

Advance CTE / Center to Advance CTE Board of Directors' Update October 2021

QUICK UPDATES

Note: We are working with Delivery Associates to update Board reporting templates and communications, with the goal of streamline and bring it into alignment with our new strategic plan's three "E's". That work will be completed in the next month or so. In the meantime, we are using a modified version of the prior monthly Board update template.

<u>Upcoming Advance CTE and The Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings (all times listed are in Eastern)</u>

Please mark your calendars! All meetings will take place via Zoom unless otherwise specified.

November 9, 2021 – Joint Board Meeting	3 – 4 p.m.	Employment contract vote; Finance Manual and Personnel Policy Revisions
January 26, 2022 – Advance CTE Board Meeting	3 – 4 p.m	990's, audit, & FY23 state dues determination
January 26, 2022 – The Center to Advance CTE Board Meeting	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	990's, audit, & FY23 state dues determination
February 25, 2022 – Joint Board Meeting	2 – 3 p.m.	
April Board Meetings TBD	TBD	Stocktake, strategy updates
June 29, 2022 – Advance CTE Board Meeting	3 – 4 p.m	FY23 Budget
June 29, 2022 – Center to Advance CTE Board Meeting	4 – 5 p.m.	FY23 Budget

^{*} All times listed above are the eastern time zone

Administrative Update.

- On October 20, <u>Dr. Tunisha Hobson</u> joined our team as our new State Policy Manager.
- In early December, <u>Candace Williams</u> is joining the team as a Senior Associate for Research.
- Vacant position posted: <u>Director of Communications and Membership</u>

Finance Update: These numbers represent the July through October 2021 income and expenses, which is 33% of the fiscal year. Payroll allocation has not been completed yet, so these numbers do not reflect salary and benefits for October. The audit has been conducted and will be presented at the January Board Meeting.

Advance CTE
Budget Snapshot
Received 67% of budgeted income
Expended 20% of budgeted expenses

Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot	
Received 64% of budgeted income	
Expended 15% of budgeted expenses	

<u>Fundraising</u>: Advance CTE is currently pursuing a variety of corporate and foundation contacts to discuss potential grants and contracts. Below is a chart explaining the organization's ongoing grants and any major development activities from this month.

Grant/Proposal/ Contract	Organization /Partner	Status	Progress Since Last Board Update
Strategies for Recruiting Students into CTE	Siemens Foundation	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing, as described below.
New Skills ready network	JPMorgan Chase	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing.
CTE Without Limits, Career Clusters, CLNA/Perkins	Gates Foundation	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing, as described below.
Partnership for Advancing Youth Apprenticeship	New America (Siemens, Ballmer Group, JPMorgan Chase)	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing.
NSFY Innovation Sites (Data Quality)	JPMorgan Chase	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing.
Equity	Joyce Foundation	Ongoing	On September 3, we submitted a two-year renewal grant to the Joyce Foundation for \$325,000 to support principle 2-aligned work around equity. The grant would start on January 1, 2022, while our current grant ends December 31, 2021. We will know in early December if the proposal is approved.
Postsecondary Data Quality	ECMC Foundation	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing as described below.
Postsecondary CTE Fellows Program	ECMC Foundation	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing as described below.
NIDILRR	UMass Medical School	Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing.
College High School Alliance	Joyce Foundation Gates Foundation	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	No major updates beyond the work is progressing. CHSA had its next grant proposal approved by Gates, which includes \$15,000 for Advance CTE to participate in strategic planning and federal advocacy work.

	ECMC Foundation		No major updates beyond the work is progressing.
Stimulus Coalition	Bloomberg, Annie E. Casey, Walton, Beacon Fund, Gates, Carnegie	Ongoing	Advance CTE is partnering with JFF, Education Strategy Group, NGA, ExcelinEd and New America on a multi-funder, multi-year investment to help states and communities leverage stimulus funding to support high-quality and equitable career pathways. The group of funders approved a phase 1 planning grant, of which Advance CTE received \$60,000 for work through February 2022.
CTE Funding & CTE without borders	Walton Family Foundation	Ongoing	The two projects supported by this grant are in early stages and more will be shared in the next two months.
CTE Research	Bloomberg Philanthropies	Proposal development	In October, upon request, we submitted a short prospectus in early October for potential funding to support a framework for an ROI study. We hope to have a follow up conversation in November about potential next steps.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UPDATE

Membership Update: In October, Advance CTE added five new non-state members.

