

QUICK UPDATES

Upcoming Advance CTE and Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings

Advance CTE Board Meetings

- Board Meeting on Governance – August 24, 2017 at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET via conference call
- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 9 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

State CTE Director Changes

Transitions

- In June, Advance CTE received a number of notices regarding State Director transitions:
 - **Tennessee:** Casey Haugner Wrenn was appointed in late June to replace Danielle Mezera.
 - **South Carolina:** Ron Roveri has accepted a position at the local level, effective July 1. Advance CTE is working with the office to maintain communications during this transition.
 - **Wisconsin:** Kathy Cullen has announced that she will retire in September.
- Additionally, the following states remain without permanent leadership: **Alabama, DC, New York, Oregon,** and **Texas.**

Mentor pairings:

- Cathie Raymond of **Arizona** has been matched with Thalea Longhurst of **Utah.**
- Marci Johnson of **Illinois** has been matched with Guy Jackson of **Wyoming.**

Administrative Updates

We wish to extend a great big thank you to Jo Anne Honeycutt for her year as Advance CTE/The Center to Advance CTE's President. Under her leadership we accomplished much – adopted the new membership structure, expanded the reach of the Center through grants that focused on parents and students perceptions of CTE and apprenticeship. We also had the highest-attended spring meeting on record and laid the groundwork for important work ahead – an expanded leadership program, Career Clusters task force and a new Perkins.

We wish to thank Vanessa Cooley, State Director in Rhode Island for her service on the Board as a regional representative and to Rod Duckworth, who is finally able to catch a breath as he ends his tenure as an Advance CTE officer. And finally, Tim Hodges, a public member of our Center Board.

Thank you for sticking with us when we got into the weeds and for helping develop our memberships' leadership and knowledge through Gallup resources.

As of July 1, we welcome Meg Harvey, State Director in Maine to the Board, as a regional representative and Sarah Heath, State Director in Colorado, as our new Secretary/Treasurer. We look forward to learning from and with you! And next month we'll introduce you to the individual replacing Tim on the Center Board!

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

Finance Update:

As of June 30, the FY17 fiscal year comes to a close. We are working with the accountant to begin to close out the year's financials. The numbers below do not reflect June reconciliations, which is when final adjustments are made to the accrual entries, bad debt is recognized for uncollectable income and payroll, benefits and investments for the month will be recorded. The annual audit will take place in mid-November.

Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 101% of budgeted income
Expended 79% of budgeted expenses

Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 88% of budgeted income
Expended 59% 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		This month, we had a call with our program officer who reported Siemens was extremely pleased with the research conducted by Advance CTE and the overall initiative. We are now working on 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. A fuller update is below about <i>Strategies for Recruiting Students into High-quality CTE</i> below.	Ongoing
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
IDIQ – Connecting Secondary CTE & Apprenticeships	OCTAE	Earlier this month, we released our major deliverable for this contract, a paper on sites that had connected secondary CTE students with apprenticeships. We are continuing to provide support for the final set of deliverables, which will be released by September 2017.	Ongoing

<p>New State Director Leadership Program</p>	<p>PMIEF</p>	<p>We made outreach to two funders/partners about possible support for our New State Director Leadership program. We had a very productive call with the Project Management Institute Education Foundation (PMIEF), which may lead to opportunities for in-kind resources and training around portfolio management for any and all members. We will know more about this opportunity in July.</p>	<p>Preliminary</p>
<p>Misc.</p>		<p>Advance CTE participated in a funder-led meeting around career pathways, with a number of other national partners, state leaders and funders, including Siemens, JPMorgan Chase and the Ford Foundation. It's unclear what the outcomes will be from this meeting.</p> <p>Advance CTE had a call with the PwC Charitable Foundation, at their request. They are interested in expanding into the CTE space and wanted to learn about us and what we see as the biggest challenges facing the field. We are planning to follow up in early July with a short document articulating some of those biggest challenges.</p> <p>In the month ahead, we have meetings scheduled with Joyce Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, John M Belk Endowment and Ballmer Group.</p> <p>We are also pursuing another NSF grant, in partnership with EDC, and in discussions with RTI regarding a potential collaboration to support states' data and accountability needs.</p>	<p>Preliminary</p>

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

Membership Update

In May, Advance CTE received 2 new memberships – both Associate, Non-state.

