

ADVANCE  **CTE**

State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work



Preparing
for CTE's
**NEXT
ERA**

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Advance CTE Members and CTE Family,

This report's theme, *Preparing for CTE's Next Era*, signifies not only a new era for Career Technical Education (CTE) but also for Advance CTE as an organization. 2023 began with the announced retirement of our pioneering executive director, Kimberly Green, after 30 years in the organization. I was honored to be selected by the Advance CTE Board of Directors to succeed Kim starting July 1, 2023, and have been extremely grateful for the unwavering support and thought partnership that our members, colleagues, and national partners have provided in the months since.

As I reflect over the past year, I am most proud that our commitment to excellence and responsiveness to members has not wavered. We have been able to deepen our direct support to states while always preserving our 50-state and territory impact. In 2023, 44 states engaged in Advance CTE's technical assistance or communities of practice, while all states benefited from our publications and virtual learning events. I am also energized that the Advance CTE team continues to expand and diversify across a variety of identities.

As 2024 progresses, our "next era" work will explore solutions to design CTE programs and systems to address current and emerging workforce transformations, including modernizing The National Career Clusters[®] Framework, connecting CTE and green careers, strengthening alignment to workforce systems, helping states sustain and scale promising practices, empowering learners, and more.

Maximizing the full potential of CTE requires a united front, and our members are the heart of that effort. I am regularly in awe of how much our members do while still remaining curious and committed to innovation and continuous improvement. I am also grateful to our national partners and funders who allow us to expand our reach and ability to achieve sustainable progress.

Thank you for all that each of you contribute to helping CTE reach every learner, leader, and community. Enjoy reading and celebrating our collective impact!



Kate Kreamer
Executive Director

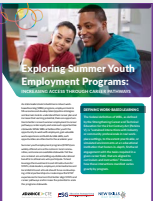
Fulfilling CTE Without Limits

Released in 2021, *Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education (CTE)* is our bold vision for creating and sustaining a cohesive, flexible, and responsive career preparation ecosystem. In 2023, we provided cutting-edge research and resources to support our members as they continue to implement the vision's five principles. Highlights include:

Principle 1: Each learner engages in a cohesive, flexible, and responsive career preparation ecosystem.

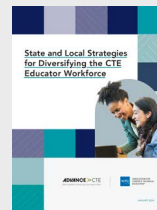


Our report on key components of CTE policy and practice provides a landscape of federal and state **secondary CTE funding**; highlights key trends in state funding design; and provides recommendations to advance equitable, learner-centered funding design.



Produced through JPMorgan Chase's New Skills ready network, this brief builds the case and provides actionable recommendations for states to support aligning **summer youth employment programs** with career pathways and the work-based learning continuum, including through CTE.

Principle 2: Each learner feels welcome in, is supported by, and has the means to succeed in the career preparation ecosystem.



This toolkit and companion database present common challenges to **diversifying the educator workforce** and identify promising practices and actionable strategies to overcome these challenges.



In partnership with the Kentucky Student Voice Team and the Kentucky Department of Education, we launched a **Youth Participatory Action Research Initiative**, which is engaging learners to conduct meaningful CTE-connected research to inform policy and practice at the state and local levels.

Principle 3: Each learner skillfully navigates their own career journey.

16 STATES participated in our **Career Advising** Community of Practice.



Principle 4: Each learner's skills are counted, valued, and portable.

This toolkit provides effective messages for key audiences and strategies for dissemination to increase participation in **credit for prior learning** among learners who are pursuing career pathways and CTE programs of study that lead to jobs in in-demand fields.



Principle 5: Each learner can access CTE without borders.

This policy playbook, developed with input from more than 100 state and local leaders, provides actions and strategies to develop policies and programs that advance the **expansion of CTE and work-based learning** within and across states.

