

## QUICK UPDATES

### Upcoming Advance CTE and Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings

#### **Advance CTE Board Meetings**

- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. – Noon ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

#### **The Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings**

- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

#### **Joint Board Meeting**

- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

### Looking ahead: (all time listed are eastern time zone)

January 20, 2018 – Conference call to approve the audit and 990s (Advance CTE at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.; Joint meeting 2:30 – 3 p.m.; Center 3 – 4 p.m.)

February 25 – 27, 2018 – Strategic Planning Retreat (in person, BWI Marriott)

April 2, 2018 – In person meeting in conjunction with Spring meeting

June 20, 2018 – Conference call to approve the FY19 budgets (Advance CTE 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.; Center to Advance CTE 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

### State CTE Director Changes

#### *Transitions*

- In July, Advance CTE received the following notices regarding State Director transitions:
  - **North Carolina:** Jo Anne Honeycutt will leave her post as State Director on September 15. An interim has not yet been named.
  - Thank you, Jo Anne, for your leadership, energy and commitment to leading our organization through many major milestones – a new brand, name, and vision – to name a few! You will be missed! Stepping back into the position of Past President will be Rod Duckworth, State CTE Director in Florida.
- **Mentor pairing updates:** This summer, we have paired several new State Directors with veteran leaders. Here's a quick snapshot of the pairings we've made over the past three months:

<b>New State Director</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Marci Johnson (Illinois)	Guy Jackson (Wyoming)
Cathie Raymond (Arizona)	Thalea Longhurst (Utah)
Chad Maclin (DC)	Lynne Gilli (Maryland)
Chris Deaton (Indiana)	Rod Duckworth (Florida)
Colleen McCabe (Wisconsin)	Jeralyn Jargon (Minnesota)

- Check out the blog posts for the following new State Directors: [Indiana](#) and [DC](#).
- Additionally, the following states remain without permanent leadership: **Alabama, New York, Oregon, South Carolina** and **Texas**.

# Strategic Priority: Ensure strong organizational governance and fiscal security for both Advance CTE and The Center to Advance CTE

**Finance Update:** We are two months (17%) into our new fiscal year and are busily working to close out the last fiscal year with the accountant. The accountant has reconciled the finances through the end of July. Overall, we are in a very solid fiscal position. State dues have been coming in as planned, as are fall meeting registrations and grants/contracts. The annual audit has been scheduled to take place in November.

Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 54.33% of budgeted income
Expended 13.94% of budgeted expenses

Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 74.25% of budgeted income
Expended 6.17% of budgeted expenses

**Fundraising**

Advance CTE is currently pursuing a variety of federal, corporate and foundation contacts to discuss potential grants and contracts. Below is a chart explaining this month’s engagement with various development opportunities.

Grant/Proposal/Contract	Organization /Partner	Engagement in Past Month	Status
Siemens Foundation		In late July, we submitted a proposal to Siemens for a two-year grant proposal, which will continue to focus on providing technical assistance to states but also build a set of tools and trainings targeted at activating and recruiting champions within the guidance and career development community. We are now in the process of refining the proposal. Their Board will meet in the fall, which is when they approve new grants.	Ongoing & Proposal Development
New Skills for Youth	JP Morgan Chase; CCSSO	A fuller update is below about recent and upcoming initiatives and deliverables supported by the NSFY grant.	Ongoing
Postsecondary program quality	Joyce Foundation	We have been engaged in discussions with Joyce since last fall and are now in the early stages of putting together a proposal to use our upcoming program approval benchmark tool in a small number of states to advance quality CTE programs at the postsecondary level. The proposal would be due in early Fall, approved in December and begin in January 2018.	Proposal Development
IDIQ – Connecting Secondary CTE & Apprenticeships	OCTAE	We are continuing to provide support for the final set of deliverables, including a resource guide on connecting CTE and apprenticeships for state and local leaders, which will be released by September 2017.	Ongoing
Employer Engagement in STEM	NSF	We are considering submitting a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a contract to support and engage employers around our nationally tested messages and to additional tools to help strengthen their involvement and support of CTE and STEM. The proposal would be due in early September, which is a	Ongoing

		challenge given capacity. We may submit a scaled-down proposal – for a smaller pool of funds – in the coming months to NSFY	
Misc.		In August, we had meetings with Annie E. Casey Foundation and Bloomberg, both of which were exploratory and set to lay groundwork for future opportunities.	Preliminary

