

Advance CTE Newsletter

December 2017

Your voice from the nation's capital



Dear Members,

As we near the end of 2017, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the many accomplishments CTE has had in the past year, as well as the work ahead. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to serving learners across the country with innovative and impactful CTE programs. Yesterday, you received an email from Advance CTE asking how we can better serve you and your needs in 2018. Please be sure to fill it out by January 19!

We are finishing out 2017 with a few new resources, including [Career Readiness and the Every Student Succeeds Act: Mapping Career Readiness in State ESSA Plans](#). ESSA marks a watershed moment, with 49 states including at least one strategy to advance career readiness in their plans. While this is incredible progress, there is still work to be done. Many states left opportunities on the table and we look forward to continuing to advocate for and support states in the implementation of their ESSA plans in the coming year.

Earlier this month we also released the third in our series exploring CTE in rural communities. [CTE on the Frontier: Providing Learners Access to Diverse Career Pathways](#) profiles strategies from states, including Nebraska, Alaska, North Dakota and Idaho, that are leveraging partnerships and technology to reach economies of scale and expand program offerings in rural areas.

Lastly, I'm excited to share a new members-only resource, [Coordination between Career Technical Education & State Initiatives](#), which focuses particularly on CTE coordination with secondary education and high school reform, workforce development, and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season and a new year filled with much success!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Green,
Executive Director

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New Resources!

Member News

Save the Date!

Registration for the 2018 Advance CTE Spring Meeting will launch on January 10. Be sure to sign up early to save up to \$250 off regular registration rates. The meeting will be held April 4-6 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. We hope you will join us and more than 200 national, state and local leaders at this national CTE convening.

State Director Retirement

Please join us in congratulating Marie Barry on more than

We've updated our [State Snapshots](#), providing you with data and information about CTE in your state. Use this resource to highlight how CTE Works for students in your state!

10 years of service as New Jersey's State CTE Director. During her time as a state leader, Marie also served as Advance CTE's president and for many years after, continued providing her wise counsel as a member of our Board of Directors and leader within the CTE community. Marie's last day at the New Jersey Department of Education was December 20.

View from the Hill

In December, Congress focused on its final legislative priorities for 2017: passing legislation for tax reform and beginning the reauthorization process for the Higher Education Act (HEA). As we shared in our [Legislative Update](#) on December 1, Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, introduced H.R. 4508, the "[Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity Through Education Reform](#)" ([PROSPER](#)) Act. This bill would reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), and make significant changes to a number of provisions within the current law. Advance CTE analyzed the bill based on our board-approved [HEA Reauthorization Recommendations](#) and submitted a [letter](#) expressing our views to the Committee in advance of the markup on December 12. The PROSPER Act passed out of Committee on a party line vote (23-17) and the bill is expected to go before the full U.S. House of Representatives for a vote in early 2018. It is likely that the U.S. Senate will unveil its own proposal in early 2018. Advance CTE will continue to advocate for our [HEA Reauthorization Recommendations](#) as the process moves forward and will provide updates as they become available.

In November, both the House and Senate passed tax reform bills. Advance CTE had concerns about a number of provisions in each bill, including the elimination of: the deductions for state and local taxes (SALT), the educator expense deduction, student loan interest tax deductions, the lifetime learning credit and tax benefits for employer tuition reimbursement programs. In addition, the overall cost of tax reform is likely to put pressure on appropriators to cut spending in other areas going forward. This means there could be an adverse impact on education spending, including for Perkins Basic State Grants, which have remained relatively [flat funded since 1991](#). Advance CTE partnered with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) to send letters expressing our views on both bills, and once both passed, we sent a [letter](#) to the conference committee expressing our outstanding concerns. The conference committee released its proposal for a final bill on December 15 and both chambers of Congress passed the bill on December 20, which President Trump is expected to sign. While the final bill removes a number of problematic provisions, Advance CTE remains concerned about the \$10,000 cap on the deduction for state and local taxes and the overall cost of tax reform, both of which are likely to have negative implications for the overall investment in CTE.

State Policy Overview

This has been a year in which the profile of CTE has grown, both within states and across the country. According to preliminary data from Advance CTE's annual year in review report, scheduled to be released in late January in partnership with ACTE, even more states adopted policies related to CTE and career readiness in 2017 than the year before.

And even as 2017 draws to a close, career preparation continues to be a priority. The following states took policy-related actions this month related to CTE and career readiness:

- In **Pennsylvania**, Governor Tom Wolf [announced a new plan](#) to expand registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, redirecting economic development funds to

provide grants to employers, workforce boards, community colleges and career technical schools.

- The **Oregon** Department of Education announced recipients for the latest round of [CTE revitalization grants](#), totaling \$10.3 million. The program was established in 2011 to strengthen CTE programs and foster partnership between education and business leaders, and has enjoyed sustained support and funding since then.
- Meanwhile, the **Indiana** State Board of Education gave the green light on new [graduation requirements](#) that will go into effect starting with the class of 2023. Under the new rules, high school graduates will need to meet three requirements: (1) earn a high school diploma, (2) demonstrate employability skills (including project-based, service-based and work-based learning), and (3) demonstrate postsecondary-ready competencies, such as earning an industry-recognized credential, completing an internship or concentrating in a CTE program.

We'll have more in January with the release of our annual Year in Review report. Keep an eye out then for more trends from 2017.

Learning that Works Resource Center

Holding all CTE programs to high standards of excellence, and creating a statewide system that fosters quality, requires processes for employers to inform, validate and participate in the implementation of programs of study. Without meaningful employer engagement, CTE programs are untethered from the realities of the workforce. This month's Learning that Works Resource Center update includes top resources related to [employer engagement](#).

Report - [The State of Career Technical Education: Employer Engagement in CTE](#)

This report from Advance CTE examines the employer engagement landscape with a particular focus on the ways in which states can foster and sustain meaningful employer engagement to strengthen their CTE system for all students through policy and practice.

Policy - [Illinois: STEM Learning Exchanges](#)

The Illinois STEM Learning Exchanges, launched in 2012, are public-private partnerships between education and business leaders designed to prepare students for high-demand, high-skill careers while simultaneously developing a talent pipeline for local businesses.

Case Study - [In Their Words: Why Business Leaders Support CTE, Career Pathways and Career Academies](#)

This brief from Advance CTE and Ford Next Generation Learning summarizes two roundtables held with business leaders in Nashville, TN and Pinellas County, FL to explore why and how they support CTE in their communities, and offers recommendations based on their successful engagement.

Guide - [Connecting Community Colleges with Employers: A Toolkit for Building Successful Partnerships](#)

This toolkit from the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution details strategies to bridge connections between institutions of higher education and industry leaders, specifically through college-based industry liaisons.

Where We've Been

Staff presented at a number of events including:

- CareerTech VISION, ACTE
- ACTE-Research
- Youth Apprenticeship in America Today, New America

Staff also attended a number of events and meetings including:

- PostsecData Working Group, Institute for Higher Education Funding
- Energized for Evidence Fly-In, Workforce Data Quality Campaign (WDQC)
- Education Task Force Policy and Politics Monthly Meeting, Women in Government Relations
- Connecting Apprenticeship and Higher Education, New America
- Credential Engine Launch
- NOCTI Board Meeting
- WDQC Data Linkages Working Group
- AYPF Connecting Credentials Conversation on Youth Employment
- Global CTE Advisory Meeting
- Career Readiness Expert Working Group on Industry Recognized Credentials

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