State CTE Directors: 55
State Team Members: 209
Individual Associate State: 16
Individual Associate Non-State: 75

• Organizational: 46 organizations, 171 individual organizational members

<u>Member Engagement & Professional Learning:</u> Advance CTE did not hold any professional learning events in October, as staff was focused on preparing for the Advance CTE Virtual Fall Meeting.

Fall Meeting: This month brings the long-awaited 2021 Fall Meeting, which is being held virtually on October 27 and 28. More than 270 people from more than 44 states and the District of Columbia registered and ten sponsors have committed to supporting the meeting, surpassing the sponsorship goal. An agenda with speakers representing secondary and postsecondary CTE, national partners as well as federal agencies is posted online here.

Postsecondary State CTE Leaders Fellowship Program at Advance: Advance CTE selected 15 Fellows for the Postsecondary State CTE Leaders Fellowship Program at Advance CTE (Sponsored by ECMC Foundation) this month. The Advisory Committee scored and discussed the applicants and influenced the final 15 Fellows selected. Fellows are completing enrollment forms and will convene for the first time in early November. Meanwhile, Advance CTE staff and Advisory Committee members are curating a list of

leaders to invite to serve as coaches to support Fellows in making progress toward achieving their state postsecondary leadership goals.

The Higher Education Media Fellowship at the Institute for Citizens & Scholars: Advance CTE is providing support for this Fellowship that focuses on advancing knowledge of postsecondary Career Technical Education for members of the media. Advance CTE previously provided support for the Spring 2021 cohort. A presentation on the basics of CTE was given this month, and office hours will be conducted next month to support fellows in choosing topics and sources for their capstone project.

Career Advising Workshop: Recruitment for no-cost workshops continues with 16 requests submitted thus far. Delivery of the first workshop is expected to begin in January 2022. Workshop materials are being finalized and expected to be complete by the beginning of November.

STATE AND FEDERAL CTE POLICY

<u>Federal Advocacy Update:</u> This month, Advance CTE primarily focused on advocating for the inclusion of Career Technical Education (CTE) and related workforce development funding in Congressional Democrats' forthcoming budget reconciliation bill, known as the Build Back Better Act (BBBA). Advance CTE developed and disseminated a <u>letter</u> advocating for this funding to Congressional leaders early on in October as this process took shape. On October 28, Democratic lawmakers in the House released updated draft text of the \$1.75 trillion proposal-- a significantly lower topline figure than what was proposed by the House in September. This pared-back version of the BBBA includes \$700 million for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). These funds were enacted there would be a \$600 million investment in the Perkins V's basic state formula grant program and \$100 million for the law's Innovation and Modernization program.

Advance CTE, in collaboration with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), issued a press statement cautiously supportive of this proposed supplemental funding for Perkins V while continuing to advocate for Community College and Industry Partnership Grants-- a \$2 billion grant program contained in the earlier House version of BBBA that would provide funding for key postsecondary CTE and workforce activities. Following this statement and related advocacy from the organization, House lawmakers revised the legislation to include \$4.9 billion for these grants and, equally as significant, include Area Technical Centers (ATCs) as eligible recipients of this funding. As of this writing, the legislation is still pending in the House and must still be considered by the Senate. The Senate remains a significant final hurdle to the passage of this legislation and will likely be the focal point of Advance CTE's advocacy efforts in the coming weeks.

In addition to these advocacy efforts centered on the budget reconciliation process, Advance CTE has also focused on the current federal fiscal year 2022 (FY22) appropriations process. Current funding for federal programs, like Perkins V, has been level-funded since October 1 (the beginning of FY22) and is set to expire on December 3. In October the Senate released draft appropriations proposals to more formally begin bicameral negotiations on full-year FY22 funding. As part of this process, Advance CTE and ACTE worked with lawmakers to emphasize organizational support for the \$50 million increase in Perkins V funding outlined in previously passed House legislation and also contained within this Senate proposal.

Finally, Advance CTE has been monitoring the confirmation process of Dr. Amy Loyd-- President Biden's

nominee to become the next Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department's Office of Career, Adult, and Technical Education (OCTAE). Loyd's nomination was advanced out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and is currently awaiting a final vote by the full chamber. Advance CTE and ACTE have strongly supported Loyd's nomination and poised for further engagement following a vote by the full Senate.