**Strategic Priority: Provide, encourage and support professional learning to expand the skills, content knowledge and leadership of state CTE leaders.**

**Membership Update**

Advance CTE received 3 new memberships – all Associate, Non-state.

In August, staff also closed the dues renewal period and cancelled all non-paying members or those who indicated they wished to cancel. Those numbers are:

- 9 Associate, State members
- 10 Associate, Non-state members
- 1 Organizational member
- TOTAL: 20 cancellations

During the last week of August, staff began the first official audit of membership, which is part of the newly installed control processes to ensure fidelity of our membership database and email listservs. The results of the audit will be shared during the September report.

Total membership as of August 31, 2017: **406** individuals

- State Membership\*: 53 states (representing 53 State Directors and 159 state members)
- Associate, State: 9
- Associate, Non-state: 85
- Organizational: 33 organizations (representing 100 individuals)

\*Note: The state membership category is now a disaggregated count of the State Directors and state members.

**Meetings/Events**

Event Name	Date	Total Participants	Total Participating State Directors	% of Registration Goal
2017 Fall Meeting	October 16-18	113	27	67%

Early Bird registration for the 2017 Fall Meeting ended in mid-August. By that time, we had reached more than 60% of our registration goal. Staff attribute this to a number of factors, including an early registration launch, a full agenda being posted much earlier than normal, and a balanced variety of topics and issues being addressed.

Meeting sponsorship launched on August 2, and we have secured 43% of our target (\$13,500). Sponsorship closes on September 15, and staff are making every effort to meet the target by that deadline.

## **Member Resources and Supports**

### **New Skills for Youth Update:**

New Skills for Youth: The NSFY team continues to work with Phase Two states on refining their outcomes goals and designing an effective progress monitoring system. The project team has recently begun working on the NSFY Fall Convening, taking place in Cincinnati, Ohio November 1-3, 2017.

State of CTE: Career Development and Advisement: Staff recently launched three surveys for the upcoming State of CTE report. One survey will be administered to State CTE Directors and the other will be administered to a sampling of the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA's) 33,000 members. Additionally a version of the State CTE Director survey will be sent to state guidance directors. Staff will analyze the survey results throughout September, and a preview of the survey conclusions will be presented at the Advance CTE Fall Meeting. The report will be released in early February 2018.

Rural briefs: Earlier this month Advance CTE released the first brief in the *CTE on the Frontier* series. That brief, focused on [catalyzing local efforts to improve program quality](#) in rural communities, features strategies from Nebraska, South Dakota, Idaho and Mississippi. The second brief in the series is scheduled to be released at the end of September and will profile strategies to connect rural learners to the world of work.

Labor Market Information guide: Staff began drafting a guide for the dissemination of labor market information to key stakeholders. The guide will include prompts to help states think through their dissemination strategies, as well as state case studies for Kentucky, Nevada and Washington. The guide will be released in mid-November.

Resource Center: The Resource Center had its best month on record in August with more than 10,000 page views, fueled in part by sustained traffic to new Advance CTE resources. Recent Advance CTE publications include *The Value and Promise of CTE* (670 hits), *CTE on the Frontier* (570 hits), *Opportunities for Connecting Secondary CTE and Apprenticeships* (310 hits) and *Mapping Career Readiness in State ESSA Plans* (170 hits). The most visited topic page for August was Career Advisement.