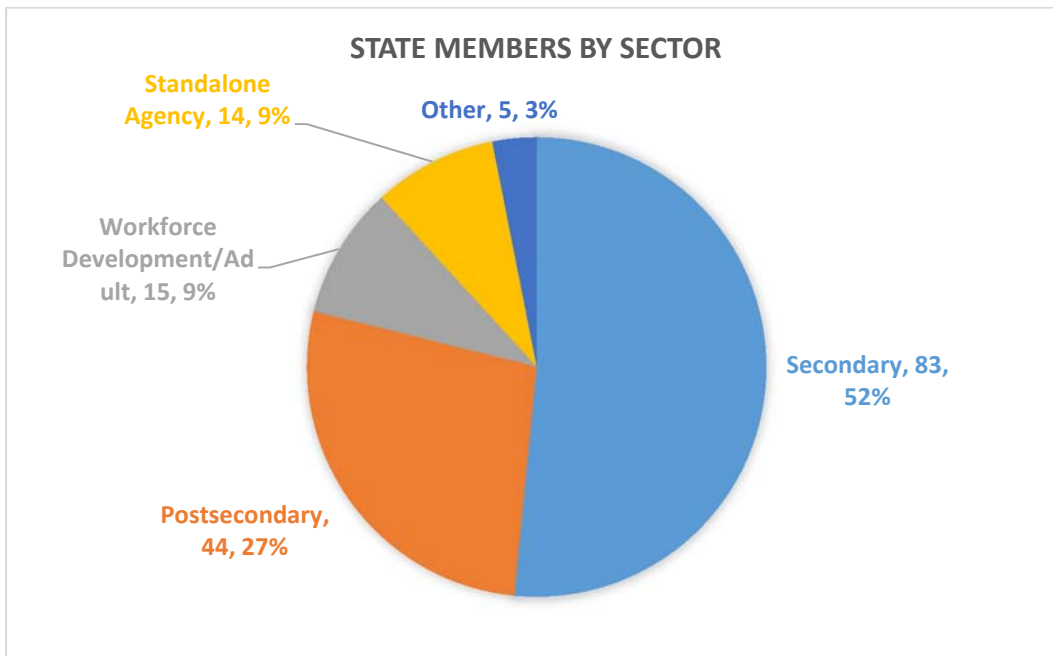
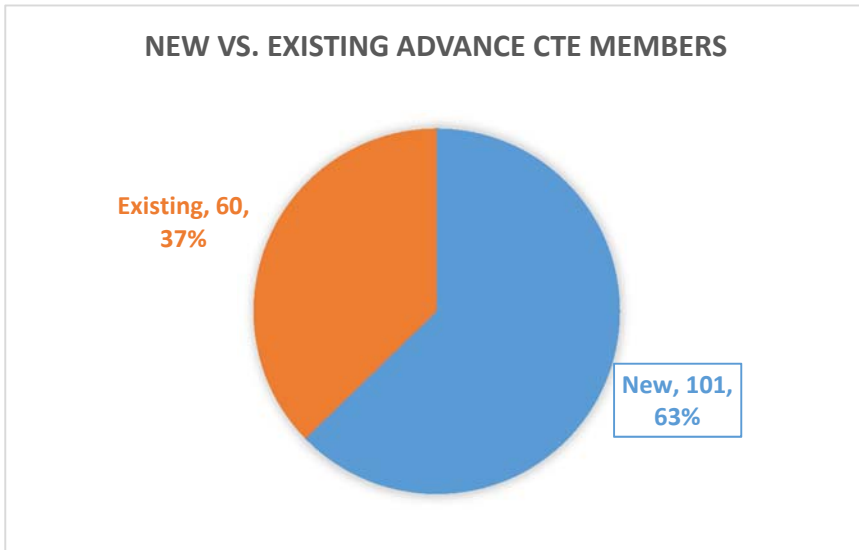
Total membership as of June 30, 2017: 354

