

## QUICK UPDATES

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

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

- Board meeting – May 1, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET at the 2017 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Board Meeting on FY18 Budgets – June 22, 2017 at 2 – 3 p.m. ET via conference call

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

- Board meeting – May 1, 2017 from 3 - 5 p.m. ET at the 2017 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Board Meeting on FY18 Budgets – June 22, 2017 at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. ET via conference call

#### **Joint Board Meeting**

- Board meeting – May 1, 2017 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET at the 2017 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.

### State CTE Director Changes

#### *Transitions*

- In April, there were two changes in State Directors:
  - Connecticut: Melissa Hickey assumed duties in early April
  - Arizona: Cathie Raymond officially began in her role on April 24
- Additionally, we were notified that Oregon's Laura Roach will retire on May 1.

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

### Finance Update:

Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 102 % of budgeted income
Expended 71% of budgeted expenses

Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 84% of budgeted income
Expended 45% 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		A fuller update is below about <i>Strategies for Recruiting Students into High-quality CTE</i> below	Ongoing

<b>New Skills for Youth</b>	JP Morgan Chase CCSSO	A fuller update is below about recent and upcoming initiatives and deliverables supported by the NSFY grant.	Ongoing
<b>IDIQ – Connecting Secondary CTE &amp; Apprenticeships</b>	OCTAE	OCTAE, Advance CTE and RTI International held a webinar on April 26 on the upcoming release of the report “Opportunities for Connecting Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Students and Apprenticeship Programs.” The webinar will be posted in the PCRN shortly. While this contract was supposed to end by January 2017, we have a contract modification underway with the final deliverables submitted by September 2017.	Ongoing

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

### **Membership Update**

In April, Advance CTE received 2 new memberships – both Associate, Non-State.

Total membership as of April 28, 2017: 350

- State Director: 54
- Associate, State: 92
- Associate, Non-state: 97
- Organizational: 36 organizations (representing 107 individuals)

### **FY 18 State Membership**

The state membership period officially closed on April 28, with 136 state members from 38 states. Of the state members, 63 percent are new to Advance CTE.

The timeline to implement the expanded state membership structure is as follows:

- 3/1-31: States complete and return the dues intent form and submit their members’ names through [careertech.org](http://careertech.org)
- 5/1-5/14: Staff identify the Associate members who must be invoiced for FY 18, finalize the state membership invoices and invoice all organizational members
- No later than 5/15: Advance CTE sends final FY18 state membership invoices to all states
- July 1: All members, including new state members, are active for FY 18.

### **Member Resources and Supports**

#### **State Policy and New Skills for Youth Update:**

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, tentatively scheduled for November 1-3, 2017.

In April, the state policy team continued work on two publications related to program approval. One, which was published through NSFY, is a report on state strategies for promoting high-quality career pathways through the program approval process. The paper features Tennessee, New Jersey and Delaware, and examines each state’s approach to approving high-quality programs as well as the

different strategies each uses to incentivize and support strong program implementation. This report was released in late April.

The other publication, which will not be published through NSFY, will be a policy framework focusing on helping states assess and improve their policies related to CTE program approval. This framework will be previewed at the Advance CTE Spring Meeting and released in early summer after being tested by members and organizational partners. To create both, the staff has been conducting research of existing policies and interviewing about a dozen State Directors to learn more about current policies in action.

Staff also began planning for future publications. There are plans underway for three rural briefs to be released this summer, and an agreement was signed to partner with the American School Counselor Association on the 2017 State of CTE report, which will focus on career advising.

This month Advance CTE conducted a quarterly review of the Learning that Works Resource Center and found that the Resource Center experienced a 34 percent increase in activity in the first quarter of 2017 compared to the last quarter of 2016. The Resource Center now contains more than 192 total resources, representing a total of 49 states and Washington, DC. As of April 24, the monthly count of hits for April totaled 5,016. The most popular resource for the month was "The Value and Promise of CTE: Results from a National Survey of Parents and Students," and the most popular topic page was Career Advisement.