### **State Policy Update:**

Program Approval Policy Benchmark Tool: After updates to the program approval policy tool were made, staff sent the draft for review to eight Advance CTE members and six organizational partners, including one representative from a school district. Staff incorporated the valuable feedback from these reviews and drafted a members-only facilitation guide to use with the rubric. Currently the tool

is being tested by two volunteer state leaders before it is finalized. The will be released on October 3, along with a webinar explaining how the tool works.

CTE Virtual Institute: Development of the CTE Virtual Institute is underway, with a schedule launch date of October 23 (immediately following Advance CTE’s fall meeting). The CTE Virtual Institute is a 7-module web-based crash course on CTE that is designed to educate new audiences on the Putting Learner Success Vision and the core components of a high-quality CTE system. In August, staff recorded short videos that will guide participants through the course and make connections across the course material. Additionally, Advance CTE developed a new graphic to help promote the CTE Virtual Institute.



Industry Expert Working Groups: The first working group kickoff happened in late July with a productive call on exploring innovative roles for industry experts. This group includes representatives from California, Hawai’i, Kentucky, Nebraska, Ohio, New Jersey, ACTE, Project Lead the Way and the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Further calls will happen monthly for five months, and participants will identify concrete strategies and potential next steps for action. The group will conclude with a written report from the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders.

The second group, focusing on strategies within secondary and postsecondary relationships, had its kick-off session on August 29. Representatives from Hawai’i, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, ACTE, Jobs for the Future and the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) joined the conversation.

**Strategic Priority: Lead a cross-organizational and cross-state effort to successfully build awareness, advocacy and accomplishment of the *Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE.***

Over the summer, we released a [blog series](#), highlighting the opportunities and initiatives aligned with each principle.

More importantly, as an organization, we have embedded *Putting Learner Success First* in all of our organizational priorities, strategies and initiatives. While we continue to present at state and national conferences on *Putting Learner Success First*, share our [resources](#), including the [video](#) released in May, and engage our partners, the reach and impact of the shared vision is most evident in the success and reach of our aligned research, communications and member supports.

For example, in August, Advance CTE convened a Career Cluster Task Force, which is charged with establishing recommendations and action steps around the “next generation” of the National Career Clusters® Framework. Over a two-day meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, a diverse group of stakeholders – including State CTE Directors, researchers, practitioners and representatives from national advocacy organizations – unpacked the current value and utility of the current Framework and identified opportunities for the future. Underpinning this discussion was *Putting Learner Success First*, and Advance CTE’s overall vision for the future of CTE.

The Task Force, which is being led by Dr. Danielle Mezera, will be convened virtually 2-3 more times before the recommendations are finalized in January 2018, to inform the Board of Directors' strategic planning in February 2018.

**Strategic Priority: Build on our existing strong public policy leadership by developing and disseminating legislation and public policy that impacts education, economic and workforce development in support of expanded access to and quality of CTE.**

**Federal Advocacy Plan:**

With the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate in recess for most of August, the pace of legislative action has slowed down. As we gear up for Congress to come back in early September, Advance CTE has focused on building awareness and support for reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins) and the federal investment in Perkins Basic State Grants. In addition, we've started to hone in on the Federal Policy and Advocacy Strategy and determine how to further support its implementation. For Professional Development, we've begun the early analysis of the Perkins Implementation Survey, which was completed by all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. The results will be shared in detail at the Fall Meeting, with member resources to follow. For Promotion, we've designed a short newsletter with the top things to know in CTE to send on a monthly basis to all of the House and Senate education staffers. In coordination with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), we will develop content each month that highlights the latest CTE resources, news articles and fun facts about CTE. Our goal is to provide timely and useful information that will raise awareness about CTE and continue to position Advance CTE as a go-to organization for Hill Staff.