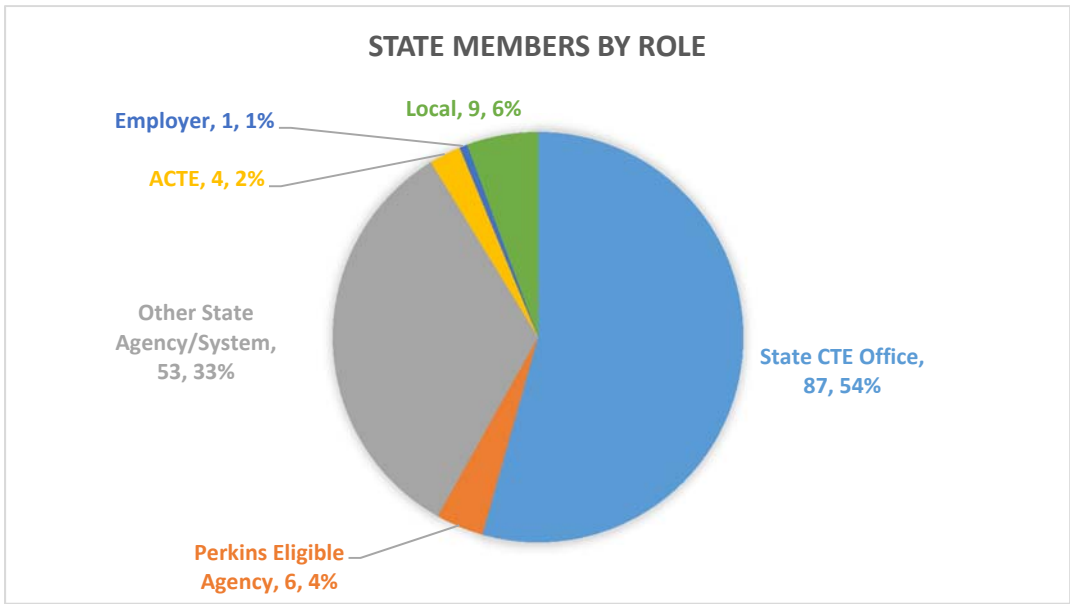
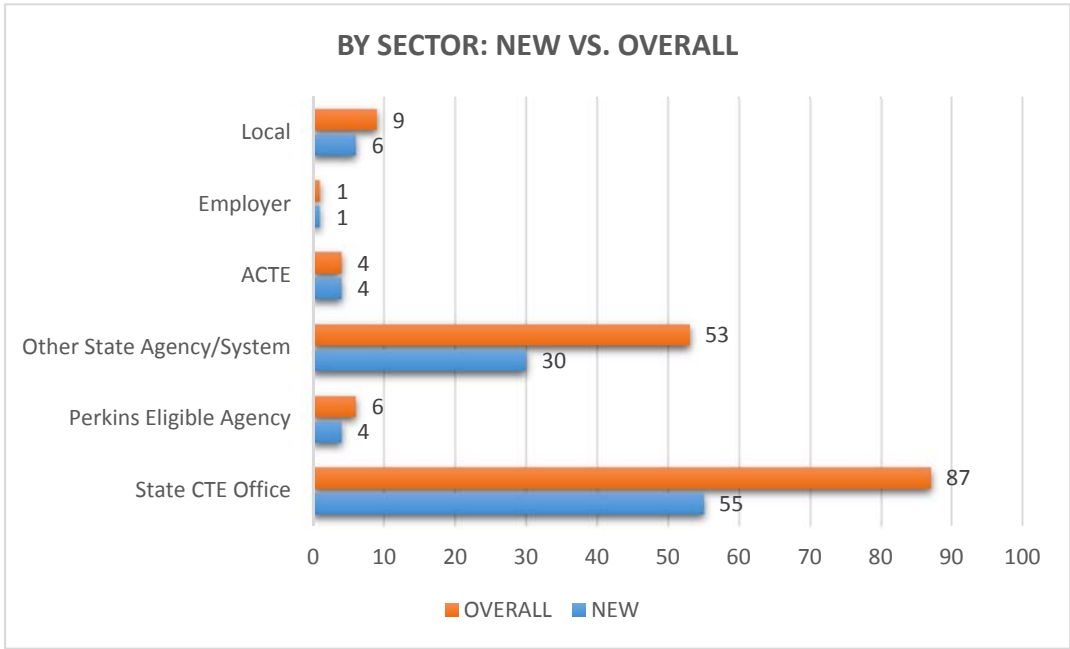
- State Director: 54
- Associate, State: 93
- Associate, Non-state: 100
- Organizational: 36 organizations (representing 107 individuals)

