

## QUICK UPDATES

### Upcoming Advance CTE and Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings

#### **Advance CTE Board Meetings**

- Board Meeting on Governance – August 24, 2017 at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET via conference call
- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 9 a.m. – Noon ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

#### **The Center to Advance CTE Board Meetings**

- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

#### **Joint Board Meeting**

- Fall Meeting Board Meeting – October 16, 2017 at 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET at BWI Marriott Hotel

### New faces on the Advance CTE and Center to Advance CTE Boards:

We are pleased to welcome Jeralyn Jargo, State CTE Director in Minnesota to the Advance CTE Board. Jeralyn joins us as the Region V representative, filling the balance of Kathy Cullen's term. We thank Kathy for her service and wish her all the very best in retirement and grandmother-hood.

We also are pleased to welcome Jennifer Grove to the Center to Advance CTE Board. Jennifer is beginning her three-year term as a public member representative to the Board. She has worked with The Southern Company for over 20 years. As Gulf Power's Workforce Development Coordinator, she is responsible for the creation and management of talent development partnerships to grow Gulf Power's future workforce and to enhance Northwest Florida's economic development position. These partnerships span the entire talent supply chain, beginning with early learning programs and continuing to elementary energy career awareness programs, middle school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs, high school talent pipeline programs, and post-secondary technical and engineering program partnerships. She is also engaged in workforce development initiatives at both the Southern Company and national level through the Southern Company Workforce Development Council and the national Center for Energy Workforce Development. Ms. Grove was recognized in 2012 by US News as one of the Top 100 Women in STEM for her role in STEM talent development.

### State CTE Director Changes

#### *Transitions*

- In July, Advance CTE received the following notices regarding State Director transitions:
  - **Indiana:** Chris Deaton, who previously served in the state's CTE office, was appointed as the new State CTE Director
  - **District of Columbia:** Chad Maclin, a longtime local CTE administrator in Virginia, was named to lead DC's state CTE office.
  - **Wisconsin:** Effective August 6, Colleen McCabe has been tapped to succeed Kathy Cullen, who will retire in September.
  - **South Dakota:** Tiffany Sanderson announced that she will leave her post as State Director on September 6. An interim has not yet been named.
- Additionally, the following states remain without permanent leadership: **Alabama, New York, Oregon, South Carolina** and **Texas**.

## Strategic Priority: Ensure strong organizational governance and fiscal security for both Advance CTE and The Center to Advance CTE

### **Finance Update:**

As of July 31, 9% of the fiscal year had passed. Below is a quick snapshot of the financial position of both organizations. Please note that the July financials have not been reconciled by the accountant yet, so the numbers below do not include any investment fees/income or payroll and benefits expenses.

Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 38% of budgeted income
Expended 4 % of budgeted expenses

Center to Advance CTE Budget Snapshot
Received 73 % of budgeted income
Expended 4 % of budgeted expenses

### **Fundraising**

Advance CTE is currently pursuing a variety of federal, corporate and foundation contacts to discuss potential grants and contracts. Below is a chart explaining this month's engagement with various development opportunities.

Grant/Proposal/ Contract	Organization /Partner	Engagement in Past Month	Status
Siemens Foundation		In late July, we submitted a proposal to Siemens for a two-year grant proposal, which will continue to focus on providing technical assistance to states but also build a set of tools and trainings targeted at activating and recruiting champions within the guidance and career development community. We are now in the process of refining the proposal, which will be finalized in August. Their Board will meet in the fall, which is when they approve new grants.	Ongoing
New Skills for Youth	JP Morgan Chase; CCSSO	A fuller update is below about recent and upcoming initiatives and deliverables supported by the NSFY grant.	Ongoing
IDIQ – Connecting Secondary CTE & Apprenticeships	OCTAE	We are continuing to provide support for the final set of deliverables, including a resource guide on connecting CTE and apprenticeships for state and local leaders, which will be released by September 2017.	Ongoing
New State Director Leadership Program	PMIEF	In June, we had a very productive call with the Project Management Institute Education Foundation (PMIEF) on the new State Director Leadership Program. They were interested in providing in-kind resources and training around portfolio management for any and all members. We have recently followed up to keep the discussion moving.	Preliminary
Postsecondary program quality	Joyce Foundation	We have been engaged in discussions with Joyce since last fall and had a very productive meeting in July. We are now in the early stages of putting together a proposal to use our upcoming program approval benchmark tool in a small number of states to advance quality CTE programs at the	Ongoing