**Meetings/Events**

Event Name	Date	Total Participants	Total Participating Members	% of Participation Goal (if applicable)
2017 Spring Meeting	May 2-4	203	41	135%
Opportunities for Connecting Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Students and Apprenticeship Programs webinar	4/26/17	69	~25	N/A

**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*.**

As we approach the one year anniversary of the release of [Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE](#), we are focusing on ensuring the vision remains a critical advocacy tool and guiding document for organizations, states and local communities. While we have continued to release materials in support of *Putting Learner Success First*, we are in the process of creating a more intentional strategy for year two and beyond.

In April:

- Held our next committee call

- Collaborated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to create a [two-pager](#) on why *Putting Learner Success First* is important to industry leaders
- SkillsUSA sent out an email to its of employer partners to encourage them to sign on in support of the vision, over a dozen of whom did, including many national corporations

A few upcoming planned activities and resources:

- We are releasing a short animated video on *Putting Learner Success First* at the Spring meeting in May.
- We are collaborating with ACTE and some of our non-state Associate members to develop a self-assessment practitioners can use (or state leaders can use with practitioners) to evaluate how well they are aligned with *Putting Learner Success First*
- We will be developing 2-3 short snapshots of how states or districts have used *Putting Learner Success First* to advance their own priorities in June.
- We are planning a blog series to highlight the opportunities and initiatives aligned with each principle.

**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:**

As we continue to think about how to best advocate for our policy priorities and ensure that they are reflected in federal legislation, we have revised our federal policy strategy. This strategy includes intentional alignment with membership, state policy and communications efforts underway across the organization. We are also determining appropriate metrics in order to understand our progress on accomplishing the objectives outlined in the new strategy.

**Perkins:** We are continuing to engage with House Education and Workforce Committee staff as they work to introduce a reauthorization bill in the coming weeks. We are hopeful that issues surrounding the definition of a secondary CTE concentrator in the bill the House passed last fall (H.R. 5587) can be resolved (find more information [here](#)). In addition, we are meeting with Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee staff to ensure that they are aware of our priorities for the bill and understand our positions. The main point of contention in Senate discussions has been around the role of the Secretary of Education and his/her authority to negotiate performance targets with states. We will continue discussions around this issue with partners and hope that the issue can be resolved in order to maintain bipartisan support for the reauthorization of Perkins.

**HEA:** Reauthorization of HEA is still getting attention in education policy circles and many groups are thinking about a re-envisioned HEA that reflects how the higher education landscape has changed over the years. Given this, we organized a roundtable discussion at the Spring Meeting to brainstorm and gather input about how HEA can better support a broader spectrum of students who are pursuing post-secondary experiences (e.g., community college, industry-recognized credentials, etc.). While we will use our [HEA Recommendations](#) as a guide for the discussion, we are also hoping to come up with some new ideas that we can bring up for discussion in our meetings with partners.

**Budget / Appropriations:** On Friday, April 28, Congress passed and the President signed a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR), a funding measure to continue to fund the government at current levels, through May 5, 2017. This was done in order to buy time to pass a separate, omnibus appropriations