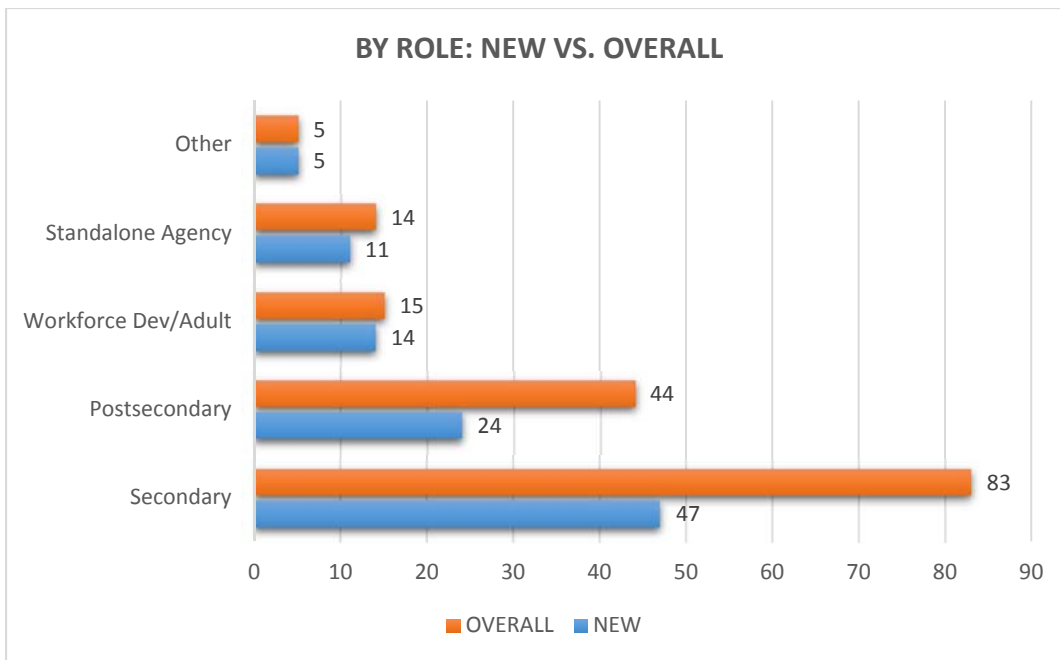
FY 18 State Membership

Because July 1 fell on a weekend, the expanded state membership was launched on June 28. Staff have given thoughtful consideration to the implementation process, understanding that more than half of the new state members are entirely new to Advance CTE – and for some, even to CTE overall. With that in mind, staff created a series of four emails to serve as a “New Member Toolkit,” which covers the administrative basics, as well as federal and state policy, and communications. All state members began receiving this email series on June 28, and will receive a weekly installment every Thursday.

In total, 45 states, 1 territory and the District of Columbia added 161 individuals to their state membership for FY18. Based on the discussion that took place during the Spring Board Meeting, the numbers below have been revised to remove the loose designations of “counterpart” and “Perkins manager” until we can get better data. Those two designations have been folded into either “other state agency” or “state CTE office” based on their employer. Here is a brief rundown of the numbers:







Member Resources and Supports

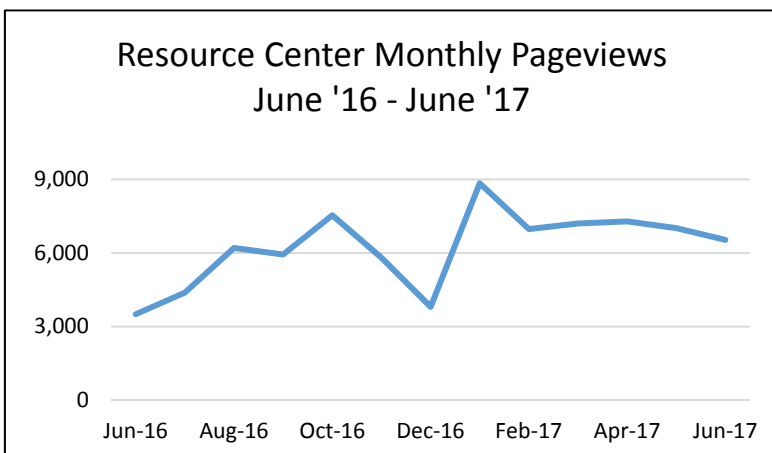
State Policy Update:

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.

Staff began drafting surveys directed at State CTE Directors as well as school counselors in preparation for the upcoming State of CTE report focused on career advisement. The survey will launch in early August.

Rural briefs: Advance CTE staff are working on a three-part series examining access and quality of CTE in rural communities. The series will explore vexing challenges -- such as providing diverse program offerings, expanding the rural CTE teacher pipeline and increasing learning access to opportunities -- and will highlight innovative state solutions. Our team aims to conclude research shortly and plans to release the first brief in July or early August.

Resource Center: June marked the first anniversary of the Learning that Works Resource Center's launch. The website went live on June 22, 2016, and has seen remarkable success in that time. Over the past year, the reports, tools and policy profiles in the Resource Center have been accessed more than 80,000 times, demonstrating the platform's continued value and utility in the field.



The most visited resource topic since the Resource Center was launched is Career Advisement, with an average of 197 hits every month. Additionally, three of Advance CTE's publications were the most accessed resources over the past year. These include:

- *Credentials of Value: State Strategies for Identifying and Endorsing Industry-Recognized Credentials,*
- *The State of Career Technical Education: Increasing Access to Industry Experts in High Schools and*
- *The Value and Promise of Career Technical Education: Results from a National Survey of Parents and Students.*

Advance CTE is currently fielding a feedback survey to learn who is using the Resource Center, how they are using it, and what can be done to improve the quality of the content and design. Based on the feedback collected through this survey, we plan to identify modifications to make the Resource Center an even more valuable tool.

Program Approval Policy Benchmark Tool: Staff used the Advance CTE Spring Meeting to test with members a draft slice of the program approval policy benchmark tool. This tool lists core elements necessary for any effective program approval policy, elements which were chosen based on research and interviews with State Directors in secondary and postsecondary. The tool also contains an illustrative rubric which further defines the core elements and helps states identify gaps in current policy.

Based on feedback from the Spring Meeting, the tool is being updated, and will be shared again with volunteer states and partners in July for their review and feedback. The tool will be released in the fall, and staff are planning to offer a few states the chance to participate in an Advance CTE-led self-assessment on the tool's criteria.

CTE Virtual Institute: Staff have continued work on the Virtual Institute, including drafting scripts for instructional videos. The Institute is a web-based, comprehensive crash course on high-quality CTE designed for new audiences with limited knowledge or awareness of the field. It will build upon resources in the Learning that Works Resource Center to guide participants along a modular exploration of the world of CTE, and will feature informative new videos and interaction with experts on staff. The Virtual Institute is scheduled to launch later this fall.