		postsecondary level. The proposal would be due in early Fall, and go into effect in December if approved.	
<b>Misc.</b>		In July, we had meetings with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ballmer Group, PwC Charitable Trust and National Science Foundation. Most of these discussions were exploratory and set to lay groundwork for future opportunities.	Preliminary

## Strategic Priority: Provide, encourage and support professional learning to expand the skills, content knowledge and leadership of state CTE leaders.

### **Membership Update**

In addition to the state membership\* changes on July 1, Advance CTE received 2 new memberships – both Associate, Non-state.

\*Note: Moving forward, the state membership category below will also provide a disaggregated count of the State Directors and state members. Also notable, the state count no longer includes Michigan, which was unable to renew its membership for FY 2018 due to financial difficulties.

Total membership as of June 30, 2017: 437 individuals

- State Membership: 53 states (representing 53 State Directors and 159 state members)
- Associate, State: 17
- Associate, Non-state: 101
- Organizational: 36 organizations (representing 107 individuals)

The period for membership renewals will end on August 15. After that cut-off date, the numbers may fluctuate slightly due to cancellations and write-offs. At the end of August, staff will conduct an audit of the membership systems, and will report those results in the September report as part of its commitment to sound processes and protocols.

**FY 18 State Membership:** The state membership launch was well-received by the new and existing members. All state members - State Directors and the other associate members covered by the state members - received a four-part email series unpacking the breadth of Advance CTE's resources and supports. Staff are working to develop a system for State Directors to add or change state members as needed. This system will be launched in August.

### **Member Resources and Supports**

#### **New Skills for Youth Update:**

New Skills for Youth: The NSFY team continues to work with Phase Two states on refining their outcomes goals and designing an effective progress monitoring system. The project team has recently begun working on the NSFY Fall Convening, taking place in Cincinnati, Ohio November 1-3, 2017.

State of CTE: Career Development and Advisement: Staff recently drafted two surveys for the upcoming State of CTE report. One survey will be administered to State CTE Directors and the other will be administered to a sampling of the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA's) 33,000 members. Additionally, a version of the State CTE Director survey will be sent to state guidance directors. All surveys are expected to launch in mid-August, and a preview of the survey conclusions

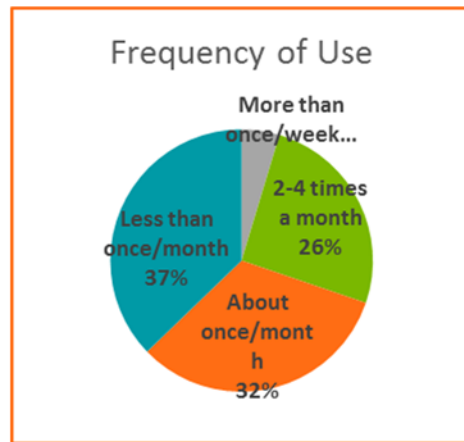
will be presented at the Advance CTE Fall Meeting. The final report will be released in early February 2018.

**Rural briefs:** Staff are developing a series of briefs focused on rural access and quality, titled CTE on the Frontier, which will be released through the New Skills for Youth initiative. The series aims to identify common challenges and lift up innovating state strategies to improve rural program quality, expose learners to the world of work, increase the breadth of program offerings and strengthen the rural CTE teacher pipeline. The release date for the first brief, originally scheduled for late July, has been delayed to allow for additional research and interviews with state directors. That brief is scheduled to be released in mid-August. Additionally, Advance CTE made the decision to extend the series to four briefs instead of three.

**Resource Center:** The Resource Center garnered a lot of traffic in July, primarily due to the successful rollout and promotion of Advance CTE’s co-authored report [Mapping Career Readiness & ESSA](#). That report, released in partnership with Education Strategy Group, received 1,304 hits in July, setting a new record for a publication in its first month. Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group promoted the release through guest blog posts, media outreach and the standard social media and email promotion.