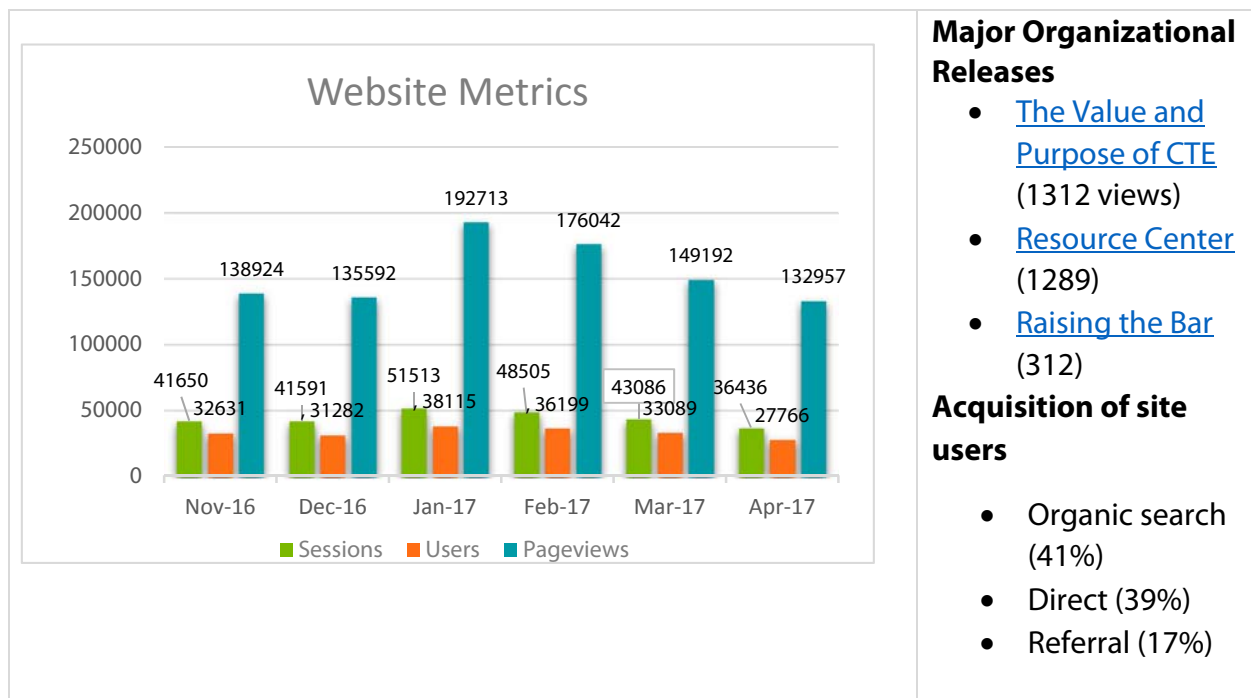
bill. We do not yet know what the omnibus bill looks like, so the levels for Perkins funding are unknown at the time of this writing. Once the omnibus bill passes, Congress will turn its attention to the 2018 Fiscal Year (FY18). It is expected that the President will release a more detailed FY18 budget proposal in mid-May. We will continue to advocate for a strong investment in Perkins as appropriators in Congress look to FY18.

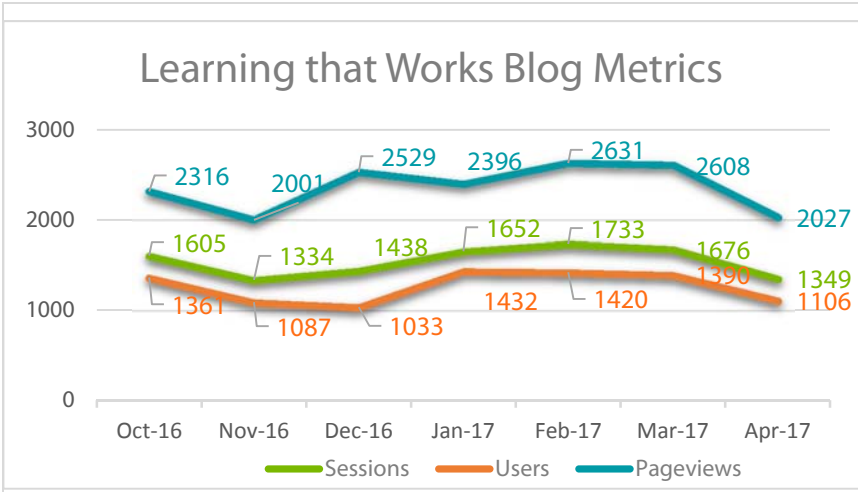
**Congressional Offices Engaged in April 2017:**