Industry Expert Working Groups: Staff sent out invitations to select states and national partners for participation in working groups focused on increasing access to industry experts. The first will kick off in late July and will focus on exploring innovative roles outside of full-time teaching 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. The second group, focusing on strategies within secondary and postsecondary relationships, will kick off in late August. 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) have confirmed their participation.

Career Clusters Taskforce The Task Force will be comprised of about 12 - 15 national, state and local leaders from K-12, post-secondary, business and industry, and workforce development who can offer insights into where the framework can have the greatest impact and the steps Advance CTE should take to achieve such an impact.

The Career Cluster Task Force's Charge:

Members of the Career Cluster Task Force will commit to engaging in a robust process, which utilizes various data and analyses and leads to the submission of final recommendations and action steps for Advance CTE.

Specifically, the Task Force will:

1. Gain an understanding of the Framework's influence and impact on the greater community of education, industry and policymakers at the national, state and local levels, leading to the identification of the key elements that drive stakeholder use of the existing framework.
2. Come to agreement on the "non-negotiables" that define a successful CTE program and larger career readiness approach that must be included in the revised Framework.
3. Ascertain how a revised Framework should reflect and promote relevant career readiness programs, policies and initiatives, leading to the achievement of career-ready learners and a well-skilled workforce.
4. Frame a sustainable process that ensures a revised Framework's ongoing relevance in an ever-changing, dynamic world, including outlining an approach

The first and only in person meeting of the Task Force will happen in late August. The goal is to bring forth a set of recommendations to the Board at the February 2018 strategic planning retreat.

Meetings/Events

Registration for the 2017 Fall Meeting will launch in mid-July. Staff have already been hard at work developing a high-quality agenda for this year's meeting. Based on lessons learned from the Spring Meeting, staff are aiming to be able to post a robust agenda as early as mid-to-late July. The focus on the agenda will be on the first and fifth pillars of *Putting Learner Success First* and will bring back the successful workshop format, to provide deeper, more focused professional development along with our regular format of plenary and breakout sessions.

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.*

This month we launched our [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:

CTE received a great deal of attention in Washington during the month of June. As updates continue to trickle in about a tough fiscal environment and "tough choices" in the 2018 Fiscal Year (FY18) Budget, we have been meeting with congressional staff to ensure they are aware of the detrimental impact of a cut to the Perkins Basic State Grants. In addition, [Workforce Development Week](#) increased the focus on the skills gap, the need to better prepare students for the workforce, and how apprenticeship can help solve these issues. Immediately following Workforce Development Week, we saw the passage of H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (which would reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins)) in the House. As such, we have been turning our attention to the Senate, where prospects for passage are not as optimistic as they were in the House.

Perkins: On June 22, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (which would reauthorize Perkins), by a voice vote (see our statement [here](#) and our summary of the bill [here](#)). Twenty five Representatives (both Democrats and Republican) from 19 states spoke in favor of the legislation prior to the vote. Advance CTE's Executive Director, Kimberly Green, was invited by congressional staff to participate in a press conference that occurred immediately following the passage of the bill. The press conference included remarks from seven Representatives from both sides of the aisle, all of whom spoke in favor of the bill. In addition, three other CTE leaders spoke (find more [here](#)) about the importance and value of CTE and passing this legislation.

Before the vote, we sent a [joint letter with ACTE](#) to the House of Representatives expressing our support with the caveat that we have a remaining concern about the definition of a secondary CTE concentrator. While we are urging the Senate to take up Perkins reauthorization as soon as possible, congressional staff have indicated that they are unlikely to take up the bill before healthcare legislation is squared away. In addition, the same concerns about the authority of the Secretary of Education to negotiate performance targets with states and sanction states by withholding funds for failure to meet performance targets have arisen. The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights raised these concerns in their [letter to House of Representatives](#) (which 19 organizations signed onto) before the vote and we have heard from congressional staff that secretarial authority is likely to remain a sticking point.

In an effort to urge the Senate to act on the bill, we have asked State CTE Directors from states with Senator on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to contact their Senators to urge them to take up Perkins reauthorization this year. The key messages we suggested were: (1) many states are in a holding pattern until a new law is passed, which would allow stakeholders to be engaged in developing a new plan that incorporates innovative ideas and best practices into their plans and (2) reauthorization sends a strong signal to appropriators who may not see cuts to CTE as significant since reauthorization is long overdue. In addition to this outreach, we will continue to work with partner organizations and congressional staff to develop and execute a strategy that will (ideally) result in a bipartisan reauthorization before the end of the year. We are concerned that the longer the process is drawn out, the greater the likelihood that (1) Perkins will become a highly politicized issue and (2) more groups will want to include additional provisions in the legislation (which will likely dilute the purpose and goals of the legislation).

