

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.

Spring Convening 2023

The *New Skills ready network* held its Spring Convening in Nashville. With the support of staff from ESG and Advance CTE, sites brought their teams together to discuss their progress and brainstorm their Big Bets for the next year of the JPMC-sponsored grant. Each site had its own unique set of challenges to face but some common themes appeared among the Big Bets.

Data, be it collection or alignment, was a common priority. Sites are looking for ways to capture the right student and employer data and use it to align their program targets and outcomes. Advising was another common theme among the sites. Whether they received an infusion of funds or were looking at ways to connect advising structures to larger state-wide initiatives, many sites felt it was important to prioritize. Finally, pathway mapping and creation appeared among the Big Bets. Some sites are looking to leverage employer interest and growth to create new opportunities for work-based learning and credentials.

Fall Convening 2023

Looking ahead, ESG and Advance CTE are hard at work planning the Fall Convening. If you participated in previous convenings, you should have received an email from Cindy Deitsch, inviting you to this convening as well. If you are interested in joining and have not participated in the past, please talk to your site lead.

New! Shared Calendar

Sites requested a shared calendar displaying events happening as part of *NSrn* and evaluation efforts. Please check out the [Google Joint Calendar](#)! Events and activities will continue to be added throughout the year.

Site Updates and Highlights

The following are the Big Bets each site has committed to enacting:

Boston, Massachusetts



1. Boston is leveraging student data. The team will be looking at ways to improve their strategy for utilizing their rich student data by first clarifying the “why” in their mission for equitable learner success. They are also looking to expand their program data profiles in addition to connecting K12 data to postsecondary which will support their pathways mapping into postsecondary.
2. Boston is also planning to build upon the longstanding successes of their work-based learning (WBL) programs by creating data-sharing agreements within and across institutions and aligning academic pathways at the University of Massachusetts - Boston and career communities. They are looking into the expansion of pathway funding and creating tuition-free college opportunities.
3. Additionally, Boston is improving their holistic advising. With invested leadership and a variety of funding opportunities, Boston is looking to recruit additional higher education partners and create better curriculum and credit alignment.

Columbus, Ohio



1. Columbus is focusing on pathways construction in advanced manufacturing. They’re planning to leverage the booming regional industry demand and existing sector partnerships to build one-year semiconductor certification pathways to OTCs and secondary options. To do so, they are exploring ways to organize and build out their program with available funding (including budget initiatives).
2. Columbus is also building out a comprehensive employer engagement strategy, including how to better include employers in work-based learning efforts at the K-12 level.

Dallas, Texas



1. Dallas is working on building up their cybersecurity programs. With strong partnerships and a shared vision in the field to support it, Dallas will begin addressing regional gaps in program access. This includes the creation of a PTECH pathway for learners.
2. Dallas is also working on building up parent engagement in career pathway awareness. With an abundance of programs to choose from, the site is looking at ways it can build a better process that eliminates choice fatigue and creates better messaging through families. Dallas wants to leverage their community partnerships to make this a reality.
3. Finally, Dallas is building a management tool for data alignment. The tool will offer real-time progress management for student advisement as well as provide insight into the best path for students based on their current status. There is an aggressive implementation timeline for this tool, but stakeholders are supporting its development with enthusiasm.

Denver, Colorado

1. Denver is focusing on the stackability of work-based learning experiences throughout a student’s academic career. Part of this will be the creation of a skills-based ecosystem that pulls heavily on employer engagement. Recent legislation is also blurring the lines between secondary, postsecondary and workforce programming which creates a wider network of stakeholders invested in this process.
2. Denver is also prioritizing communications. They are planning to discover how their audiences prefer to



communicate in addition to identifying what is important to communicate to them. Additionally, Denver is looking at ways to align their communications across campuses.

3. Lastly, Denver will be addressing transition advising. Specifically, they are looking to get the legislature to create legal requirements and investments in career advising. The ideal framework would include a statewide platform and training for more competencies for professional staff guiding students towards pathways.

Indianapolis, Indiana



1. Indianapolis is focusing on the Accelerate ED cybersecurity pathway. They plan on partnering with NextTech to provide a summer immersive internship. They will also leverage the Ivy-Tech IT pathway and the robust labor projections coming from Central Indiana.
2. Indianapolis will also develop its career advising framework by connecting it to the statewide model. They plan to leverage the funding from HB 1002 that provides state funding for career advising as well as funding to make potential system-level changes. They will also find gaps in program availability through asset mapping across districts and partners.

Nashville, Tennessee



1. Nashville is working to build upon its pathway mapping to support the general growth of work-based learning. They will do so by seeking student and family voice on program offerings and communications. Additionally, they will look at how to partner with transportation to create a transportation pathway.
2. Nashville is also prioritizing data. They plan to set more clear data priorities that help them focus and collect data that will be more focused. They are looking to capture data for decision-making student-facing roles.
3. Finally, Nashville will build upon its employer engagement strategies. They plan to use industry input to co-create curriculums and create high-value industry-recognized credentials as well as short-term credentials of value. They are also looking at opportunities to create state-funded short-term training programs.

New Skills ready network 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. If you have local news you'd like to share, please contact Advance CTE *NSrn* Communications Liaison [Stacy Whitehouse](#).



[TDOE Welcomes Lizzette Reynolds as Tennessee Commissioner of Education](#)
(Nashville; Tn.gov; July 6, 2023)

[Polis unveils \\$27 million in grants to promote high paying jobs](#)
(Denver; The Denver Gazette; June 28, 2023)

Teachers become students for a day at STEAMM Rising event
(Columbus; Ohio State News; June 14, 2023)

Purdue Global and Ivy Tech announce Pathways Partnership
(Indiana; TriState Homepage; June 13, 2023)

Luddy IUPUI receives \$50K New Skills Ready Network grant to promote student learning experiences
(Indianapolis; IUPUI; May 31, 2023)

Reminders and Announcements

To access all the *NSrn* resources, including site memos, please visit our [Resource Repository](#), which collects resources from across the network, research requests and other tools to support your work. Email Dan Hinderliter at dhinderliter@careertech.org or your Advance CTE liaison to have a resource added to this repository.

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](#), or talk to your Advance CTE site liaison.

New Resources and Publications

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

[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 & Colorado Office of Career and Technical Education

[State Policies Impacting CTE: 2022 Year in Review](#) | Advance CTE & Association for Career Technical Education

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