- Meeting with Karishma Merchant, Sen. Kaine (D-VA) Office
- Meeting with Allie Kimmel, Senate HELP Committee
- Meeting with Robin Juliano, House Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
- Meeting with Jake Baker, Senate HELP Committee
- Multiple conversations with James Redstone, House Education and Workforce Committee
- Meeting with Steve Townsend, Senate HELP Committee

**COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

**Advance CTE Website:**

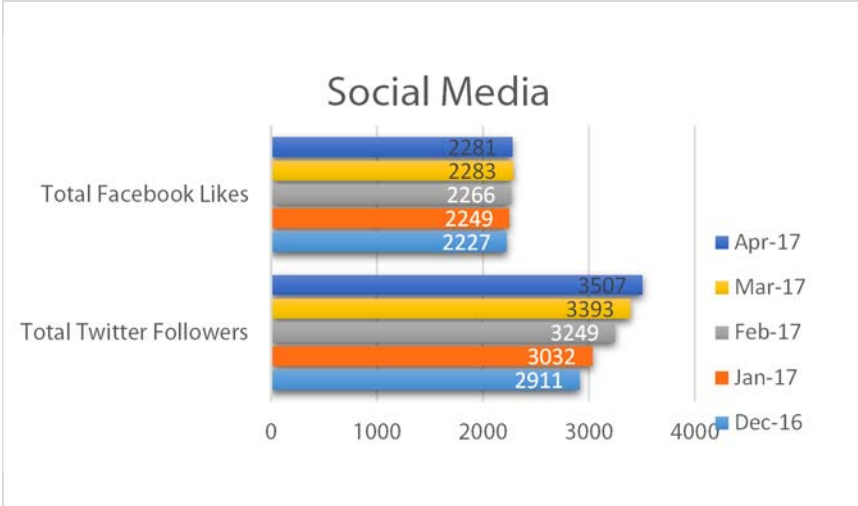




**13 Blog Posts Published**

Most visited blogs:

- [140 Members of Congress Sign on to Support Perkins](#)
- [And They're Off! Early ESSA Plans Signal Enthusiasm for Career Readiness](#)
- [Current and Former Education Secretaries Talk Career Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)



**Facebook: -2**

**Twitter: +114**

**Media**

Advance CTE was featured heavily with multiple quotes from staff and links to resources in an article, [States Want More Career and Technical Training, but Struggle to Find Teachers](#). Originally published on Stateline, it was additionally picked up by PBS, Huffington Post, among many others. Additionally, staff provided extensive background information to Education Week for a CTE series that will be published May 10, 17 and 31.

Staff is working with the Siemens Foundation to author an op-ed about research findings. See below.

**Excellence in Action Award**

The Excellence in Action Award will honor 11 programs of study across as many career clusters in 10 states. Award winners will be featured at the 2017 Spring Meeting, as well as highlighted in a national release taking place in May. Currently, staff is coordinating 2-pagers and press announcements for each award winners.

## Strategies for Attracting Students to High-Quality CTE


Advance CTE released *"The Value and Promise of Career Technical Education: Results From a National Survey of Parents and Students,"* in addition to a fact sheet, Dos and Don'ts and statements of support, on April 20. Edge Research will present the research findings during the Spring Meeting, and staff will conduct two workshops to help state leaders begin to use the messages and empower locals to do the same. Staff will lead a webinar on May 16<sup>th</sup> to further explore the research findings and tools.

