

Advance CTE Board of Directors' Meeting
MINUTES
March 10, 2021
Zoom call

ATTENDEES: Sarah Heath, Bernadette Howard, Laura Scheibe, Steve Playl, Katie Graham, Thalea Longhurst, Jeralyn Jargo, Victoria Crownover, Cathie Raymond, Luke Rhine, Marcie Mack, Angel Malone, Donna Lewelling

STAFF: Kimberly Green, Kate Kreamer, Austin Estes, Katie Fitzgerald, Krissy Haynes, Meredith Hills, Scott Stump

Welcome: Heath called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. ET, welcoming everyone to the Advance CTE Board Meeting. Heath introduced the new Advance CTE staff member, Scott Stump. Heath also announced that Meghan Wills left the Advance CTE team. Kreamer announced there will be a new position posted in the next week or two for the role of State Policy Manager, which will oversee New Skills and management of the team of individuals that were under Wills.

Advance CTE Financial Update: Scheibe presented the Advance CTE FY21 financial reports, which have been reconciled through January 31, 2021 or 58 percent of fiscal year. For FY21, Advance CTE has received 96 percent of its income. Advance CTE has surpassed its state membership targets due to Indiana renewing their state membership. Organizational and Associate Memberships continue to grow, in part due to interest in the Spring Meeting. Registration and Sponsorship sales for the Spring Meeting opened in January and Advance CTE has met its revenue goal. Interest is 25 percent above target.

Expenses for FY21 are at 32 percent of budget. This is below target due to an increase of salaries and subscriptions covered by grants. Primary expenses are salaries and benefits, technology subscriptions, consultants, accounting, bank fees, and rent. Investments are doing well. Rate of return is slightly down from December. The overall rate of return is 14.33 percent with the equity only rate of return at 23.79 percent.

Heath asked for approval of the FY21 financial reports.

**MOTION: To approve the Advance CTE FY21 financial report, as presented.
Mack; Longhurst.
MOTION APPROVED.**

FY22 Nominations Committee Report: Howard presented the FY22 Nominations Committee Report. She stated that the committee had a successful outcome with an excellent slate of nominees, and that they would like to put this slate up for election at the Spring Meeting. The slate includes the following nominees for Secretary/Treasurer: Michelle Aldrich (WY), Katie Graham (NE), and Angel Malone (SC). Region D nominees include: Thalea Longhurst (UT) and Elaine Perea (NM). The At-Large State Director nominees include: Tiara Booker-Dwyer (MD), Angela Kremers (AR) and Jacque Treaster (MT). The Nomination Committee also approved

moving forward each officer with Heath becoming Past President, Mack becoming President, and Scheibe becoming Vice President.

Heath asked for approval to advance the slate, as presented.

**MOTION: To approve advancing the slate, as presented.
Raymond; Jargo.
MOTION APPROVED.**

Federal Policy Update: Hills started by recapping Secretary Miguel Cardona's nomination process for U.S. Secretary of Education. Advance CTE was involved in the nomination process in several ways, including participating in a meeting with the HELP Committee's nominations team, sending a letter to Congress, and submitting questions for his hearing. The hearing was the first time Dr. Cardona spoke about his history as a CTE student. He stated that he was a proud CTE graduate. Hills shared that Dr. Cardona was confirmed by the Senate. Dr. Cardona listed "supporting high-quality CTE" as an area of focus in his introductory letter.

Next, Hills shared the five priorities for higher education that the Biden-Harris Administration released:

- Community Colleges
- Training Programs and credentials
- Federal student aid
- Equity in higher education
- For-profit colleges

President Biden's priorities overlap with Advance CTE's higher education priorities in a number of key ways. Hills stated that they found out today that the Jobs Act will be moving in Congress again, which supports short-term Pell.

Next, Hills shared an update about the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which just passed Congress. It is the largest stimulus package and includes:

- \$169.5 billion for education, including,
 - \$125.8 billion for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, which authorizes activities through Perkins V
 - \$39.585 for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- \$362 billion for local and state aid
- \$7.27 billion for an Emergency Connectivity Fund

Hills also provided reauthorization updates for the Higher Education Act (HEA), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). There has not been much movement on these bills. For HEA, the Chair, Lamar Alexander, retired so there doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency to move on reauthorization. There is also little agreement between chambers and parties on what the bill should include and look like. WIOA is starting to

get movement, with the House working on a proposal for WIOA. Finally, Hills stated that there is not much congressional interest in ESSA at the moment.

