



NASDCTEc and NCTEF
Board of Directors' Update
April 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE/ORGANIZATIONAL:

Upcoming FY 14-15 NASDCTEc/NCTEF Board Meetings:

Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, June 23, 2015:

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. - NASDCTEc Conference call

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - NCTEF Conference call

Topic: FY16 Budget Approval

FY16 NASDCTEc Board Meetings:

Thursday, September 10, 2015

2 - 4 p.m. ET - Webinar/Conference call

Topic: Substitute meeting in place of in person meeting normally held in conjunction with the fall meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2015

3 - 4 p.m. ET - Conference call

Topic: Post-summit discussion

Thursday, January 28, 2016

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. ET - Conference call

Topic: Approve 990's and Audit

February Retreat

Tentative - February 21 - 23, 2016

Westin BWI Airport

1100 Old Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090

Topic: Strategic planning aligned to the new vision principles, final input into the new Vision

Thursday, April 14, 2016

3 - 4 p.m. ET - Conference call

Topic: Approve the final version of the new Vision before the spring meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2016
8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Spring Board Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2016
2:30 -3:30 p.m. ET – Conference call
Topic: Approve FY 17 Budget

FY16 NCTEF Board Meetings:

Thursday, September 11, 2015
2 – 4 p.m. ET - Webinar/Conference call
Topic: Substitute meeting in place of in person meeting normally held in conjunction with the fall meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2015
3 – 4 p.m. ET - Conference call
Topic: Post-summit discussion

Thursday, January 28, 2016
3 – 4 p.m. ET – Conference call
Topic: Approve 990's and Audit

February Retreat
Tentative - February 21 - 23, 2016
Westin BWI Airport
1100 Old Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090
Topic: Strategic planning aligned to the new vision principles, final input into the new Vision

Sunday, May 22, 2016
Noon – 6 p.m. – Spring Board Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2016
4 – 5 p.m. ET – Conference call
Topic: Approve FY 17 Budget

Membership Dues: To date, 7 states have paid their dues and an additional 11 states have submitted their intent form. The associate and organizational membership dues are scheduled to go out Friday, May 8, 2015.

CAREER CLUSTERS:

Career Clusters® Leadership Pilot: On April 10, both Career Cluster Leadership Pilots came together for their second in-person meeting in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the NASDCTEc Spring Meeting. The pilots discussed the work thus far and the challenges faced.

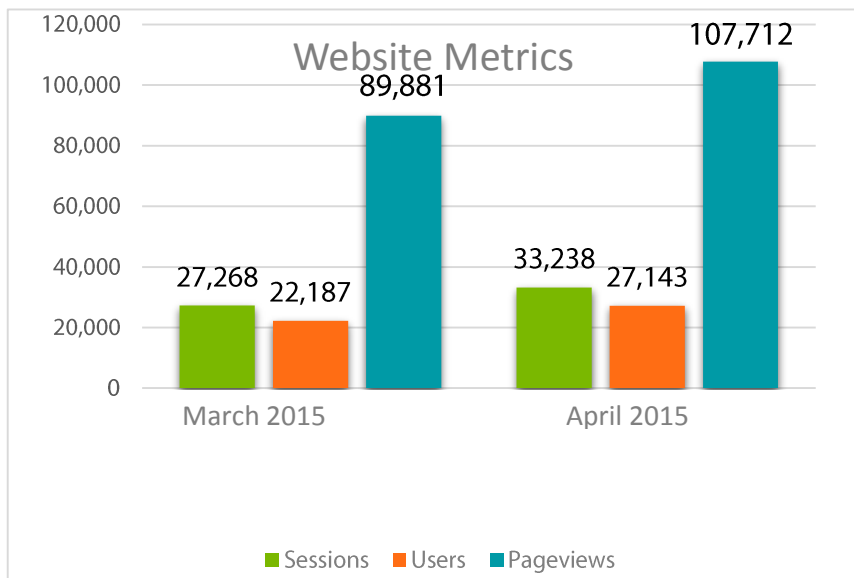
Related, the Spring Meeting's Collaboration Roundtables provided some additional ideas that the Pilots will likely incorporate into their work, particularly regarding industry-recognized credentials and work-based learning.