Budget / Appropriations: On June 6, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the President's FY18 Budget for the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Prior to the hearing, Advance CTE contributed to the [written testimony](#) submitted to subcommittee by the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce. We also partnered with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) to send questions to members of the Subcommittee about the rationale for the [proposed cuts to CTE](#).

We have continued our advocacy efforts around the proposed cuts by meeting with several key Congressional staffers and will continue to meet with others over the summer. In addition, we released this [opinion piece](#) about the Administration's rationale for the cuts and [this chart](#) that shows the appropriations for Perkins since FY 2004.

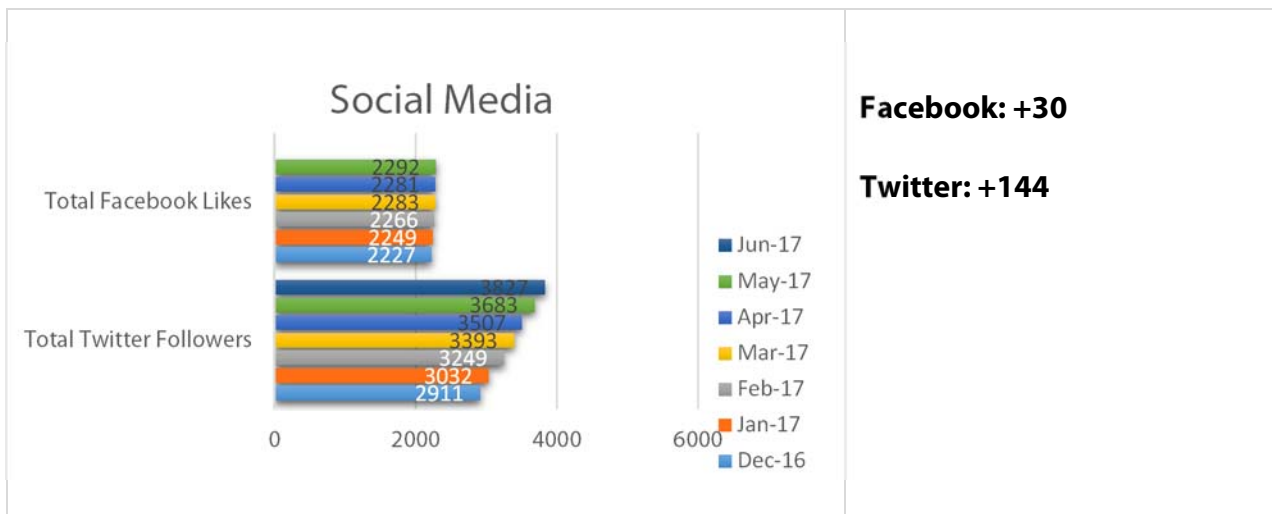
Congressional Offices Engaged in June 2017:

- Phone calls with Steve Townsend, Sen. Enzi (R-WY)
- Phone call with Allie Kimmel, Senate HELP Committee, Minority staff
- Meeting with Robin Juliano, House Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee, Minority staff

- Meeting with Mike Gentile, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Majority staff
- Meeting with Eva Vrana, Rep. Moolenaar (R-MI)
- Meeting with Alicia Molt-West, Rep. Pocan (D-WI)
- Meeting with Geoff Browning, Rep. Clark (D-MA)
- Meeting with Cristina Diaz-Torres, Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI)

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Website Metrics</h3> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Sessions</th> <th>Users</th> <th>Pageviews</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dec-16</td> <td>41,591</td> <td>31,282</td> <td>135,592</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan-17</td> <td>51,513</td> <td>38,115</td> <td>192,713</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb-17</td> <td>48,505</td> <td>36,199</td> <td>176,042</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-17</td> <td>43,086</td> <td>33,089</td> <td>149,192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr-17</td> <td>36,436</td> <td>27,766</td> <td>132,957</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May-17</td> <td>37,753</td> <td>28,836</td> <td>118,286</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun-17</td> <td>19,538</td> <td>14,853</td> <td>60,962</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Sessions	Users	Pageviews	Dec-16	41,591	31,282	135,592	Jan-17	51,513	38,115	192,713	Feb-17	48,505	36,199	176,042	Mar-17	43,086	33,089	149,192	Apr-17	36,436	27,766	132,957	May-17	37,753	28,836	118,286	Jun-17	19,538	14,853	60,962	<h3>Major Organizational Releases/Initiatives</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Value and Promise of CTE (368 views) • Resource Center (1149) • Apprenticeship Report (291) <h3>Acquisition of site users</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic search (47%) • Direct (33%) • Referral (18%)
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Media

Advance CTE was featured in the media this month including:

- [Preparing Students for a Fluid World](#), Alexandria Gazette Packet
- [Some Basics on President Trump and Apprenticeships](#), AEI
- [Trump Makes a Big Push for High School Apprenticeships](#), Education Week
- [Lee’s Summit, Kansas City Both Under-Celebrated Technology Hubs](#), Lee’s Summit Tribune

Advance CTE also published an [op-ed](#) with the Association for Career and Technical Education discussing the flawed justification for proposed CTE budget cuts.

