Olympics brought to the forefront what educators have long known - the skills needed to be successful in careers and in life extend well beyond core academics and technical competencies and must include empowering learners to manage their mental health and well-being. *CTE Without Limits* elevates the experiences of each learner to build skills across the whole learner spectrum, including linking social-emotional learning (SEL) with CTE to advance and strengthen equity, career advisement and navigation and learner outcomes. Experts from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning and Coalition for Career Development Center will share real-world examples of state initiatives and practices to align SEL and CTE.

Speakers:

- Scott Solberg, Vice President of Research, Coalition for Career Development Center
- Damien Sweeney, Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling - Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky

Elevating Authentic CTE Learner Voice

CTE programs must be designed with learners, not simply for learners, to be responsive to learners' diverse needs at every stage of the CTE continuum. This can only occur if learners have direct and ongoing input into the design and delivery of CTE programs and experiences. This session will explore the what, why and how of elevating and leveraging CTE learners' voices and perspectives to the overall improvement of CTE programs and policies.

Speakers:

- Ashley Conrad, Associate Director of Programs, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
- Autumn Steffens, CTE Learner
- Chelle Travis, Executive Director, SkillsUSA

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Social Capital in CTE: Building Relationships that Matter

It's not always what you know; many times it's who you know. CTE provides a unique opportunity for learners to cultivate a network of peers, educators and industry professionals to leverage throughout their career journey. This network is referred to as social capital. This session will define social capital within CTE and identify why relationships matter for each learner to achieve college and career success. This session will also include best practices that states can leverage to ensure learners from historically marginalized communities in CTE have access to the same social capital opportunities as their peers.

Speakers:

- Daraja Brown, Postsecondary CTE Learner, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Mahnaz Charania, Senior Research Fellow, Clayton Christensen Institute

Ensuring Access to CTE for all Learners through Equitable Recruitment and Admissions Requirements

CTE Without Limits encourages CTE leaders to identify and dismantle the institutional barriers that limit access, opportunity and outcomes for some learners. One of the most impactful ways states can do this is by ensuring the processes that allow for learners to be aware of and to access high-quality CTE programs are equitable. Attendees of this session will gain insight into state strategies for breaking down barriers to access, including how Massachusetts redesigned their secondary CTE admissions requirements to allow for more equity and access and how Maryland is ensuring recruitment is non-discriminatory to learners with disabilities.

Speakers:

- Elizabeth Bennett, State CTE Director, Massachusetts
- Tiara Booker-Dwyer, State CTE Director, Maryland
- Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts

3:50 – 4:20
p.m.

Updates from OCTAE

Massive new federal investments have been or are being made in our country. These investments, including stimulus packages, the infrastructure package, an upcoming budget resolution and President Biden's proposed American Jobs Plan as a through-line, can and should support closing skills gaps and an equitable economic recovery. Hear from our federal partners at the U.S. Department's Office of

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	Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) about how the Administration plans to leverage these investments to support increased and equitable access and success in CTE and career pathways. Learn about efforts for cross-federal agency collaboration and how OCTAE is thinking of supporting states as they approach the mid-point of their state Perkins V plans.
4:20 – 4:35 p.m.	Closing remarks