Below is a synopsis of the planned deliverables and likely timelines, where possible, from both Pilots:

- (Manufacturing) Course Sequences Subcommittee
 - o One pager that illustrates the development of a program of study with hyperlinks to relevant national resources -- *completed*
 - o An short on-demand webinar that provides a high-level overview of a program of study – *to be completed in May 2015*
 - o A case study on the Wisconsin Rigorous Programs of Study grant in manufacturing – *in progress and projected to be published in Summer 2015*
- (Manufacturing) Work-based Learning Subcommittee
 - o Secondary education framework for Work-based Learning – *in progress and under review by subcommittee*
 - o Additional deliverables will be developed based on the foundation provided by this framework – *to be determined in Summer 2015*
- (Manufacturing) Industry-recognized Credentials Subcommittee
 - o Coming out of the Spring Meeting, there is a clear demand for an updated Credentials List. This subcommittee had already started work on this, and now given the mandate from the NASDCTEc membership, this work will begin in earnest. – *timeline to be determined; likely end of Summer 2015*
- (Agriculture) Labor Market Information Subcommittee
 - o Thanks to recent assistance from Georgetown's Center for Education and the Workforce, the subcommittee is working to cull a list from the American Community Survey to identify a hierarchy of Agriculture careers. – *likely end of Summer 2015*

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING:

April 2015

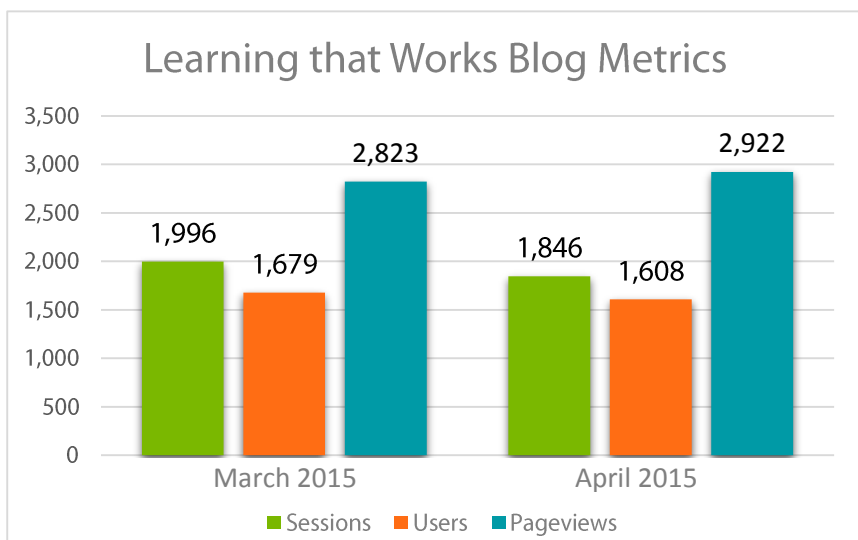


Most Visited Pages

- careertech.org/career-clusters
- careertech.org/CTE
- careertech.org/human-services

Acquisition of site users

- Organic search (41.6%)
- Direct (39.7%)
- Referral (18.4%)
- Social Media (.32%)

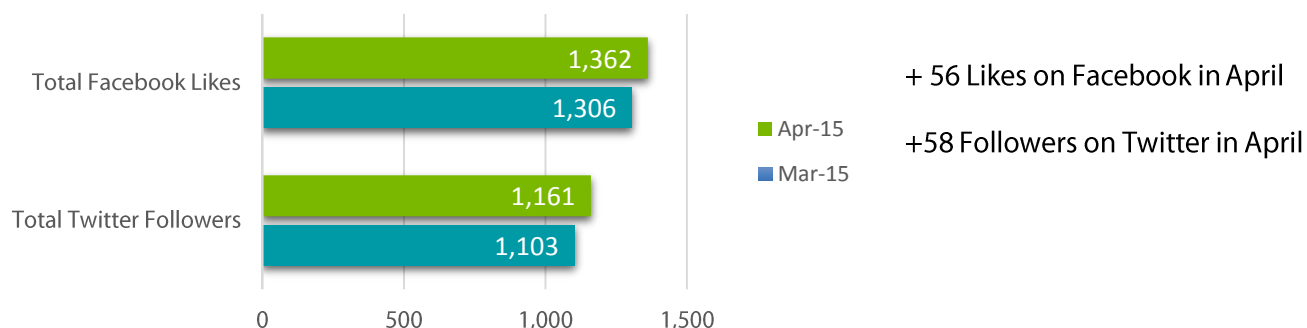


15 Blog Posts Published

Most visited blogs:

- [Top blog posts: Pathways for All – With CTE at Heart](#)
- [Legislative updates series](#)
- [Endorsements, Electives & More: CTE and State Graduation Requirements](#)

Social Media



Excellence in Action Awards: The nine Excellence in Action awardees traveled from as far as California to participate in a luncheon and award ceremony as well as present breakout sessions at the 2015 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 9. At the ceremony, award winners were presented with a banner (you can find photos from the ceremony [here](#)), and all attendees received [two-page handouts](#) featuring each program of study. Award winners and State CTE Directors were provided with a state-specific press release that they could circulate through their networks. This resulted in a handful of [articles](#) featuring the awardees as well as a highlight in [Education Week](#) from a reporter who attended the Spring Meeting.

We are planning three webinars to take place in May, June and July to feature each winning program of study. We encourage you to join us and learn more about these excellent examples of high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE). Each award winner will also be featured in a blog post beginning in May.

Inside International CTE Blog Series: In addition to our regular blog series we have also developed a monthly blog series featuring International CTE systems. Inside International CTE is conducted in partnership with Asia Society's Global Education blog series on EdWeek, and published on the NASDCTEc Learning that Works blog as well as the EdWeek blog.

Asia Society developed the first two blogs, featuring [Switzerland](#) and [Singapore](#), and NASDCTEc published this month's international blog featuring [Australia](#). Make sure to visit these posts to learn how other CTE/VET systems operate, and the challenges and opportunities they encounter at a national level.

Webinars & Publications: This month, we released a new policy brief entitled "[Endorsements, Electives & More: CTE in State Graduation Requirements](#)," exploring common state approaches to offering or requiring CTE courses and assessments within a statewide set of graduation requirements, offer illustrative examples of state-level policies and elevate implementation issues for consideration.

Looking ahead, we have a number of publications and webinars planned for the next few months, including:

- **May 18, 2015** State Director only conference call to discuss the Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which contain a set of **proposed** rules for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), with a special focus on the infrastructure funding and implications for Perkins.
- May 20, 2015: We will be hosting our quarterly State CTE Directors' Advocacy call
- May-June, 2015: Five progress reports on each of the principles of Reflect, Transform & Lead: A New Vision for Career Technical Education. These short papers will help set the stage for the Future of CTE Summit this Fall. They will likely be accompanied by short webinars in partnership with the Summit co-conveners
- May-June, 2015: We will be hosting three webinars featuring our Excellence in Action award winners. The dates will be released soon
- June 2015: We will be co-releasing a brief on competency-based pathways and CTE, drawn from the roundtable we are co-hosting with Achieve in early May. This brief will explore the challenges and opportunities of fully integrating CTE into a competency-based system at the K-12 level.

CTE Monthly: [April CTE Monthly Career Cluster® Spotlight: Human Services; program in Oakland, California](#)

PUBLIC POLICY/LEGISLATIVE:

Legislation/Policy

FY 2016 Budget and Appropriations

- In February, President Obama formally began the budget and appropriations cycle for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 with the release of his budget request to Congress. This document proposed flat-funding for the Carl D. Perkins Act's (Perkins) basic state grant program (BSG) at \$1.117 billion— \$5 million below pre-sequester levels. However, the request sought to include an extra \$200 million for the American Technical Training Fund (ATTF), a proposed new competitive grant program for both secondary and postsecondary CTE. An additional \$2 million was requested for the administration of this new program.