Overall, the Resource Center received 7,784 hits in July, surpassing the average monthly traffic by more than 1,000 hits. Work-based learning was the top visited resource page, partially due to traffic driven through the Apprenticeship Forward network. This is the second month that work-based learning was the top visited page.

Separately, Advance CTE staff this month reviewed feedback gathered through the Resource Center feedback survey. The survey, launched in June, was designed to learn more about the Resource Center audience and identify opportunities to improve the functionality of the Resource Center and expand its offerings. Although the survey’s 47 responses are not enough to provide representative data about the Resource Center’s users, the survey provided helpful anecdotal insights into who is using the platform. Interestingly, a plurality of survey respondents are from the local level, representing local education agencies, local institutions of higher education, or school-based staff. Further, 63 percent of respondents reported using the Resource Center at least once a month, and 86 percent said they would recommend the Resource Center to a friend.



**State Policy Update:**

**Program Approval Policy Benchmark Tool:** After updates to the program approval policy tool were made, staff sent the draft for review to eight Advance CTE members and six organizational partners, including one representative from a school district. Staff will use the valuable feedback from these reviews to update the tool once more before testing it with at least two volunteer states. The tool is expected to launch to the public in late September or early October.

**CTE Virtual Institute:** Development of the CTE Virtual Institute is underway, with a schedule launch date of October 23 (immediately following Advance CTE’s fall meeting). The CTE Virtual Institute is a seven-module, web-based crash course on CTE that is designed to educate new audiences on the Putting Learner Success Vision and the core components of a high-quality CTE system. In August, staff plan to develop short videos that will guide participants through the course and make connections across the course material. Additionally, Advance CTE developed a new graphic to help promote the CTE Virtual Institute.



**Industry Expert Working Groups:** The first working group kickoff happened in late July with a productive call on exploring innovative roles for industry experts. This group includes representatives from California, Hawai’i, Kentucky, Nebraska, Ohio, New Jersey, ACTE, Project Lead the Way and the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Further calls will happen monthly for five months, and participants will identify concrete strategies and potential next steps for action. The group will conclude with a written report from AIR’s Center on Great Teachers and Leaders. The second group, focusing on strategies within secondary and postsecondary relationships, will kick off in late August. Representatives from Hawai’i, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, ACTE, Jobs for the Future and the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) have confirmed their participation.

**Meetings/Events**

Event Name	Date	Total Participants	Total Participating State Directors	% of Registration Goal
2017 Fall Meeting	October 16-18	29	11	19%

Registration for the 2017 Fall Meeting launched in mid-July, and is already ahead of previous Fall Meeting benchmarks for registration. Early Bird registration will end on August 18, and regular registration closes on September 25. Meeting sponsorship launched on August 2, and updates will be provided on sponsorship commitments as they begin to roll in.

Additionally, staff have already been hard at work developing a high-quality agenda for this year’s meeting, and will announce the full agenda in August. The meeting will also feature a day-long pre-meeting workshop for New State Directors. On August 3, staff sent a letter to OCTAE on behalf of Board President Pradeep Kotamraju formally inviting the OCTAE staff to participate in the Fall Meeting. This request came from OCTAE staff, who now must receive this type of invitation in order to participate in such meetings.

## Strategic Priority: Lead a cross-organizational and cross-state effort to successfully build awareness, advocacy and accomplishment of the *Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE*.

We recently launched our [blog series](#) to highlight the opportunities and initiatives aligned with each principle.

More importantly, as an organization, we have embedded *Putting Learner Success First* in all of our organizational priorities, strategies and initiatives. While we continue to present at state and national conferences on *Putting Learner Success First*, share our [resources](#), including the [video](#) released in May, and engage our partners, the reach and impact of the shared vision is most evident in the success and reach of our aligned research, communications and member supports.

## Strategic Priority: Build on our existing strong public policy leadership by developing and disseminating legislation and public policy that impacts education, economic and workforce development in support of expanded access to and quality of CTE.