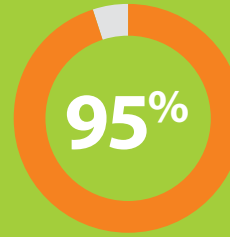


Supporting Leaders & Learners

As our members work to ensure that all learners have access to high-quality, equitable CTE, each has their own challenges and is at a different point on the CTE journey. In 2023, we continued to meet our members where they are, with a particular focus on increasing diversity and elevating learner voice. Highlights include:

400+ LEARNERS ACROSS 5 STATES

engaged in focus groups, surveys, one-on-one interviews, and advisory board meetings in our **Learner Voice** cohort



of State CTE Directors are satisfied with the **value of their state's membership**

37 resources created to support members' work and promote high-quality CTE



Our **Postsecondary State Career Technical Education Leaders Fellowship at Advance CTE—Sponsored by ECMC Foundation** delivers results to enhance both individual and national support for diverse state CTE leadership pipelines

80% of participants reported advancement in their roles after completing the Fellowship

20K+ views of resources created for the Fellowship



of members surveyed agree or strongly agree that Advance CTE's **resources and technical assistance** offer the support/guidance needed to develop and implement equitable CTE policies, practices, and programs

After our workshop series, participants reported a **40%** increase in how prepared they felt to identify actions and strategies to increase **CTE learner voice**

12 states participated in our **Diversifying the CTE Workforce Shared Solutions Work Group** to develop resources to support recruiting and retaining secondary CTE teachers and administrators of color

Engaging & Connecting Members

Bringing together our members in person and virtually provides the opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned to address common challenges and improve outcomes for CTE learners. Highlights from 2023 include:

On a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high), how much value did Advance CTE's **professional learning opportunities** add to your state's work in 2023?

WEBINARS

7.68

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

7.93

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

7.43

IN-PERSON EVENTS

8.53



4 NEW communities of practice allowed members to share promising practices or extend implementation support for key elements of high-quality CTE programs and systems

200+ STATE LEADERS

from 41 states and territories participated in 1 of 3 Perkins regional meetings

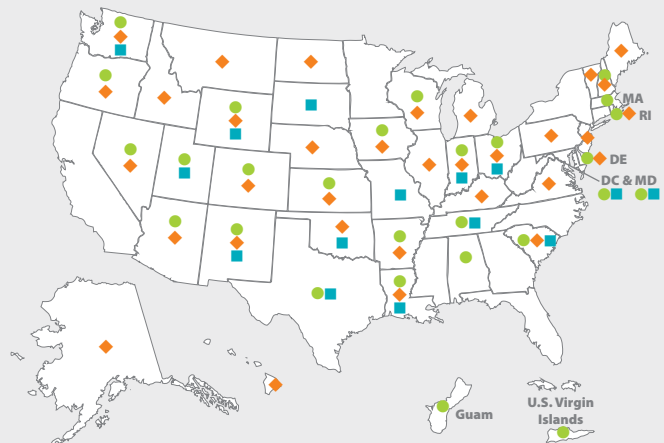
100%

reported that meetings were an "extremely valuable" or "valuable" use of their time

97%

reported it was "very likely" or "likely" they would use what they learned in their Perkins plan

44 states and territories received direct support or engagement



- Receiving Technical Assistance
- ◆ Participating in Communities of Practice
- Participating in Shared Solutions Workgroups/Committees

Leading National Conversations

In 2023, we continued to drive innovation in CTE policy and practice and position CTE as an essential strategy to meet education, workforce, and economic needs. Highlights include:

MODERNIZING The National Career Clusters® Framework

WITH INPUT FROM ALL SECTORS:

 **22**
organizations represented on the National Advisory Committee

 **200+**
individuals serving on Industry Advisory Groups

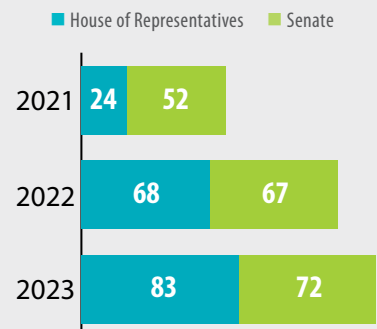
 **1,900+**
responses to a survey on implementation

31 federal legislative measures

supported and endorsed, positioning Advance CTE as a go-to resource on federal policy

Support for CTE Month Resolutions Is Growing

Number of Co-Sponsors



Laura Scheibe, 2022-23 Advance CTE Board of Directors president, testifies before the House of Representatives subcommittee in support of Perkins V funding and its importance to rural communities throughout the nation

215
Congressional engagements in 2023



LAUNCH

EQUITABLE & ACCELERATED PATHWAYS FOR ALL

7 Impact Cohort states and local partners aim to evaluate, strengthen, and scale their current college and career pathways through **4 academies**

5 Innovation Cohort cross-sector state, regional, and local teams strive for **next-generation solutions** to systemic barriers to equitable pathway access and outcomes



of the bipartisan U.S. House of Representatives Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act reauthorization proposal aligned to Advance CTE's recommendations



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