

NEW SKILLS

READY NETWORK



New Skills ready network Quarterly Newsletter

This is a quarterly stakeholder newsletter for the *New Skills ready network*. It provides updates and celebrations from the six sites involved in the network: Boston, Massachusetts; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Nashville, Tennessee.

Boston Convening Brings Sites Together

At the fourth biannual convening of the *New Skills ready network*, sites brought together long-time and new members of their project teams to Boston, Massachusetts for idea sharing, networking, and professional development. Over 250 participants from the six sites spent three days in a variety of different plenary and breakout sessions to continue to learn promising practices that could be replicated across the network.

Day One was built around Reflection and understanding what work has been done to date and thinking critically about the challenges and opportunities that stand before each site. A keynote panel of Massachusetts executive leaders that included Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeff Riley, Assistant Secretary of Career Education Bob LePage, and Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Noe Ortega spoke extensively about the value of career pathways and the inherent inequities that face learners and educators alike. Despite the challenges facing learners and the artificial barriers that are often put in place by leaders in the system, a sense of optimism resonated throughout the panel; as Commissioner Riley shared, “Kids are desperate to learn. They want to be ready for their future. They want to learn and be engaged.” The day concluded with the same sense of optimism, as sites shared key success stories in roundtable discussions to elevate promising practices.



EdVestors (Boston) President & CEO Marinell Rousmaniere moderates the Massachusetts executive panel

On Day Two, the theme of Reflection transitioned to one of Learning about how to better prepare the project teams to push into the fifth year of the *New Skills ready network* and beyond with a focus on sustainability and scalability. Learner success stories elevated the role of learner voice and demonstrated the power of the *New Skills ready network* initiatives happening in Boston Public Schools. Multiple rounds of breakouts elevated high-quality practices from both inside and outside the network. Varied topics included curriculum alignment, elevating paths to postsecondary credentials, and portfolio development for early postsecondary opportunities. Equity-oriented topics such as [goal-setting in achieving inclusive CTE](#) and occupational identity formation were also a focus. The day concluded with team time to allow sites to further reflect on the learning of the day.

Innovation was the theme for Day Three and multiple sessions focused on how sites can continue to innovate to support learners in a changing world. Problems of Practice sessions paired sites together, sharing new ideas about how to remedy emerging or long-standing challenges. Plenary sessions focused heavily on the future, including how the world of work is more different than ever before. ESG's own Heather Justice led a session on the future of work and how its impacts will drive career pathway changes and creation, demonstrating the need to be flexible and adaptable in a changing labor market. A panel of employer leaders, led by JPMorgan Chase Executive Director Matthew Muench, rounded out the morning, focusing on the transferability and adaptability required to be successful in the job market. Participants found considerable value in learning directly from employers, as the panel was able to bridge the gap easily between education and the world of work and provide sites with actionable steps to better support learners entering the workforce.

Resources from this and previous convenings can be found on Advance CTE's *New Skills ready network* [resource page](#). The next convening will take place in Spring 2024 in Dallas, Texas. Stay tuned for more details about dates and the specific location.

NSrn Communities in the News

New Skills ready network communities continue to make news for their efforts to strengthen college and career readiness.

Links to recent articles are below:

More MSU Denver students will gain career readiness training thanks to recent gift (MSUDenver.edu; Denver; October 13, 2023)



New seamless admissions initiative to reduce barriers to college for Indianapolis students (Indiana University press release; Indianapolis; September 27, 2023)

UMass Boston, Mass General Brigham to Invest in Nursing Clinical-to-Career Pathway (Mass General Brigham; Boston; July 20, 2023)

First Lady Jill Biden visits Columbus touting new Ohio workforce hub initiative (Ohio Capital Journal; Columbus; July 13, 2023)

New resources focus on Career and Technical Education (TN.gov; Nashville; July 5, 2023)

Teachers become students for a day at STEAMM Rising event (OSU.edu; Columbus; June 14, 2023)

Have a news article to share? Email a link to Advance CTE Associate Director of Communications Stacy Whitehouse at stacywhitehouse@careertech.org.

Reminders

Remember that Advance CTE is always available to provide research on topics your *New Skills ready network* teams are working on. To submit a research request please fill out [this form](#).

Advance CTE will again be conducting virtual site interviews to inform annual site snapshots and the annual report. More information is forthcoming about who will participate from each site in interviews to understand the progress made over the past year.

Don't forget about our *New Skills ready network* resource repository! The repository collects resources and tools from each of the six sites and previous convenings.

New Resources and Publications

Check out the latest resources from Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group and additional partners:

[The State of Career Technical Education: An Analysis of Secondary State CTE Funding Models](#) | Advance CTE

[Clearing the Path: Addressing Equity Blockers to Work-Based Learning in the New Skills Ready Network](#) | ESG

[A More Unified Community College: Lessons from the Non-Credit and Credit Alignment Lab](#) | ESG

[CTE Without Borders Policy Playbook](#) | Advance CTE

[Exploring Summer Youth Employment Programs: Increasing Access Through Career Pathways](#) | Advance CTE

[Preparing Learners For Energy Careers](#) | Colorado Workforce Development Council &

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