### ***Federal Advocacy Plan:***

While Congress did not pass any major CTE or appropriations legislation in July, we continued our efforts to push the Senate to consider reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins). In addition, we communicated with congressional staff about the detrimental impact of a cut to the Perkins Basic State Grants. We also weighed in on the [“Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills” \(BUILDS\) Act](#). This bill would authorize the Secretary of Labor to “award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement.” We were proud to support the bill once we were able to ensure that it made appropriate connections to CTE (e.g., the bill includes the definitions for CTE and “career guidance and academic counseling” that are found in Perkins and CTE is embedded in the objectives and activities that the grants awarded can support).

**Perkins:** In July, we continued our efforts to apply pressure to the Senate to act swiftly on reauthorization of Perkins. We sent an email to the Executive Directors of each of the Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) urging them to include a message in support of reauthorization and a strong federal investment in Perkins as they communicate with congressional staff about the winners of their respective competitions that occur over the summer. In addition, we provided a federal policy update to a group of former CTSO officers who have shown interest in advocating for Perkins. We are also meeting with national partners to devise a strategy to advance Perkins – we had a successful meeting with National Governors Association at the end of July and will be meeting with the School Superintendents Association (AASA) and other groups in August. With each group, we have reinforced the messages that (1) many states are in a holding pattern until a new law is passed, which would allow stakeholders to be engaged in developing a new plan that incorporates innovative ideas and best practices into their plans and (2) reauthorization sends a strong signal to appropriators who may not see cuts to CTE as significant since reauthorization is long overdue.

We have also requested meetings with staff for every member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. During these meetings, we will cover our Perkins Priorities and answer staff questions about CTE. Our goal is to educate and build relationships with as many staff as possible to facilitate their understanding of Perkins and to connect them to the State Directors. Then, if and when Perkins moves in the Senate, HELP staffers will be able to rely upon Advance CTE and the State CTE Directors for guidance and messaging.



**Budget / Appropriations:** Advance CTE asked its members and the readership of its Legislative Updates newsletter what a 15 percent cut to the Perkins Basic State Grant (as proposed in the President’s Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Budget) would mean for them. Career Technical Education (CTE) advocates, students and educators from across the country wrote to us to let us know how devastating these cuts would be to programs across the country and we released [this blog post](#) that captured their perspectives on July 10. We sent this blog out to congressional staff and featured it in the letter we sent in partnership with ACTE to House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) Appropriations Subcommittee prior to their July 13 markup of the FY18 Labor-HHS-Ed appropriations bill. The bill passed out of the subcommittee along party lines 9-6 and was marked up and approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, July 19. This bill includes level-funding for CTE (and maintains that \$1,117,598,000 be allocated to the Perkins Basic State Grants and \$7,421,000 be allocated for National Programs – the same as FY17), but has not yet been scheduled for a vote before the full House of Representatives. We do not know if it will be considered when the House returns from recess on September 5.

On July 19, the [House Budget Committee marked up](#) and approved its FY18 Budget Resolution (which provides the top-line spending number for all 12 appropriations bills).The [blueprint](#) notes that, “Strengthening career and technical education, higher education, and workforce development programs, by increasing choice, access, and affordability, will ensure that our workers have the skills necessary to compete in a growing and changing economy” (p. 26). The House Budget Committee’s report on the resolution similarly highlights CTE (see page 121 [here](#)). At this time, we do not know if the budget resolution will be voted on by the full House of Representatives when they return from recess.

The Senate is not scheduled to go on recess until August 11, but it is unlikely that the Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up its FY18 appropriations bill before then. The Senate began preliminary work on the FY18 Appropriations process on July 20, when the Senate Appropriations Committee released its [guidance for FY18 allocations for the 12 appropriations bills](#). While the allocation for Labor-HHS-Education is \$8 billion more than the amount in the House Bill, the guidance notes, “This increase is necessary to offset a significant reduction in available savings from mandatory programs.” While we have advocated for an increased investment in Perkins, the message we have received from our meetings with congressional staff is that “level-funding is the new increase,” so we do not anticipate that an increased investment is likely in the current fiscal environment despite our continued advocacy and the popularity of CTE among both Republican and Democrats.

