



# CTEWORKS

NEWS AND UPDATES

This month's CTEWorks newsletter **elevates resources on Learner Voice that help states ensure learners' needs are not just heard, but actively integrated into the fabric of all Career Technical Education (CTE) and career preparation systems.**

The concept of learner voice occurs on a spectrum from learners giving their opinions, all the way to learners taking on leadership roles and driving systemic change. **CTE learners are the experts in their own education and career pathways**, meaning their input is the key to making CTE work for every learner. In the spirit of Workforce Development Month, we're sharing these resources to highlight the need to understand and engage learners in all aspects of policy, especially in workforce development, as learners prepare for their lifelong careers.

We also feature exciting new releases from Advance CTE, a Q&A with one of our Senior Policy Associates to talk about her work with learner voice and ready-made content as a new feature to share our learner voice blogs with your followers on social media.

**Featured Resource: Learner Voice Toolkit**

# WITH LEARNERS, NOT FOR LEARNERS:

## A TOOLKIT FOR ELEVATING LEARNER VOICE IN CTE



This toolkit provides state and local CTE leaders with actionable resources, guidance and tools to ensure CTE learner voices are elevated and heard for the improvement of CTE policies and practices.

Supplemental resources are provided in this toolkit to assist CTE leaders in processing new information and ideas, identifying the most important next steps, and highlighting areas where action is most needed:

- A rubric to assess commitments for engaging CTE Learners;
- A worksheet to assess organizational readiness to elevate learner voice in CTE;
- Sample focus group questions for current CTE learners; and
- A worksheet for developing a strategy to elevate learner voice in CTE.

This toolkit has served as the foundation for Advance CTE's work with multiple states to assess the current role of learner voice in CTE policy and practice and build structures for meaningful and sustainable learner engagement. Read more about our work in the blogs below!

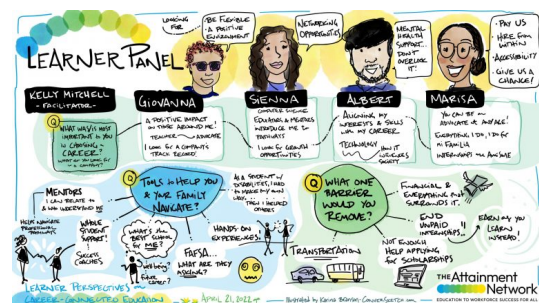
Explore the Resource

## Featured Blogs on Learner Voice



### States Make Progress in Strengthening Meaningful Learner Engagement in CTE

This blog shares the work and lessons learned so far from the Leveraging Learner Voice to Strengthen CTE Technical Assistance cohort, which



### New Skills ready network Highlight Blog: Leveraging Learner Voice to Strengthen Career Pathways

This blog overviews The Attainment Network's Learner Voice Symposium, where Colorado career pathway leaders heard directly from Colorado learners and

worked this year to support states to engage learners in improving CTE programs and policies.

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their perspectives on career preparation. Leaders gained actionable insights to leverage diverse learner perspectives in ensuring equitable career pathways and CTE programs.

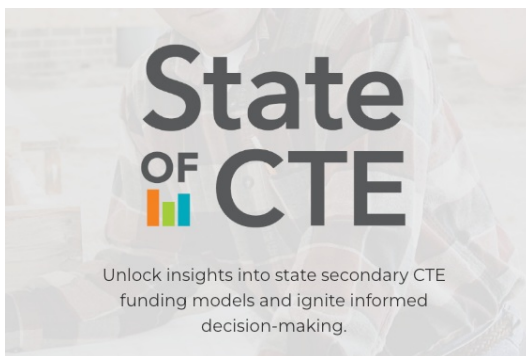
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### Are you following us?

We post daily on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) with information on CTE, resources, research and more!

## New Releases from Advance CTE



### 2023 State of CTE: Secondary CTE Funding Website and Report

This month, we launched *2023 State of CTE: An Analysis of State Secondary CTE Funding Models*. This report builds on [baseline research](#) conducted in 2014 by RTI International, with the support of Advance CTE. It is an important step in expanding knowledge about funding models and approaches for state secondary CTE and national trends in funding design and delivery.

Our report website provides a **map, research report, case studies and more** to explore national state CTE funding trends.

[Visit the microsite](#)



### Building a Diverse CTE Leadership Pathway: Journey to CTE Leadership video series

This video series shares the authentic journey of four Fellows from the inaugural cohort of [The Postsecondary State Career Technical Education Leaders Fellowship at Advance CTE - Sponsored by ECMC Foundation](#).

Through their personal stories, Justin Chin, Dr. Dimitria Harding, Carlos Lopez and Janelle Washington provide insight on some of the barriers to leadership they have faced and the support they received that helped them to rise above and advance in their careers.

[Watch the videos](#)

## Getting to Know Advance CTE: Haley Wing

**Q: How does your work intersect with Learner Voice?**

**A.** In my role as Senior Policy Associate, I directly support Advance CTE's state policy initiatives, implementation strategies, and member engagement activities with specific attention to equity and high-quality career pathways. A valuable component of equity includes leveraging learners as partners in the design, delivery and implementation of CTE programs and policies. The Leveraging Learner Voice to Strengthen CTE technical assistance cohort is a project I have led over the past eight months. This technical assistance cohort supports five states (Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire, Oregon and Wisconsin) in shifting their mindset on learner engagement, creating a culture that values CTE learner voice within state agencies and co-creating an Action Plan with learners to develop systems, policies and practices that center learner engagement, feedback and input.



**Q: Why is learner engagement important for CTE systems and programs?**

**A.** Meaningful, inclusive and intentional learner engagement is a valuable component of CTE program improvement. Understanding learners' lived experiences in CTE programs and work-based learning informs opportunities to improve programs and systems to better meet the needs of learners and ensure their successful enrollment, engagement and completion of high-quality CTE programs.

**Q. We know that learner engagement is a spectrum — what does truly meaningful engagement look like?**

**A.** Truly meaningful learner engagement takes many forms and requires leaders to shift their mindset and culture to value learners in the design and delivery of CTE programs and policies. When engaging with CTE learners, leaders must ensure they foster an environment that sees learners as valued and trusted stakeholders; provide multiple spaces and avenues for learner engagement that include all learners' voices; and that CTE learners are recognized for their contributions and expertise.

Learner engagement can range from simply listening to the experiences of learners to providing learners an explicit role in decision-making all the way to providing learners with leadership roles of co-planning and having shared responsibility. This continuum, from the [With Learners, Not For Learners: Learner Voice Toolkit](#) shares types of learner engagement leaders can engage in to improve CTE programs and policies.

**TYPES OF STUDENT VOICE**



**Q. How do we support CTE leaders in leveraging learner voice?**

**A.** Leaders can begin evaluating how prepared they are to meaningfully engage learners. The [With Learners, Not For Learners: Learner Voice Toolkit](#) includes an organizational assessment to evaluate organizational readiness – this is a great first step for leaders and agencies to understand the assets that can support meaningful and sustained learner



engagement work and the opportunities to add systems, processes or resources to support this practice. The toolkit also includes additional resources and guidance to support leaders in more meaningfully engaging CTE learners.

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