**Perkins:**

We continued our efforts to apply pressure to the Senate to act swiftly on reauthorization of Perkins and met with seven staffers for members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. During these meetings, we've provided resources and information on CTE and Perkins and encouraged movement on Perkins reauthorization. Staff have relayed similar messages about how disagreements around secretarial authority are holding up the reauthorization process. Republican offices emphasize that they want to maintain the provisions related to secretarial prohibitions found in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Democratic offices emphasize that those prohibitions do not provide enough accountability. While we have reminded staff that Advance CTE hasn't taken a position on the issue and does not plan to enter this political debate, some offices have encouraged us to weigh in on secretarial authority to get the process moving. We are hopeful that pressure from the House and from other education groups will push reauthorization forward. On August 28, Representatives Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and Thompson (R-PA) also held a [press conference](#) at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology to urge the Senate and Whitehouse to take up reauthorization. In addition, we plan to host a meeting in September with the core education groups in D.C. with an interest in Perkins to strategize about how we can work together to encourage the Senate to take up reauthorization.

**Budget / Appropriations:**

In preparation for Congress to continue their work on the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Budget and Appropriations processes in early September, Advance CTE partnered with the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW) to meet with members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to advocate for a strong federal investment in Perkins. In addition, Advance CTE provided input on and signed on to this [CIAW letter to Senate appropriators](#) about the importance of this investment and other key education and workforce development programs. To reinforce this message, we worked

with ACTE to send a separate letter to Senate appropriators about the importance of the federal investment in CTE. We anticipate that the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up a spending bill the first week of September.

The House is also likely to consider appropriations legislation during their first week back in session. They are scheduled to vote on [H.R. 3354](#), an eight bill omnibus appropriations bill the week of September 4 (which includes level-funding for the FY18 allocation for Perkins Basic State Grants and National Programs). Many amendments to the bill were submitted and the House Rules Committee required these amendments to be "[budget authority and outlay neutral](#)," meaning that any proposed increase in a program's allocation must be offset by a decrease elsewhere in the same bill. Importantly, two amendments to add funds to the Perkins Basic State Grants were submitted (but we were not involved in drafting them or contacted by these offices about them):

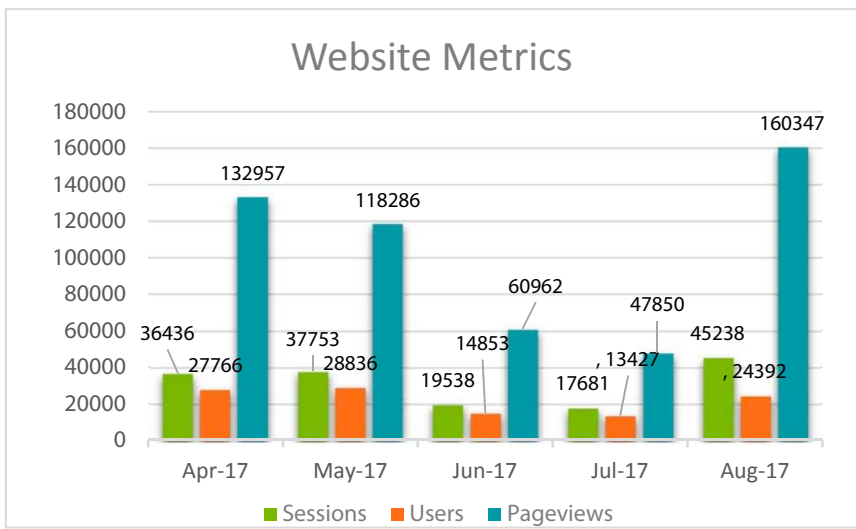
- 1) An [amendment from Rep. Lewis \(R-MN\)](#) would add \$70 million to the state grants and deducts that amount from "For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, titles III, IV, V, VI, and VII of the HEA, and section 117 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, \$2,038,126,000)."
- 2) An [amendment from Rep. Keating \(D-MA\)](#) would add \$10 million to the state grants and deducts that amount from the expenditures for the Office of the Secretary General Departmental Management at the Department of Health and Human Services.