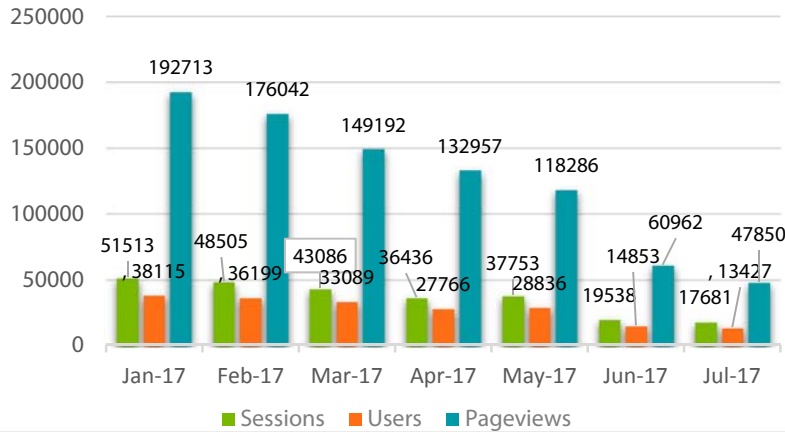
### **Congressional Offices Engaged in July 2017:**

- Meeting with Courtney Webb, Rep. Herrera Beutler (R-WA)
- Meeting with Will Strother, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)

### **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Consistent with years past, website traffic is down significantly in the summer months. Staff predicts it will increase in August/September as it has in previous years. Additionally, website traffic is high on pages housing major releases and projects such as the Advance CTE Fall Meeting, Value and Promise of CTE and Career Readiness and the Every Student Succeeds Act, in line with marketing efforts.

### Website Metrics



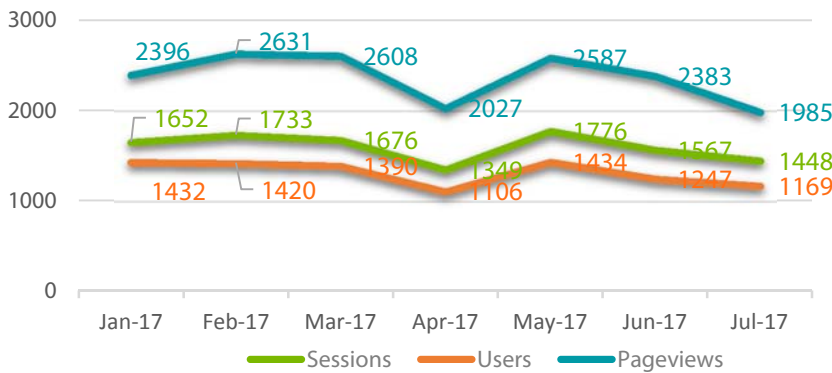
### Major Organizational Releases/Initiatives

- [Mapping Career Readiness](#) (1304)
- [Resource Center](#) (1059)
- [Fall Meeting](#) (417)

### Acquisition of site users

- Organic search (49%)
- Direct (29%)
- Referral (21%)