State Policy Update:

Technical Assistant Updates

<u>Kentucky</u>: Advance CTE, in partnership with CHSA and JFF, concluded a needs assessment
process and shared a set of recommended next steps to a cross-sector team in Kentucky for
strengthening their dual credit policies and practices. The direct TA will begin in the coming
weeks.

Credit for Prior Learning: Advance CTE has worked with ESG to develop a list of potential invitees for the awarding credit for prior learning shared solutions workgroup. Invitations were sent out this past week to national, state, and local partners. The kickoff meeting will be scheduled for early December. Prior to the kickoff one on one meetings with specific partners will occur to provide some opportunities to gain additional knowledge on the landscape of credit for prior learning.

Data Initiative: As the CTE Equity Index pilots wrap up their work, Advance CTE will meet with them to gather feedback and make adjustments to the design of the index. This month, a preview of the index was shared with members at Advance CTE's 2021 Fall Meeting. Participants were very excited to hear about the design and were eager for the tool to be released.

Meanwhile, third-quarter check-in calls with Advancing Postsecondary CTE Data Quality Initiative (PDI) states are wrapping up. Advance CTE met with Delaware and Florida this month and have check-in calls scheduled with Florida, Alabama, and the District of Columbia.

Publications: In October, Advance CTE released:

- Shifting the Skills Conversation: Employer Attitudes and Outcomes of Career Technical Education
- Pushing the Limits: A Roadmap for Advancing CTE Without Limits

Learning that Works Resource Center: The Resource Center sustained a total of 15,832 hits for the month, as of October 29, 2021. Aside from the Career Clusters interest inventory, the top two resources were recent Advance CTE publications: *Shifting the Skills Conversation: Employer Attitudes and Outcomes of Career Technical Education*, which was released in October, and *Career Readiness Metrics Framework: A Continuum of Actionable Measures of Career Development and Readiness*, which was released in September.

Resource Center Monthly Page Views



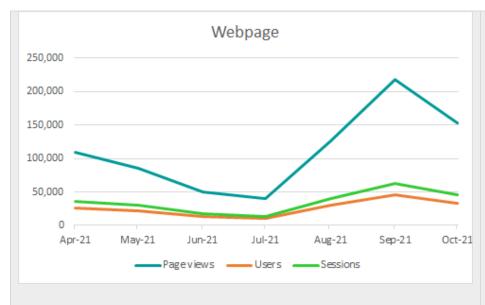
Equity Strategy Update:

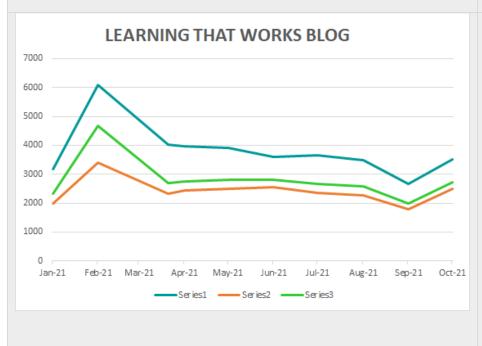
Opportunity Gap Analysis Support: Advance CTE met with several states over the month that are working on implementing the opportunity gap analysis workshop program. Nine out of 10 states have submitted project proposals, which have been approved by Advance CTE. Over November and December, Advance CTE will meet with the full cohort three times to check in with states, facilitate cross-state sharing, and provide technical support and guidance.

<u>CTE Without Limits Update:</u> This past month, Advance CTE released <u>Pushing the Limits: A Roadmap for Advancing CTE Without Limits</u> and the request for proposals. To encourage states to apply, we held our first of two office hours, sent out over 30 targeted emails to State Directors, and presented on the opportunity at the Advance CTE business meeting. Looking ahead, we have our sixth and final kitchen cabinet meeting in November, we will select states receiving intensive technical assistance by early December and will be launching another round of vision-related virtual learning sessions in late 2021. In addition to the states selected for sub-grant and TA, we will be launching a broader peer learning network in early 2022, which other states may join.