We do not yet know if either of these amendments will proceed beyond the House Rules Committee. Given that the offsets for these increases to the Perkins Basic State Grants are controversial, would not likely yield much public support and may not be considered when the bill goes before the House, we have decided to stay silent about them in the time leading up to the bill's consideration. A number of other advocacy groups have also remained silent on a number of amendments that would provide increases to the programs they care about at the expense of others.

### **Congressional Offices Engaged in August 2017:**

- Meeting with Kerry McKittrick, Rep. Langevin (D-RI) and Katie Brown, Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)
- Meeting with John Don, Sen. Scott (R-SC)
- Meeting with Brittany Weaver, Sen. Hassan (D-NH)
- Meeting with Brian Moulton, Sen. Baldwin (D-WI)
- Meeting with Karen McCarthy, Sen. Murkowski (R-AK)
- Meeting with Nancy Martinez, Sen. Young (R-IN)
- Meeting with Victoria Lee, Sen. Moran (R-KS)
- Meeting with Pamela Davidson, Sen. Cassidy (R-LA)
- Meeting with Jesse Mahan, Sen. Lankford (R-OK)
- Meeting with Gohar Sedighi, Sen. Franken (D-MN)
- Email communication with Brent Palmer, Sen. Feinstein (D-CA)

# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

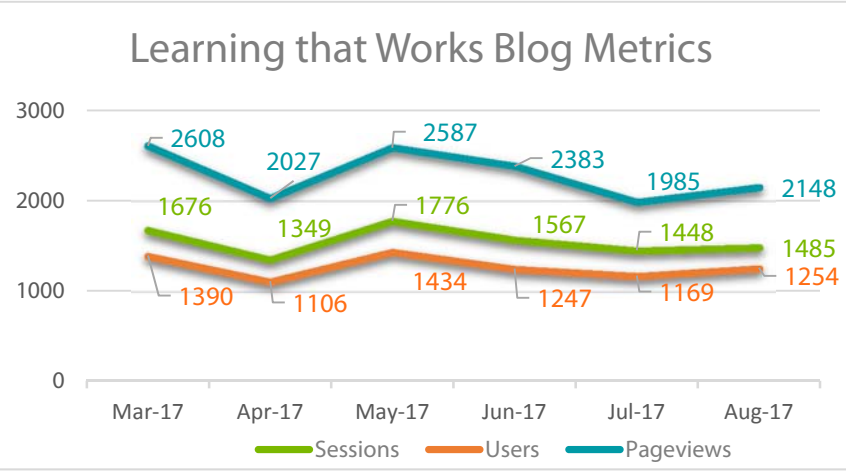


### Major Organizational Releases/Initiatives

- [Resource Center](#) (1925)
- [Value and Promise of CTE](#) (675)
- [CTE on the Frontier](#) (589)

### Acquisition of site users

- Organic search (45%)
- Direct (38%)
- Referral (16%)