### Learning that Works Blog Metrics

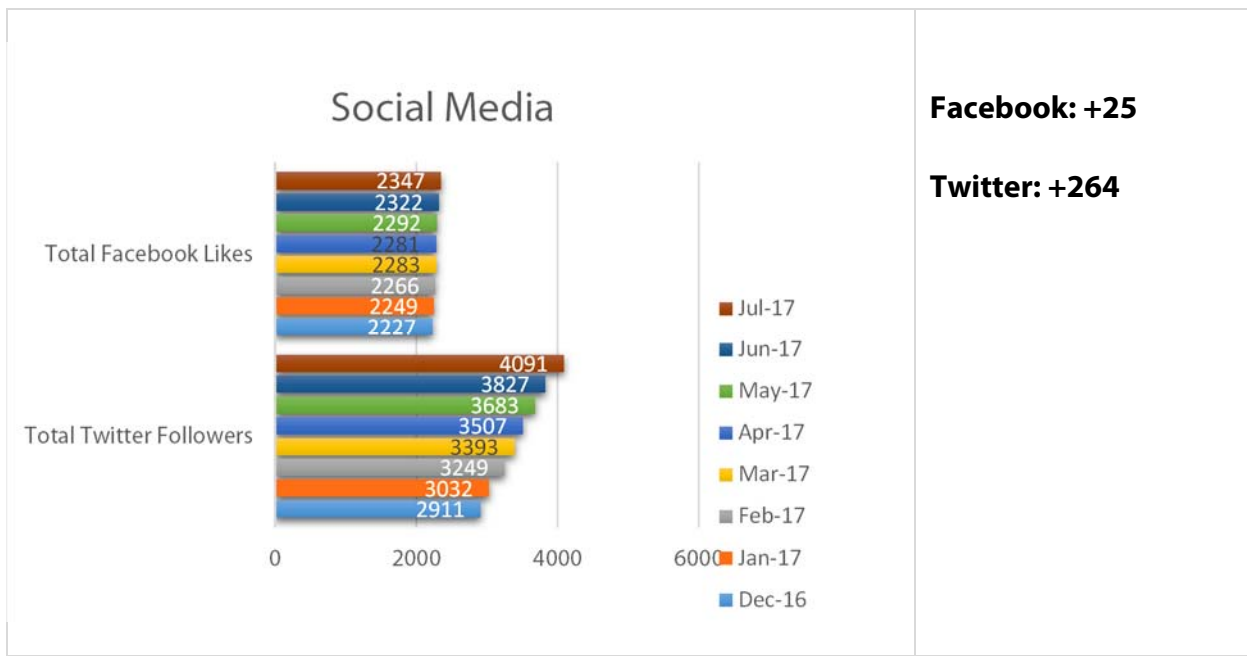


### 13 Blog Posts Published

Most visited blogs:

- [What a 15 Percent Cut to Perkins Really Means](#)
- [How Career Readiness Fared in the First ESSA State Plans](#)
- [States Pave Way for More Flexible, Integrated Pathways to Graduation](#)





## Media

Advance CTE was featured in the media this month including:

- [This Week's ESSA News](#), The 74
- [Reframing How We Talk About Career and Technical Education](#), Huffington Post
- [Forget Blue Collar, it's About New Collar](#), CNN
- [Balancing College and Career Readiness](#), AEI
- [Does Your State Have a Good Plan to Ensure Students are Career-ready?](#), Education Week
- [Planning for Success\(ion\)](#), Motor Magazine
- [Ads Spell out What Career and Technical Education Really Is – and Who It's For](#), Chronicle of Higher Education

## Strategies for Attracting Students to High-Quality CTE

Staff has continued to develop resources for this initiative, with four additional tools launched in July.

- [Achieving Educational Equity and Justice in Career Academies: Challenges and Promising Strategies](#)
- [Idaho: CTE Digital & Idaho Digital Learning Academy](#)
- [STEM: Classroom to Career: Opportunities to Close the Gap](#)
- [Equity Measures in State Outcomes-Based Funding: Incentives for Public Colleges to Support Low-Income and Underprepared Students](#)


Additionally, states have continued their pilot activities.

Staff is continuing to work with the four states selected for technical assistance through monthly technical assistance calls, and bi-monthly cross-state calls.

**Strategic Priority: Expand awareness of, support for, and access to high-quality CTE by leading, building and maintaining strategic partnerships.**

Below is a list of Advance CTE’s staff most impactful or otherwise notable engagement activities from last month