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

<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented to Department of Defense Educational Activities' (DoDEA) CTE Work Group</li> <li>Presented on OCTAE-hosted webinar on CTE and apprenticeships</li> <li>Presented on measuring work-based learning at AIR work-based learning workshop, Arlington, VA</li> <li>Virtual Federal Policy Update Presentation at the CTE ESC Specialist Conference in Austin, Texas</li> <li>Presented to the National Summit for Educational Equity</li> </ul>
<b>EVENTS ATTENDED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Pathways meeting at Harvard Graduate School of Education</li> <li>PostSec Data Working Group Monthly Meeting</li> <li>College in High School Alliance Perkins Subgroup Webinar</li> <li>Two Committee for Education Funding Meetings</li> <li>Coalition to Invest in America's Workforce Meeting (by phone)</li> <li>Switzerland's Apprenticeship Model - a Source of Inspiration: A Discussion with the Learning First Alliance</li> <li>OCTAE Advancing Equity Technical Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER PARTNERS ENGAGED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New America (for Apprenticeship Forward conference)</li> <li>Department of Defense Educational Activities (DoDEA)</li> <li>Worked with AIR Center on Great Teachers and Leaders to plan workshops and working groups related to our December 2016 State of CTE report on industry experts</li> <li>ACTE</li> <li>Workforce Data Quality Campaign</li> <li>National Skills Coalition</li> <li>Coalition for Investing in America's Workforce</li> <li>Committee on Education Funding</li> <li>CCSSO and ESG for New Skills for Youth</li> <li>MetaMetrics</li> <li>CCSSO – Federal Policy staff</li> <li>Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights</li> </ul>

- 
- Center for Law and Social Policy
  - National Women's Law Center
  - Post Secondary Data Working Group
  - College in High School Alliance
  - Opportunity America HEA Working Group
  - Alliance for Excellent Education



## Dear Members,

I hope you all saw last week we released our report, "[The Value and Promise of Career Technical Education: Results of a National Survey of Parents and Students](#)," examining findings from a new national survey of parents and students supported by the Siemens Foundation. This report has a lot of exciting findings about how CTE delivers and offers critical insights into how we can all be better communicating about CTE to parents and students to share the value proposition and tackle the perception challenge. In addition to the report, we've created a set of [tools](#) to help you being thinking about this important work.

Effective communication will only go so far. What must be at the foundation of promotion is a high-quality program that meets the needs of its students. This week, we're excited to share a new report, "[Raising the Bar: State Strategies for Developing and Approving High-Quality Career Pathway](#)," which examines successes in Tennessee, New Jersey and Delaware to demonstrate how states can use the career pathways approval process to raise the level of quality across the board.

I encourage you to explore these new resources!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Green,  
Executive Director

### In This Issue

[View from the Hill](#)

[State Policy Overview](#)

[Resource Center](#)

[Where We've Been](#)

### Member Resources

[Member Directory](#)

[Organizational Resources](#)

[State-Specific Tools & Resources](#)

Don't forget to [log in](#)

## > See You Next Week!

We look forward to seeing many of you at next week's Spring Meeting! Start planning your sessions now by checking out our [2017 Spring Meeting Agenda](#) and creating your own schedule on our mobile-friendly site.

If you can't join us, follow the conversation on Twitter [@CTEWorks](#) using the [#CTESpringMtg\\_hashtag](#), and our Spring Meeting blog [series](#).

## > View from the Hill

This month we continued to meet with key Congressional offices and participate in coalition meetings regarding both the reauthorization of the [Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act \(Perkins\)](#) and the appropriations process to ensure both efforts reflect your priorities. These conversations have indicated that Perkins reauthorization legislation could be introduced as early as mid-May. We hope to learn more about the timeline and prospects for reauthorization during our "View from the Hill" panel at the [Spring Meeting](#). The panel will

feature insights from key Congressional staff from both parties who are highly involved in the Perkins reauthorization process in both the House and Senate.

It's important to note that the appropriations process for Perkins is separate from the reauthorization efforts. At the time of this writing, we are unsure of the level of funding Perkins will receive for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017, as it depends on how Congress handles the budget decisions that need to be made by midnight on Friday, April 28. We'll continue to provide budget updates via the [Legislative Updates](#) to keep you posted on any action that occurs.

As for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), we are heartened by the "[Dear Colleague](#)" Letter that was sent on April 6 to the chair and ranking member of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The letter, spearheaded by House CTE Caucus Co-chairs Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Jim Langevin (D-RI), requested a strong investment in Perkins in the FY18 Appropriations Bill and garnered [140 signatures](#) from Members across 38 states. It was a clear testament to the bipartisan support for CTE in the House!