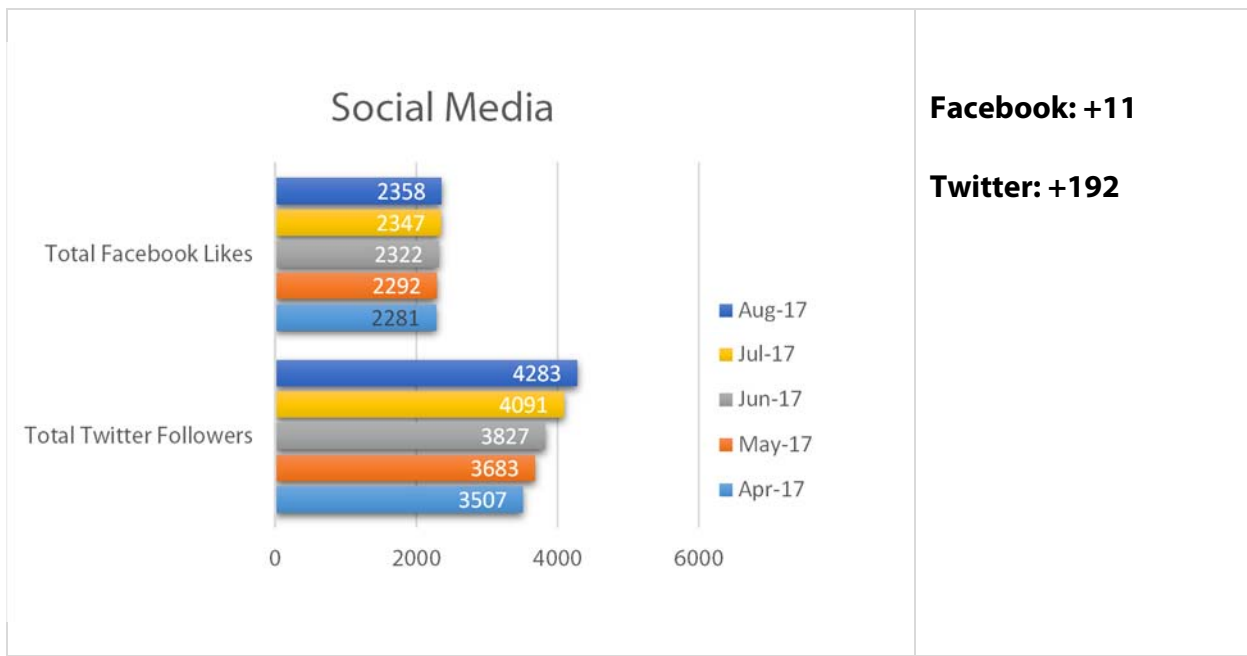


### 14 Blog Posts Published

Most visited blogs:

- [New Resources to Help You Sell CTE](#)
- [How to Sell CTE to Parents & Students, States Share Lessons Learned](#)
- [Welcome to Chad Maclin!](#)





## Media

Advance CTE was featured in the media this month including:

- [Policymakers Begin Looking at College Prep Alternatives for Education](#), The Heartland Institute
- [States Want More Tech and Career Training, But Lack Teachers](#), Seattle Times (repeat article from article earlier this year)
- [Some States Succeed in Improving Rural CTE](#), Cabinet Report
- [Career and Technical Education Faces Challenges in Rural America](#), Education Week

## Strategies for Attracting Students to High-Quality CTE

Staff is continuing to work with the four states selected for technical assistance through monthly technical assistance calls, and bi-monthly cross-state calls.

**Strategic Priority: Expand awareness of, support for, and access to high-quality CTE by leading, building and maintaining strategic partnerships.**

Below is a list of Advance CTE’s staff most impactful or otherwise notable engagement activities from last month

<p><b>PRESENTATIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led a mini-communications workshop for the South Dakota of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education (Gary, SD)</li> <li>• Keynote to New York State CTE Technical Assistance Conference (Albany, NY)</li> <li>• Presented on Education Week's webinar on CTE at the Crossroads</li> </ul>
<p><b>EVENTS ATTENDED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Clusters Task Force Meeting (Baltimore, MD)</li> <li>• Career Readiness Expert Workgroup Credentials of Value e-meeting</li> <li>• Women in Government Relations’ Education Task Force Call</li> <li>• PostSec Data Collaborative Monthly Meeting</li> <li>• Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Briefing on Implications of Tax Reform on Education</li> <li>• Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Briefing on Budget Resolutions and Reconciliation</li> <li>• Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Briefing on Equity in Education</li> <li>• Two Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Meetings</li> <li>• Three Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW) Meetings</li> <li>• Participated in the Advancing Equity Technical Assistance Working group</li> </ul>
<p><b>OTHER PARTNERS ENGAGED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTE</li> <li>• Afterschool Alliance</li> <li>• AIR Center on Great Teachers and Leaders - partnered to plan workshops and working groups related to our December 2016 State of CTE report on industry experts</li> <li>• American School Counselors Association, focused on career development and advisement</li> <li>• Asia Society</li> <li>• Associated Equipment Distributors</li> <li>• Education Development Center</li> <li>• Leadership Conference on Human and Civil Rights</li> <li>• Linked Learning Alliance</li> <li>• National Science Foundation</li> <li>• RTI International</li> <li>• The School Superintendents Association</li> <li>• U.S. News World &amp; Report</li> <li>• Workforce Data Quality Campaign - coordinated on the upcoming LMI Guide</li> </ul>