<p><b>PRESENTATIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Policy Update provided to advocacy group for former CTSO officers</li> <li>• Presentation to NC CTE administrators (Greensboro, NC)</li> <li>• Opening general session panelist, NC State CTE conference (Greensboro, NC)</li> <li>• General session speaker – Pennsylvania CTE Administrators Association (State College, PA)</li> <li>• Keynote presentation at Tennessee's CTE Institute (Nashville, TN)</li> <li>• Workshop on communications research at Tennessee’s CTE Institute</li> </ul>
<p><b>EVENTS ATTENDED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended “Afterschool and Workforce: Bridging Systems to Serve Older Youth Discussion Group”, Hosted by American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), Washington, DC</li> <li>• Partner meeting of Apprenticeship Forward (DC)</li> <li>• PostSec Data Collaborative Monthly Meeting by phone</li> <li>• PostSec Data Collaborative Federal Linkages Subcommittee Meeting</li> <li>• Committee for Education Funding Event: “Education Matters: Investing in America's Future”</li> <li>• Two Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Meetings</li> <li>• Education Pioneers &amp; Education Reform Now! Education Advocacy Event</li> <li>• Two Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce Meetings</li> <li>• Manufacturing 4.0 Event (DC)</li> <li>• Manufacturing Skills Standards Board Meeting (VA)</li> <li>• New Skills for Youth project team meeting (DC)</li> <li>• NCC-CTSO Quarterly Meeting (Reston, VA)</li> <li>• NGA Work-Based Learning Roundtable (DC)</li> <li>• Senate CTE Caucus Briefing on “Supporting Successful Reentry through CTE”</li> <li>• Young Education Professionals of D.C. Education Jobs Event</li> <li>• Women in Government Relations’ Education Task Force Quarterly Meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>OTHER PARTNERS ENGAGED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with AIR Center on Great Teachers and Leaders to plan workshops and working groups related to our December 2016 State of CTE report on industry experts</li> <li>• ACTE</li> <li>• AIR</li> <li>• Continued working on the next State of CTE report with the American School Counselors Association, focused on career development and advisement</li> <li>• Asia Society</li> <li>• Credentials Engine</li> <li>• DoDEA</li> <li>• EDC</li> <li>• Harris School Solutions</li> <li>• MDRC</li> </ul>

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- Lunch with the National Governors Association's Government Relations Team
  - National Technical Honor Society
  - WGBH

# Advance CTE Newsletter

July 2017

*Your voice from the nation's capital*



## Dear Members,

It's been a busy summer at Advance CTE, with staff traveling to states across the country to share [Putting Learner Success First: A Shared Vision for the Future of CTE](#), research from [The Value and Promise of CTE](#), as well as best practices happening in your states. Interested in having Advance CTE staff come to your state? Fill out this [form](#).

July also marks the transition in leaders of our [Board of Directors](#). I'd like to say a big thank you to outgoing Board President, Jo Anne Honeycutt, and thank Rod Duckworth, Vanessa Cooley and Tim Hodges for their service on the Advance CTE Board. I'd also like to welcome Sarah Heath as our secretary/treasurer, Bernadette Howard as our vice president, and Pradeep Kotamraju who will serve as our board president. We look forward to working with you and advancing CTE through your leadership!

As you heard earlier this month, Perkins was level funded by the House Appropriations Committee. There is work still to be done in the Senate, but in this environment, it's a win! Thank you to all who made outreach to your Congressional delegation. [Your stories](#) are critical to making the case as to why Perkins must be funded. Interested in sharing what Perkins cuts would mean to your state or community? Email [Katie Fitzgerald](#).

Lastly, registration is [now open](#) for our Fall Meeting! Register today to join us October 16-18 in Baltimore, MD. We have a fantastic agenda and look forward to seeing you to work through the most pressing CTE issues you're facing in your state.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Green,  
Executive Director

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### NEW RESOURCE!

***Career Readiness & the Every Student Succeeds Act: Mapping Career Readiness in State ESSA Plans - Round 1***

## Member News

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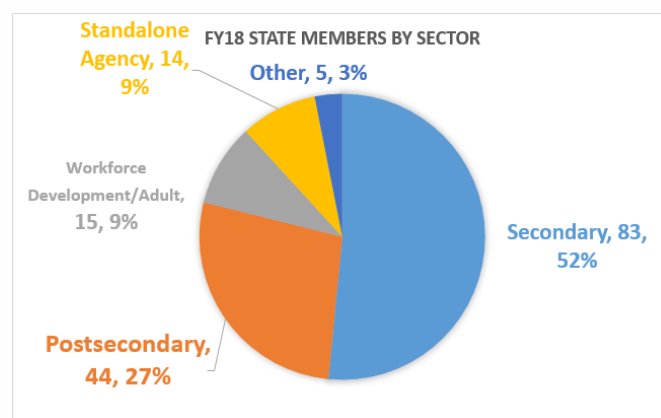
### Welcome to our new members!