- Overall, the President's request sought to end sequestration— the Budget Control Act of 2011's (BCA) mandated budget caps that restrict federal *discretionary* spending into the next decade. Much of his request exceeded these caps which would essentially freeze current spending levels past FY 2020. The President is able to do so since this is simply a request to Congress which serves as policy statement from the Administration.
- Since that time, the House and Senate Budget committees have passed respective budget resolutions outlining the overall spending totals that each of the Congressional Appropriations Committees will work off of to determine individual funding levels for specific programs like the Perkins Act BSG program. Both resolutions adhere to the BCA-mandated caps and would effectively freeze FY 2016 funding for the Labor-Health & Human Services-Education (Labor-H) Appropriations bill where the Perkins BSG program derives its funding. That legislation is still under consideration in both Chambers.
- Nevertheless, 88 members of the House and 31 Senators signed-on in support of two "Dear Colleague" letters to the Labor-H Appropriations Subcommittees to urge their fellow lawmakers to restore the Perkins BSG program to pre-sequester levels in FY 2016— a proposed \$5 million increase for the program above what it has received in the since FY 2014 & 2015.
- NASDCTEc helped support these efforts and released a joint-funding request of its own to Congress which was aligned to both [Dear Colleague letters](#). This formal request was supported by the Association of Career and Technical Education, the American Community College Association, and the National Skills Coalition.
- Despite all of this activity, it remains highly uncertain whether a Republican Congress and a Democratic President will be able to come to agreement on funding in FY 2016. Recent efforts to pass a joint budget resolution by both Chambers in Congress have contained significant proposals to cut Labor-H funding which are anathema to most Democrats and President Obama. The debate on FY 2016 will carry on for the better part of this year and a resolution is not likely until sometime closer to the September 31st deadline for the start of the next federal Fiscal Year.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

- Both Chairman Alexander (R-TN) of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce (HEW) Committee have prioritized the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in the newly convened 114th Congress.
- In the House, the Student Success Act (H.R. 5) was passed by the HEW Committee on a strict party line vote which did not garner any Democratic support. Upon its passage from the Committee, the Obama White House issued several veto threats and expressed significant concern regarding a number of proposals in the legislation.
- Nonetheless, House Republicans were successful in bringing H.R. 5 to the floor of the House where it was considered by the full Chamber. However, conservative groups and elements within the Republican Caucus began to lobby against the bill and House leadership was forced to remove the bill from the floor for a yet to be determined period of time.

- In the Senate, Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) have been negotiating a bipartisan ESEA proposal based on Alexander’s recently released discussion draft in January. On April 7, those negotiations were finalized and “The Every Child Achieves Act of 2015” (ECAA) was reported to the HELP Committee for mark-up and further consideration.
- The legislation is a significant bipartisan step in the ESEA reauthorization process and contains many compromises on controversial issues pertaining to Title I portability, state and local accountability and reporting systems, and the overall federal role in K-12 education.
- The following week, the Senate HELP Committee marked-up and passed ECAA. During this time, Senator Baldwin (D-WI) successfully shepherded an amendment— based off the NASDCTEc supported “Career Ready Act”— that would require state and local report cards to include student attainment of CTE proficiencies as currently reported under Perkins. ECAA would also grant a wide degree of flexibility in state and local accountability systems, but would require at least one measure to be focused on student postsecondary and workforce preparation.
- NASDCTEc expects the full Senate to consider ECAA sometime after the Memorial Day Congressional recess where it will likely pass the full Chamber. Nevertheless, the House has made no further attempts to pass H.R. 5 throwing much of this progress into question. While still a long way off, this progress has been significant in moving closer to a wider ESEA reauthorization.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- On April 16th, the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education and Health and Human Services (DOL, ED, and HHS) announced a series of five Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which contain a set of **proposed** rules for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- NASDCTEc is concerned with one [NPRM jointly developed by DOL and ED](#) which proposes a set of rules governing WIOA’s state and local planning options, performance accountability system, and the operation of the One-Stop system.
- In particular, NASDCTEc is concerned with the Administration’s interpretation of WIOA with regards to the sharing of One-Stop infrastructure costs. As written, the proposed NPRM has the potential to negatively impact each Perkins eligible agency, regardless of whether they are at the secondary, postsecondary or adult learning levels, despite the intent of the legislation.
- NASDCTEc is planning to formally respond to this proposal via the NPRM’s formal comment period ending on June 16th and is working to create draft language for use by State Directors for this same purpose.

The Higher Education Act

- In late March, Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) [released a series of white papers](#) to spur discussion about three core issues related to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. These issues included accreditation, risk sharing, and consumer information / data and the Chairman solicited public comment on these topics.