PROMOTION

Communications Update:





Major Organizational Releases/Initiatives

- Shifting the Skills
 Conversation:
 Employer Attitudes
 and Outcomes of
 Career Technical
 Education (547)
- Pushing the Limits: A Roadmap for Advancing CTE Without Limits (149)

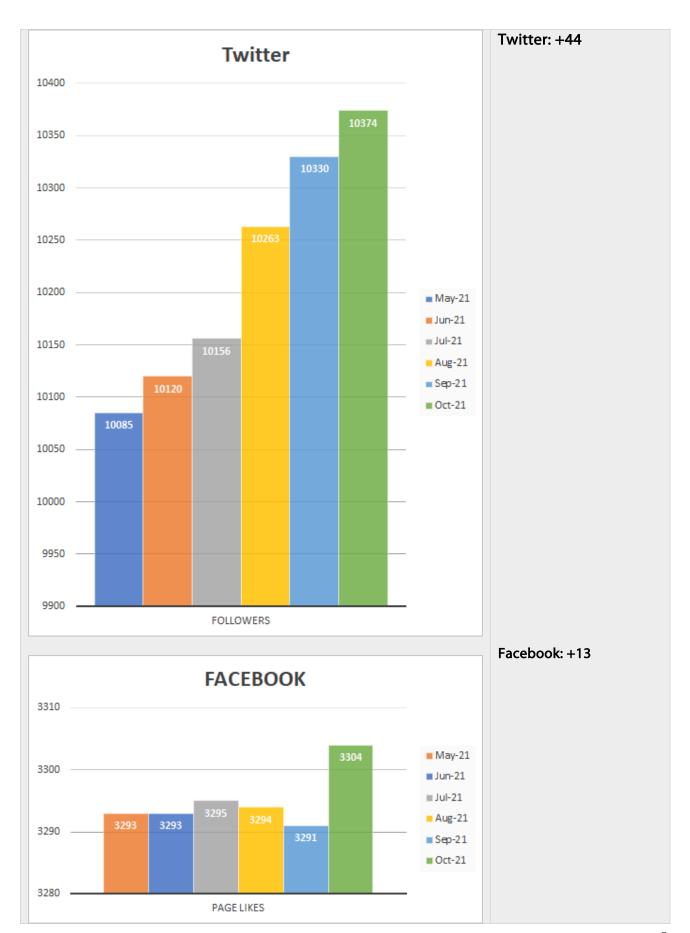
Acquisition of site users

- Organic search (39.3%)
- Direct (42.7%)
- Referral (17.4%)
- Social (0.5%)

14 Blog Posts Published Most visited blogs:

- Building a Legacy
 Based on Ethics: The

 Future of CTE
- Welcome Dr. Kevin
 Johnson to Advance
 CTE!
- Two New App
 Development with
 Swift Certifications
 from Apple



Webpage: Advance CTE will work towards maintaining traffic to the organizational website and the Learning that Works blog in November with the monthly topic of apprenticeship. It was great to celebrate the traffic brought to the website in light of the 2021 Fall Meeting sponsor benefits; one sponsor received 511 page views to their guest blog in just two weeks!

State Technical Assistance: A second cross-state call was held October 13 that highlighted work conducted by Georgia in a previous cohort. Monthly check-ins continue with equity and targeting of underrepresented populations being a key focus of these meetings.

Research and Surveys: Shifting the Skills Conversation: Employer Attitudes and Outcomes of Career Technical Education, a brief of findings from a national survey of over 300 employers on perceptions and partnerships in CTE was released on October 7 along with two supplemental resources. Presentations to state on the communications research for families continued.

Relow is a list of Advance CTE's staff most impactful or otherwise notable engagement activities

PARTNERSHIPS

from last month	vance CTE's staff most impactful or otherwise notable engagement activities
VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS	 2021 Fall Meeting, Advance CTE California Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee Division of College and Career Readiness Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPMC) New Skills ready network Fall Convening, Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group (ESG) Vision Presentation, Northeast Ohio Regional Meeting, Ohio High Schools that Work (HSTW)
VIRTUAL EVENTS ATTENDED	 Data Collection After COVID-19: What Needs to Change?, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium Data Quality Institute, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) Getting Involved with National Apprenticeship Week 2021, U.S. Department of Labor PDK Governance Committee Meeting PostsecData Meeting, Institute for Higher Education Policy Postsecondary Pathways, The "New Normal" of Higher Education Access, Hunt Institute State Equitable Recovery Coalition Meeting, National Governors Association The National School Counselor of the Year Selection Committee, American School Counselor WorkCred Credentialing Body Advisory Council Fall 2021 Meeting
OTHER PARTNERS ENGAGED	 American School Counselor Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW)

- Clayton Christensen Institute
- College Board
- College in High School Alliance (CHSA)
- Committee for Education Funding
- ECMC Foundation
- Education Northwest
- Education Strategy Group (ESG)
- Institute for Higher Education Policy
- JFF
- John Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center (Pathways to Adult Success)
- National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
- National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
- National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)
- New America
- Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Labor (OCTAE)
- Siemens Foundation
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- U.S. Department of Labor
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Urban League
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
- Wonder: Strategies for Good
- WorkCred