In terms of education updates from the Administration, Secretary DeVos promoted CTE in her [statement](#) following the President's remarks at Snap-On Tools in Wisconsin on April 18, "To strengthen our economy, we need a skilled and educated workforce. That's why this Administration is committed to supporting and highlighting career and technical education."

In other news from the Administration, President Trump signed an Education Federalism Executive Order on April 26. It directs Secretary DeVos to "review and, if necessary, modify and repeal regulations and guidance issued by the Department of Education with a clear mandate to identify places where D.C. has overstepped its legal authority" according to an on-the-record press call.

## State Policy Overview

---

With the first submission window for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plans now officially open, implementation of the new federal law has been top of mind for many states. Notably:

- **Kentucky** Governor Matt Bevin signed a revised state accountability system into law. [SB1 applies](#) a fresh coat of paint to the state's Unbridled Learning accountability system, aligning it with ESSA requirements and recalibrating the weighted point system to better incentivize relevant career learning experiences. The bill also directs the Workforce Innovation Board and Department of Education to identify and publish a list of industry credentials that will be counted under the new accountability framework.
- **Arkansas** [passed a law](#) setting parameters for a new school rating system. The law calls on the Department of Education to design a system that meets ESSA requirements and includes at least one of nine suggested indicators. Among those suggested indicators is a measure of college and career readiness that measures the percent of students earning college credit or industry-recognized credentials. Relatedly, Arkansas also passed [legislation](#) directing the Department of Education to review and publish a list of third-party industry-recognized assessments.

Many are states are debating bills related to CTE teacher certification, accountability, work-based learning and more. Stay tuned for more updates as the 2017 legislative season begins to wind down.

## Learning that Works Resource Center

---

To truly put learner success first, states must give students the flexibility to pursue pathways

that are aligned to their academic and career goals. Strategies such as competency-based education allow students to experience academic and technical learning by receiving credit for mastery rather than seat time. Plus, some states are working to adjust graduation requirements to further enable and promote Career Technical Education (CTE) in high school. This month's update from the Learning that Works Resource Center examines resources related to [graduation requirements](#).

**Guide** - [Building a Strong Relationship Between Competency-Based Pathways and Career Technical Education](#)

This report by Achieve and Advance CTE lays out the leverage points between CTE and Competency-Based Pathways (CBP) and provides guiding questions to help state and local leaders consider how CTE is, can and should be a part of their CBP strategies.

**Policy** - [Vermont: Flexible Pathways Initiative](#)

Vermont's Flexible Pathways Initiative was designed to provide flexibility for school districts, promote college readiness through personalized pathways, and increase graduation rates and postsecondary completion.

**Report** - [Endorsements, Electives & More: CTE & State Graduation Requirements](#)

This Advance CTE brief explores common approaches to offering or requiring CTE courses and assessments within a statewide set of graduation requirements, offers illustrative examples of state-level policies and elevates implementation issues for consideration.

## Where We've Been

---

We've attended a number of events, meetings and presentations this month including:

- Presented at the National Summit for Educational Equity
- Presented at the State Work-based Learning Workshop for AIR's College & Career Ready & Success Center
- Attended Career Pathways Meeting at Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Attended Department of Defense Education Activity meeting
- Attended an New Skills for Youth Project Team Meeting
- Attended an Committee for Education Funding Meeting
- Attended the Higher Education Act Subgroup meeting, Opportunity America
- Attended the College in High School Alliance Perkins Subgroup meeting
- Attended Switzerland's Apprenticeship Model - a Source of Inspiration: A Discussion with the Learning First Alliance
- Attended the Coalition to Invest in America's Workforce Meeting, National Skills Coalition
- Attended the PostsecData Working Group Monthly meeting, Institute for Higher Education Policy
- Attended the Advancing Equity in CTE Technical Working Group

[Forward this email](#)

STAY CONNECTED