- NASDCTEc fully endorsed and supported the Institute for Higher Education Policy's (IHEP) letter in response to all three of these solicitations. The letter can be viewed [here](#).
- NASDCTEc also authored two more formal responses in conjunction with ACTE. Those letters, related to consumer information and accreditation, can be view [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

Advocacy Plan:

- NASDCTEc staff continue to meet with key HEW and HELP committee members on the reauthorization of the Perkins Act. Staff have been clear that the reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the High Education Act (HEA) have taken priority in the 114th Congress. Perkins reauthorization remains a possibility, but the timing of this process remains unclear at this time. Further, the possibility for Perkins-related activity remains significantly higher in the House than in the Senate.
- NASDCTEc and ACTE have jointly completed their annual FY 2016 appropriations request to Congress. This request can be viewed [here](#).
- NASDCTEc has nearly completed sending personalized thank you letters to each of the members of Congress who signed-on in support for FY 2016 Perkins funding. This is part of a broader strategy to position the Association during likely last-minute funding negotiations later this year. NASDCTEc will also be encouraging its members to send similar notes of appreciation to those who have signed-on.
- NASDCTEc has reengaged with the several coalition groups focused on the Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) side of the federal budget— the area where the Perkins Act receives its funding. With the Murray-Ryan budget agreement of 2014 expired, statutorily mandated funding caps known as “sequestration” will come back into effect beginning next year. As mentioned above, these caps limit the overall size of federal funding until FY 2021 and will make the fiscal environment extremely difficult for the FY 2016 budget and appropriations process and beyond. In order to protect current funding levels and to work towards increases for the Perkins Act, NASDCTEc has continued to work with these coalition groups to advocate for an end to sequestration and for parity between defense and non-defense discretionary spending.
- NASDCTEc continues to engage with a loose coalition of employers and education groups around the reauthorization of the Perkins Act. NASDCTEc has been extremely successful in ensuring that its draft legislative language be used as the basis for the coalition’s forthcoming proposal for the law’s renewal. These negotiations are still underway, but will reflect a broad-based consensus among the groups when finished.
- In conjunction with ACTE, NASDCTEc continues to draft legislative language aligned to its Board-approved Perkins priorities. This draft language is currently undergoing revisions to reflect feedback received from Hill staff and other key stakeholder groups. Efforts are also underway to draft language on the National Activities section of Perkins, although this language is still in the early stages of development.

- NASDCTEc will be dedicating itself over the next two months to ensuring the CTE community's interests are protected as the implementation of WIOA continues through the NPRM process. A State Director's conference call and further supporting materials are planned in the coming month. **We encourage all State Directors, regardless of whether or not they believe their work intersects with the WIOA system, to participate. This conference call will take place on Monday, May 18th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET.**
- The next State Directors advocacy call will be on **Thursday, May 20th, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. ET**

Events/Calls/Webinars attended in March 2015:

- Meeting: Transportation Learning Center
- Congressional Meetings and Contact:
 - Rep. Kennedy (D-MA)
 - Sen. Kaine (D-VA)
 - Sen. Portman (R-OH)
 - Sen. Warner (D-VA)
 - Sen. Moran (R-KS)
- Meeting: Boeing Company
- Meeting: Perkins Coalition
- Call: College Board
- Event: Committee for Education Funding Research Briefing
- Meeting: IBM
- Meeting: Alliance for Excellent Education
- Event: American Enterprise Institute
- Event: National Restaurant Association Education Foundation Annual Gala
- Meeting: Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- Call: Opportunity America—Jobs and Careers Coalition
- Call with ACTE on equity issues
- Call with ACTE – monthly cross-organizational policy call
- Meeting: Pro Exam
- Call: Jeff Carter, Digital Promise
- Call: RTI and Third Sector on social innovation bonds
- Call: Holly Moore, Growing Leaders
- Meeting with MSSC and Business Leaders United
- Meeting with the National Restaurant Education Foundation
- Meeting with ACTE Executive Director
- Calls: NCAC Conference Committee and Finance Committee
- Meeting with Central Regional Education Lab
- Call: National Technical Honor Society and U.S. Department of Education on Presidential Scholars
- Call: With Center for Secondary School Redesign, Successful Practices Network, and other potential partners on possible i3 proposals
- Call: ACTE on CareerTech VISION (x3)
- Call: RTI International, Third Sector Capital on social impact bonds

- Meeting: Dan Brown of Future Educators of America
- Presentation: Education Writers Association conference
- Planning call with Achieve on competency-based pathway/CTE roundtable (x3)