Next, Estes discussed the work Advance CTE is doing with Alicia Hyslop from the Association of Career and Technical Education to clarify and give guidance around resetting performance targets under Perkins V. On January 21, 2021, Advance CTE hosted a work group to compose guidance and recommendations on going through the process of resetting targets. The guidance was released on February 19, 2021. Since then, Advance CTE has had conversations with OCTAE and they have reinforced that they want to provide as much flexibility for states with the process as they can within the provisions of the law.

Estes shared that OCTAE has confirmed that they do not have the authority to waive Section 123, which is the provision around improvement plans, without an act of Congress. OCTAE also addressed the timing of public comment. They clarified that the public comment period must begin 60 days before the new targets are submitted, but that there is no minimum for the amount of time the public comment period has to take. The process for the public comment period can differ from the process used in developing the Perkins V plans. Advance CTE recommends a 30-day public comment period. Estes said if states want to revise their performance targets but are unable to make the May 21 deadline, they should talk to their regional coordinator.

Heath asked if OCTAE planned on communicating this information directly to the State Directors. Estes responded that OCTAE said the guidance released in the memo from January 15, 2021 will be the last correspondence they plan to share.

Finally, Estes provided an update regarding ESSA waivers. On February 22, 2021, the Department of Education issued guidance to state education agencies stating they could request waivers of their accountability and school identification requirements under ESSA for the 2020-2021 academic year; however, they are still required to administer assessments. States can offer assessments remotely or extend the assessment window. States will be required to administer the assessments and report data under ESSA. Advance CTE clarified with OCTAE what this meant for the Perkins academic performance indicators. OCTAE explained if a state has access to the data, then the data will need to be reported under Perkins. The academic proficiency indicators will still apply. The accountability waivers under ESSA do not apply in this case.

Heath opened the floor to questions and discussions. Rhine expressed gratitude to Hills and Estes for doing an excellent job keeping the field informed.

Hills opened up a discussion seeking input regarding opportunity youth. Opportunity youth are defined as young people who are between the ages of 16 to 24 years old and are disconnected from school and work. Hills asked:

- How much does this group intersect with your work?
- Who primarily serves opportunity youth in your state?
- Should Advance CTE more deliberately advocate for opportunity youth?

Heath explained that in Colorado, it is the department of labor and the county agencies tied to the workforce centers that are primarily responsible for opportunity youth. Crownover added that because there are so many decisions on how WIOA funds are used at the local levels, it has a patchwork impact within the state. Malone stated this group is not clearly defined for South Carolina as there are several different agencies working with opportunity youth but it is not definitively anyone's responsibility. Lewelling said Oregon is lucky to have Title I & Title II WIOA under the same agency, but there are so many agencies servicing opportunity youth that it seems hodge podge. Rhine said that Advance CTE should more deliberately advocate for opportunity youth as it is an underserved population. Raymond, Jargo and Longhurst said it is a hodge podge in their states. Jargo said that Minnesota doesn't have a state-wide strategic plan around opportunity youth, so it makes them ineffective and inefficient at using the resources they have. Hills thanked everyone for their comments.

Strategic Planning: Green divided everyone into breakouts to discuss four questions based on the annual report:

1. What are you most proud of?
2. Is there anything that surprised you?
3. How do you think Advance CTE is best serving our members?
4. How do you think Advance CTE can improve service to our members?

When the Board returned from breakouts, Green asked for one reflection from each group. Scheibe's reflection focused on the CLNA and how Advance CTE can help states leverage what they learned from this process to help them not make the same mistakes, draw on best practices and combine efforts as they enter the next round of CLNA. Green added to the reflection by asking if Advance CTE could be a broker by bringing states together to crowdsource a shared solution. Kreamer shared that her group found that continuing to offer hybrid and virtual opportunities was important going forward to create a more connected and inclusive environment. Graham shared the idea of having Advance CTE help states with the CARES Act funds by creating a list of specific and tangible ways to leverage and use the funds. Malone suggested that Advance CTE develop best practices around CTE portability.

Heath adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. ET.