

# ADVANCE CTE

State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work

## About Advance CTE

*Advance CTE: State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work* is the longest-standing national non-profit that represents State Directors and state leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories. Advance CTE was formerly known as the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC).

Established in 1920, Advance CTE's **vision** is to support an innovative CTE system that prepares individuals to succeed in education and their careers and poises the United States to flourish in a global, dynamic economy through leadership, advocacy and partnerships. Our **mission** is to support visionary state leadership, cultivate best practices and speak with a collective voice on national policy to promote academic and technical excellence that ensures a career-ready workforce.

## What We Do

**Lead:** Advance CTE works with its members and partners to ensure CTE is high-quality, highly visible. In 2016, Advance CTE partnered with 11 national organizations to advance [Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE](#), setting a bold vision for where our education system needs to go to ensure all learners find career success. Advance CTE also serves as a co-lead on JPMorgan Chase's [New Skills for Youth initiative](#), a multi-year, multi-state effort to transform states' career preparation system.

**Advocate:** Advance CTE is a leading advocate for policies and legislation that enhance and sustain high-quality CTE programs throughout the nation. On behalf of our members and the field, Advance CTE actively monitors federal and state legislative developments, engages key members of Congress, supports and partners with the Congressional CTE Caucuses, and works with relevant federal agencies.

**Create High-quality Resources:** Advance CTE routinely provides the CTE community with vital tools, resources and timely information required to support high-quality CTE, including policy briefs on critical CTE and college- and career-ready topics, success stories on the ground, and relevant research from the field. Advance CTE's [Learning that Works Resource Center](#) is a one-stop shop for all career readiness-related resources. Advance CTE also provides professional development opportunities to its members through two annual meetings and the broader CTE community through regular [webinars](#) and resources on key issues.

**Promote Quality through Case-Making & Communications:** Advance CTE oversees [CTE: Learning that works for America](#)<sup>®</sup>, a national branding campaign to support high-quality CTE. Nearly every state in the nation has signed on to this campaign and is using the campaign brand and resources to communicate the benefits of high-quality CTE to all stakeholders. Advance CTE also collects state and national data to help demonstrate the value of CTE to students, employers and the economy, and leads the annual [Excellence in Action Award](#) program to recognize model programs of study.

**Set a Consistent Standard:** Advance CTE provides leadership and support for the [National Career Clusters<sup>®</sup> Framework](#) to deliver high-quality CTE programs of study through improved design and instruction. All states use this framework in some capacity for program development, organization or reporting.

## Who We Serve

Advance CTE's members include the State CTE Directors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. We also serve other state leaders who work on CTE-related issues within K-12, postsecondary and workforce development. In addition, our membership includes an array of organizations that represent key partners and stakeholders of the CTE system, as well as local- and institution-level leaders.