Strategies for Attracting Students to High-Quality CTE

Staff has continued to develop resources for this initiative, with three being launched in July. Additionally, states have continued their pilot activities including New Jersey, which conducted a career fair with more than 300 students and parents featuring STEM careers. Maryland has conducted focus groups in two districts to better hone CTE messages that resonate with parents and students in those communities.

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

EVENTS ATTENDED	
	• Apprenticeship Forward partner meeting
	• Connecting Credentials workgroup on “Making All Learning Count”
	• Attended <i>Aligning Systems and Policies to Support Multiple Postsecondary</i>

- *Pathways* AYPF/JFF Capitol Hill forum, Washington, DC
- Attended STELAR I-STEM grantee conference, Arlington, VA
- National Leadership and Skills Conference, hosted by SkillsUSA
- Whiteboard Advisors' Policy Forum
- Women in Government Relations' Education Task Force 2017 Legislative Forum
- Senate CTE Caucus Briefing on "Building America's Infrastructure Workforce"
- College in High School Alliance – HEA Subgroup Meeting by phone
- PostSec Data Working Group Meeting
- Four Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Meetings
- Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce Meeting (by phone)
- The Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing on the Department of Education Budget
- Opportunity America's Jobs and Careers Coalition Meeting
- Workcred Credentialing Body Advisory Council
- National Career Academy Coalition Board Meeting
- National Coalition on Career Development
- Funders meeting (Ford, JPMC, Dimon, Siemens, Bloomberg, etc.)
- ANSI- CAPAC

**OTHER
PARTNERS
ENGAGED**

- 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
- Continued working on the next State of CTE report with the American School Counselors Association, focused on career development
- New America
- Magnet Schools of America
- Education Strategy Group (around ESSA brief)
- DoDEA
- Asia Society
- Gulf Power
- National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
- Meta Metrics
- Harris School Solutions
- Penn Foster

Advance CTE Newsletter

June 2017

Your voice from the nation's capital



Dear Members,

As I'm sure many of you have seen, the House of Representatives recently [unanimously passed](#) H.R. 2353, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, the bill that would reauthorize Perkins. This is an important time for CTE, so I urge you to contact your Senators and encourage them to continue this bipartisan effort to complete Perkins reauthorization this year!

Also, I'm happy to announce that the [Learning that Works Resource Center](#) celebrated its one year in June! We developed this center to help you find the most relevant policies, tools, guides and reports related to CTE and career readiness. In just one year, the Resource Center has grown to house over 200 materials, and was accessed nearly 80,000 times. Be sure to follow our Resource Center update in this newsletter and please submit any resources that you think should be included [here](#).

Wishing you all safe and happy beginning to this summer season!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Green,
Executive Director

In This Issue

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[View from the Hill](#)

[State Policy Overview](#)

[Resource Center](#)

[Where We've Been](#)

NEW RESOURCE!

Opportunities for Connecting Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Students and Apprenticeship Programs

This report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education and prepared by Advance CTE with support from Jobs for the Future, Vivayic and RTI International, profiles eight

Member News

Don't Forget to Renew Your Advance CTE Membership!

On July 1, we will begin a new fiscal year and another year of membership. We value all of our members and want to take this time to remind our Associate and Organizational members to be sure and renew your membership immediately to ensure there is no disruption in your membership benefits!

[Over the past year](#), Advance CTE has continued to be a strong national advocate for high-quality CTE, bolstered our state policy supports and launched compelling research about how to communicate about CTE's value and promise. All of our accomplishments are a joint venture between the national staff and you - our members. Your membership and participation in events, webinars and surveys ensures we have a strong foundation to guide the mission and vision of Advance CTE.

Simply put, we couldn't do it without you! We look forward to working with you and more success in the coming year. If you have any questions about your membership, please

secondary apprenticeship programs to identify strategies to connect CTE with apprenticeship programs.

[Read the report](#)

contact [Andrea Zimmermann](#).

Save the Date:

Fall Meeting Registration Launch

Registration for the 2017 Fall Meeting will launch on July 12. We always look forward to seeing our members at our biannual meeting and hope you can join us this year. The Fall Meeting will take place October 16-18 at the BWI Marriott in Baltimore, Maryland.

Opportunity:

America Achieves recently launched a new fellowship program in Louisiana focused on career readiness. Through the program, [Louisiana Educator Voice Fellows](#) will learn about the rapidly changing economy and help create a new generation of curricular resources that inspire all students to prepare themselves for college and career success.

America Achieves is looking for a Lead Product Developer and/or [nominations](#) of CTE teachers, counselors, school leaders or district administrators to participate in the Fellowship.

View from the Hill

CTE was front and center in the month of June on Capitol Hill! From the focus on the 2018 Fiscal Year (FY18) Budget, to [Workforce Development Week](#), to the passage of H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (which would reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins)) in the House, there was no shortage of activity.