# Advance CTE Newsletter

August 2017

*Your voice from the nation's capital*



## Dear Members,

Ensuring all learners have access to the high-quality programs is a key part of our [shared vision for the future of CTE](#). One way we are contributing to this work is through a new series of briefs focused on CTE in rural communities. Just released last week, "[CTE on the Frontier: Catalyzing Local Efforts to Improve Program Quality](#)," is the first in the series and explores three states that support program design and quality in rural CTE communities. Be sure to check it out, and look out for the second brief in September.

As we look towards fall, I want to encourage you to join us October 16-18 in Baltimore, MD for our [2017 Fall Meeting](#). Don't miss this chance to hear from CTE experts on a variety of topics ranging from federal policy to how to communicate the value of CTE to critical stakeholders. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Before I close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tragedy in Charlottesville earlier this month. I can't help be reminded of this quote by Nelson Mandela "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The work you do, we do, contributes to helping all learners find their purpose and talents, positively contributing to our society and economy. Since CTE touches nearly every community across our great country, we have an opportunity and obligation to use our work as a platform to bring awareness and understanding that regardless of gender, race, religion, zip code or any other difference that may exist, we are stronger together.

Best wishes for a safe and productive end of summer.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Green,  
Executive Director

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### NEW RESOURCE!

***CTE on the Frontier:  
Catalyzing Local Efforts  
to Improve Program  
Quality***

## Member News

### Join us at the Fall Meeting

Our Fall Meeting [agenda](#) is now available. We hope you will join us October 16-18 in Baltimore. Registration is open until September 22, and it is filling up fast. [Register today!](#)

### Saying Hello!

We are excited to welcome three new State CTE Directors. Be sure to check out their blog posts to learn more about them:

- [Chris Deaton](#) of Indiana
- [Chad Maclin](#) of the District of Columbia
- Colleen McCabe of Wisconsin

Improving Career Technical Education (CTE) quality in rural communities is an imperative for all states, yet rural CTE programs often face unique challenges that are not present in more densely populated areas. For example, decentralization, lack of resources and more limited employer relationships in rural communities can result in the preservation of legacy programs over more industry-relevant career pathways. Decisions about what programs to offer are too often driven by the availability of equipment or facilities, teacher supply and even tradition.

[Read More](#)

## Saying Goodbye!

In early to mid-September, Advance CTE will say goodbye to three long-serving State Directors.

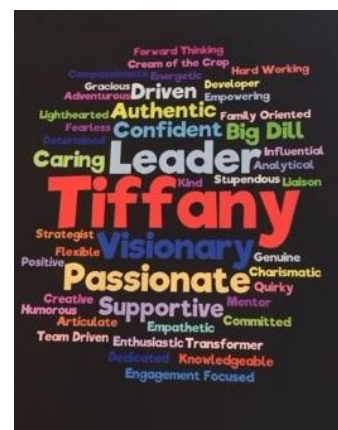
**Kathy Cullen of Wisconsin** is retiring from the Wisconsin Technical College System after three decades in education.

**Jo Anne Honeycutt of North Carolina** is leaving state leadership to return to her roots as a local CTE director for Wake County Schools. Jo Anne most recently served as the president of Advance CTE and Kathy represented Region V.

Advance CTE wishes to thank both of you for your years of service and leadership on our Board of Directors.

**Tiffany Sanderson of South Dakota** is

also moving on. She plans to re-join Vivayic, a company that she once worked for as a start-up many years ago. Advance CTE staff recently visited South Dakota, and were there when Tiffany's staff presented her with this poster.



We wish all three of you the best of luck on your next chapters!