ADVANCE CTE MEMBER NEWSLETTER

YOUR VOICE FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Dear Advance CTE Members,

My first Advance CTE meeting was 28 years ago in Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Stephen Franks was the State CTE Director and back then, states submitted proposals to host our fall meeting (Vote on our Twitter poll - should we bring the traveling Fall Meeting back?). While my memories of the meeting agenda are fuzzy, I haven't forgotten how I felt. It was the first time I traveled to the South. It was the first time I had crawfish. It was the first time I stepped onto a battleship (the USS Alabama). My eyes were opened to the commonness and difference in our country. I saw our CTE community console one another in the face of a tragic train crash that happened while we were in Mobile. I walked away realizing how much I had to learn while also feeling warmly welcomed, supported and inspired by the wisdom and leadership displayed by our members. I was so ready to go back to my office in the nation's capital and change the world (or at least my little corner of the CTE world!).

That first meeting has influenced my approach to the planning of each one of our annual meetings, hoping to recreate the feelings of wonder, inspiration, learning, leadership and community. I hope you experienced one of these feelings at least once over the last two days. Perhaps it was hearing how a state overcame challenges to execute a promising practice to elevate the learner voice, or connecting with your peers to discuss how states are taking first steps to advance *Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education* (CTE Without Limits). Were you inspired by our Rising Star Award winners? Did you get to meet someone new during the role alikes? I know I left our first-ever virtual Fall Meeting with new knowledge and connections. While I don't have the youth I had in Mobile, I left just as passionate about our work!

I also hope you can carry that feeling back to your team and share it with your stakeholders over the next month. November has so many opportunities to extend your enthusiasm and ideas beyond Fall Meeting and promote the impact of equitable and high-quality CTE.

We also have several approaching deadlines to continue Meeting CTE's Moment through professional and strategic planning. November 5 is the deadline to request a no-cost virtual workshop for career advising professionals, and November 9 is the deadline to apply to our Request for Proposals to join a state cohort for vision implementation work.



I wish you and your loved ones a fun and safe Halloween (if you celebrate) and look forward to connecting again soon!





Membership Update

Advance CTE has awarded the State Career Technical Education Leadership Rising Star Award to Ms. Tiara Booker-Dwyer, State Director of **Maryland** and Dr. Michelle Aldrich, State Director of **Wyoming**.

Congratulations!

New Resource from Advance CTE

Pushing the Limits: A Roadmap for Advancing CTE Without Limits—

This resource serves as the primary evaluation and initial planning tool for state CTE leaders to implement the principles of *CTE Without Limits*. This step-by-step guide helps leaders to conduct an initial assessment, identify top areas for action, and develop implementation strategies for one or multiple vision principles.

First Steps: Members are encouraged to review the action areas and evaluation questions for each principle to determine which principle(s) to focus on.

Shifting the Skills Conversation: Employer Attitudes and Outcomes of Career Technical Education — Increasing employer engagement in CTE programs requires messages that effectively communicate. This report, based on a national survey of over 300 employers, provides insight on top skills desired by employers, their attitudes toward CTE, and their current involvement in CTE partnerships.

From Our Partners

 Guide/Tool — Education Commission of the States (ECS)— Nondegree Credentials: Paths to the Workforce and Future

Education

- Research/Report, Case Study Urban Institute Rural Apprenticeships for Young People: Challenges and Strategies for Success
- Guide/Tool Education Strategy Group (ESG) The Accelerating Recovery through Credentials Adult-Ready Playbook
- Research/Report, Case Study Kansas State Chamber of Commerce — Kansas Must Invest In and Train Young Workers: Report
- Research/ Report JFF Youth Apprenticeship in Action: Principles in Practice
- Guide/Tool Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA) — The Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship Data Framework A Program's Guide to Youth Apprenticeship Data

Forthcoming in November

- Promotion Month of Apprenticeship Advance CTE will focus on elevating resources and supports for state CTE leaders that advance apprenticeship opportunities for each learner.
- Guide/Tool Individual Career and Academic Plan Brief This brief will highlight promising practices for seamless and meaningful career advising from two cities participating in the New Skills ready network and three additional states.
- Fellowship The Postsecondary State CTE Leaders Fellowship, Sponsored by ECMC Foundation — Advance CTE will announce the first cohort of the new Fellowship that strives to address disparities in racial representation in state postsecondary CTE leadership and systemic barriers to leadership opportunities, particularly for professionals of color.