On June 6, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the President's FY18 Budget for the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Prior to the hearing, Advance CTE contributed to the written testimony submitted to subcommittee by the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce. We also partnered with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) to send questions to members of the Subcommittee about the rationale for the [proposed cuts to CTE](#). We appreciated the questions asked by both Senators Shelby (R-AL) and Baldwin (D-WI) about the cuts and that Senators Blunt (R-MO), Schatz (D-HI) and Murphy (D-CT) all made mention of the cuts in their remarks.

We have continued our advocacy efforts around the proposed cuts by meeting with several key Congressional staffers and will continue to meet with others over the summer. In addition, we released this [opinion piece](#) about the Administration's rationale for the cuts and [this chart](#) that shows the appropriations for Perkins since FY 2004.

On June 22, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (which would reauthorize Perkins), by a voice vote (see our statement [here](#)). Immediately following the vote, Advance CTE's Executive Director, Kimberly Green, participated in a press conference on the bill, during which seven Representatives spoke in favor of the bill and three other CTE leaders spoke (find more [here](#)).

Before the vote, we sent a joint letter with ACTE to the House of Representatives expressing our

support with the caveat that we have a remaining concern about the definition of a secondary CTE concentrator. While the prospects for this bill in the Senate are unclear, we remain committed to working with key staff on fixing this issue and urging the Senate to take up Perkins reauthorization as soon as possible.

➤ State Policy Overview

June saw state policy activity related to accountability, new scholarship programs and graduation requirements. As we kick off the summer lull, here's a short roundup of legislative activity for the past month.

- P-TECH is coming to **Texas**. In May the state legislature passed [SB22](#), establishing a statewide Pathways in Technology Early College High School program. Starting fall 2017, districts and open enrollment charter schools will be able to apply for startup funding to establish a P-TECH program, which allows learners to graduate in six years with an associate's degree or two-year postsecondary certificate and work-based learning experience.
- The **Texas** legislature also [modified](#) the state's A-F accountability system that was adopted in 2015. Under the new changes, the "Student Achievement" measure - one of three - will include dual credit attainment, military enlistment, industry certification attainment and admittance into a postsecondary industry certification program.
- **Minnesota's** omnibus higher education [appropriations bill](#) for the 2018-19 biennium established a \$1 million Workforce Development Scholarship pilot program and provides funding to develop new concurrent enrollment courses.
- Meanwhile, **Vermont** passed an [economic development bill](#) that, among other things, establishes a Career Pathways Coordinator position within the Agency of Education to serve as a point person for interagency efforts to develop curriculum and design statewide career pathways.
- And in **Pennsylvania**, CTE students will now have more flexibility in meeting high school graduation requirements after [HB202](#) waived Keystone exam requirements. CTE concentrators will now be able to demonstrate competency by meeting grade-based requirements and either earning an industry credential in their program of study or passing a technical skills assessment.

As always, stay up to date with the latest state CTE policy with Advance CTE's [State Policy Updates blog](#).

➤ Learning that Works Resource Center

This month marks the **one-year anniversary** of the [Learning that Works Resource Center](#). Instead of our usual update featuring new and interesting resources, we would like to share a few interesting facts.

- The Resource Center includes more than 200 hand-curated reports, tools and policy profiles related to CTE and career readiness
- Since the Learning that Works Resource Center was launched in June 2016, resources have been accessed nearly **80,000 times**
- The most popular resource topic in the Resource Center is "**Career Advisement**"
- The three top-visited resources over the past year are:
 - [***Credentials of Value: State Strategies for Identifying and Endorsing Industry-Recognized Credentials***](#)
 - [***The State of Career Technical Education: Increasing Access to Industry Experts in High Schools***](#)
 - [***The Value and Promise of Career Technical Education: Results from a National Survey of Parents and Students***](#)

We would also love to hear your thoughts about the Resource Center. Have you found it

valuable? Could it be improved? We invite you to fill out the Learning that Works Resource Center feedback survey [here](#) and share your thoughts!

Where We've Been

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

- Committee for Education Funding Meeting
- National Leadership and Skills Conference, SkillsUSA
- Policy Forum, Whiteboard Advisers
- Education Task Force 2017 Legislative Forum, Women in Government Relations
- Briefing: Building America's Infrastructure Workforce, Senate CTE Caucus
- College in High School Alliance Higher Education Act Subgroup Meeting
- Hearing: Department of Education Budget, Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
- Apprenticeship Forward Partner's Meeting
- Connecting Credentials: Making All Learning Count a Reality Working Group
- New Jersey Department of Education Career Fair
- Maryland Department of Education Focus Group
- STELAR I-STEM Conference
- American Youth Policy Forum and Jobs for the Future Briefing on Postsecondary Pathways
- New Skills for Youth Project Team Meeting, Council of Chief State School Officers, Education Strategy Group

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