## ➤ View from the Hill

With the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate in recess for most of August, the pace of legislative action has slowed down. As we gear up for Congress to come back in early September, Advance CTE has been meeting with partner organizations and staff for members on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) to urge the Senate to act swiftly to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins).

Representatives Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and Thompson (R-PA) also held a [press conference](#) at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology on August 28 to urge the Senate to take up reauthorization. In addition, Advance CTE partnered with the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW) to meet with members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to advocate for a strong federal investment in Perkins and signed on to this [CIAW letter](#) to Senate appropriators about the importance of this investment and other key education and workforce development programs.

The Senate is likely to pick up the appropriations process in early September and the House is scheduled to consider [H.R. 3354](#), an eight bill omnibus appropriations bill, the week of September 4 (which includes level-funding for the FY18 allocation for Perkins Basic State Grants and National Programs). Now is a great time to [reach out to your members of Congress](#) - and thanks to our partners at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) for

sharing their resources with the entire CTE community - to let them know that you support a strong federal investment in CTE!

## State Policy Overview

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- To address a growing skills gap and equip learners with credentials to meet the demand of tomorrow's workforce, **Indiana** Gov. Holcomb announced the [Next Level Jobs Initiative](#). The initiative includes the Workforce Ready Grant - [authorized by the legislature](#) this year - and the Employer Training Grant program, totaling more than \$20 million over the next two years.
- The **Ohio** Department of Education [expanded](#) its [list](#) of state-approved industry-recognized credentials, allowing high school students to earn one of 49 credentials in 13 career fields. Under Ohio's graduation policy, students can receive a high school diploma by earning state-approved credentials and demonstrating workforce competency.
- Speaking of **Ohio's** graduation requirements, the future of the policy, which was [adopted](#) in 2014 and set to go into effect for this year's graduating students, is in question. In June the legislature adopted additional graduation pathways over concerns that heightened requirements would reduce the graduation rate. While the rule only applies to the class of 2018, the state hopes to develop a long-term solution soon.
- Meanwhile, several states have released updated or final versions of their Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plans for public comment - including **Wyoming**, which submitted a plan to the U.S. Department of Education [one month early](#). Read Advance CTE's latest commentary on ESSA implementation [here](#).

## Learning that Works Resource Center

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Meaningful work-based learning experiences are core to a high-quality CTE program of study, bridging the divide between classrooms and careers and helping learners get real-world experiences that prepare them for future career success. This month's Learning that Works Resource Center update examines critical resources related to [work-based learning](#), including a profile of West Virginia's Simulated Workplace program and Advance CTE's comprehensive guide.

### **Policy - [West Virginia Simulated Workplace](#)**

[West Virginia's Simulated Workplace](#) program demonstrates how states, particularly those in rural geographies, can draw on industry expertise to ensure high-quality work-based learning within a classroom setting.

### **Guide - [Connecting the Classroom to Careers: A Comprehensive Guide to the State's Role in Work-based Learning](#)**

Advance CTE's comprehensive work-based learning guide provides key considerations and guiding questions to walk states through the steps of building and scaling a high-quality work-based learning system, drawing on high-quality programs and innovative strategies from across the U.S.

### **Report - [Making Work-based Learning Work](#)**

This paper from Jobs for the Future presents seven principles for effective work-based learning models that increase access to opportunities for underserved populations.

## Where We've Been

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Staff presented at a number of events and conferences including:

- Washington State ACTE Conference

- South Dakota Education's Division of CTE
- CTE at the Crossroads Webinar hosted by Education Week
- New York CTE Conference

Staff also participated in a number of events and meetings including:

- Career Clusters Task Force Meeting
- Briefings by Center for Education Funding
- PostsecData Working Group, Higher Education Policy
- Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce
- Education Task Force Policy and Politics, Women in Government Relations
- National Governors Association
- The School Superintendents Association
- Associated Equipment Distributors
- After school Alliance
- New Skills for Youth Project Team Meeting with CCSSO, ESG
- Technical Working Group on CTE Equity



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