State Policy Updates

State policy actions over the past two months, particularly in legislatures, have slowed significantly. Here are some highlights from September and October:

- **Delaware** SB86, the result of an annual report from the Delaware Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education, requires the Council to include advocacy efforts to inform students and families about educational, employment, and training opportunities in CTE.
- Oregon HB2537 allows school districts to use funding allocated from the Student Investment Account to be used for payment of student fees, costs and instructors of career and technical student organization (CTSO) programs and sets a policy goal that students in CTE programs have a counselor or mentor assigned to each student to assist in navigation through the program.

Delaware Governor John Carney also announced a \$50 million investment into workforce development using federal stimulus funds, including a \$15.8 million expansion of Delaware Pathways to support middle school learners and grow the program to include approximately 80% of Delaware high school learners.

We are continuing to track state policy actions, including legislation, State Board actions, executive orders and budgets. If you would like to share state policy action happening in your state, please email Dan Hinderliter at dhinderliter@careertech.org.



View from the Hill

In October, Advance CTE turned its advocacy efforts to full-year funding for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) following the release of a Senate funding proposal for education and workforce programs. Although the current federal fiscal year (FY22) formally began at the beginning of the month, lawmakers in Congress have, so far, only passed a short-term extension of current funding levels (known as a continuing resolution) lasting through December 3. By that time, Congress must act again to determine how to fund the federal government, including programs like Perkins V, for the remainder of FY22. Ahead of what is shaping up to be another contentious set of fiscal negotiations on Capitol Hill around that time, Advance CTE and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging them to maintain at least a \$50 million increase proposed by both chambers for the Perkins basic state formula grant program in a final agreement.

In addition, President Biden recently unveiled a framework agreement providing a high-level overview of Congressional Democrats' \$1.75 trillion domestic spending package dubbed the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376). Although the legislation is still far away from enactment. House Democrats took an important next step in advancing this proposal on October 28 by holding a hearing to begin formal consideration of the underlying legislative text of this agreement. As currently conceived, the legislation would provide \$600 million for the Perkins V basic state grant formula program. In addition, the bill proposes \$100 million for the law's Innovation and Modernization program as well as significant investments in a slew of other Advance CTE legislative priorities such as workforce development, broadband connectivity efforts and more. Funding intended for Perkins V would be appropriated in FY22 and would remain available for further obligation until September 30, 2027. As this process continues to unfold, Advance CTE is working to ensure final legislation includes a robust investment in CTE along with these complementary programs.

As we look ahead to the next few weeks and months, the Senate must also work to confirm a new Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Adult, and Technical Education (OCTAE). Advance CTE has endorsed the current nominee for this position, Dr. Amy Loyd, and looks forward to her swift confirmation soon.

With these matters and more on the immediate horizon, be sure to follow along on all Congressional and Administrative moves relating to CTE via our Legislative Updates.

Engagement Activities

Presentations:

- 2021 Fall Meeting, Advance CTE
- California Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee
- Division of College and Career Readiness Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education
- Vision Presentation, Northeast Ohio Regional Meeting, Ohio High Schools that Work (HSTW)
- JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPMC) New Skills ready network Fall Convening, Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group (ESG)

Virtual Events Attended:

- The National School Counselor of the Year Selection Committee, American School Counselor
- State Equitable Recovery Coalition Meeting, National Governors Association
- PDK Governance Committee meeting
- Postsecondary Pathways, The "New Normal" of Higher Education Access, Hunt Institute
- Data Collection After COVID-19: What Needs to Change?, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium
- Getting Involved with National Apprenticeship Week 2021, U.S. Department of Labor
- Data Quality Institute, OCTAE
- WorkCred Credentialing Body Advisory Council Fall 2021 Meeting
- PostsecData Meeting, Institute for Higher Education Policy

Partners Engaged:

- American School Counselor
- Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW)
- Clayton Christensen Institute
- College Board
- College in High School Alliance (CHSA)
- Committee for Education Funding
- ECMC Foundation
- Education Northwest
- ESG
- Institute for Higher Education Policy
- JFF
- John Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center (Pathways to Adult Success)
- National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
- National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
- New America
- NOCTI
- OCTAE
- Siemens Foundation
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- University of Massachusetts Medical School

- Urban League
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- U.S. Department of Labor
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