Advance CTE values all of our members and the relationships we have with each of you. On July 1, we were thrilled to welcome 161 individuals, including 101 new members, as part of our newly expanded state membership structure. These members hail from across the CTE continuum in 45 states, one territory and the District of Columbia. The expanded membership policy allows State Directors to add up to four new and existing Advance CTE members to be covered by their state dues. We hope to see many of these new faces at our upcoming Fall Meeting!

Here's a quick glimpse at the state members and the sectors:

This brief from Advance CTE and the Education Strategy Group examines where and how career readiness shows up in the first 17 ESSA plans. The brief finds that, while more than half plan to adopt measures of career readiness in their accountability systems, many states missed an opportunity to fully leverage ESSA to advance a statewide vision of career readiness.

[Read the report](#)  
[Watch the webinar](#)



### New State CTE Directors!

We also wish to say welcome to two new State Directors, Casey Haugner Wrenn of Tennessee and Chris Deaton of Indiana!

## ➤ View from the Hill

Even though the Senate has yet to take up H.R. 2353, the [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act](#), members of Congress are still highlighting the benefits of CTE as they discuss the 2018 Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) budget and appropriations. This is a good signal of continued bipartisan support and interest and a clear testament to the efficacy of your outreach!

Throughout July, Advance CTE and ACTE partnered to meet with staff for members on the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations subcommittee to encourage a strong federal investment in Perkins. In addition, Advance CTE released the ["What a 15 Percent Cut to Perkins Really Means"](#) blog post and included it in communications with congressional staffers. To reinforce our message about the importance of investing in Perkins before the mark up of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations subcommittee's FY18 appropriations bill, Advance CTE and ACTE sent a joint letter to the members of this subcommittee.

The subcommittee marked up and passed the [FY18 appropriations bill](#) along party lines by a vote of 9-6 on July 13. The full House Appropriations Committee approved it along party lines on July 19, during which many education amendments were offered, yet failed, including those which would have reinstated funding for apprenticeship and increased the maximum size of Pell grants. Importantly, this bill includes level-funding for Perkins (and maintains that \$1,117,598,000 be allocated to the Basic State Grants and \$7,421,000 be allocated for National Programs - the same as FY17).

Also on July 19, the House Budget Committee marked up its [FY18 Budget Resolution](#), which frames CTE as a key component of workforce development and a way to "equip students with in-demand skills in specific fields that undergird the Nation's economy" (pg. 26). The resolution, which provides the top-line spending number for all 12 appropriations bills, was approved and the amount for non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending matched the amount that the House Appropriations Committee had allocated toward this type of spending across the 12 appropriations bills.

As the budget and appropriations process continues, Advance CTE will continue to advocate for a strong federal investment in Perkins with members of congress and we encourage you to continue to [reach out](#) to your members of Congress to support a strong federal investment in

## ➤ State Policy Overview

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Flexible pathways to graduation, career advisement and integrated course curricula are all top of mind for state leaders this summer. In Connecticut, Governor Dannel Malloy signed [SB1026](#), restructuring the state's graduation requirements. The law also gives students the option to receive credit by demonstrating subject matter competency through alternative means, such as work-based learning, CTE, virtual learning and more. Meanwhile, Washington State made moves to accelerate implementation of statewide [course equivalency frameworks](#) through its 2017-19 [biennial budget](#).

Elsewhere in the states:

- The **Idaho** Workforce Development Task Force released [findings and recommendations](#), including strategies to connect K-12 education to career pathways, strengthen career advisement in the state, expand CTE programs and apprenticeships, and incentivize schools to integrate workforce skills into secondary curricula.
- Relatedly, **Michigan's** Career Pathways Alliance released a proposal to dramatically transform K-12 career preparation. Proposals range from continuing a statewide communications campaign to enhancing career counseling efforts and introducing more flexibility into the Michigan graduation standards.
- Meanwhile, **California's** [budget](#) directs the state superintendent to convene a computer science strategic implementation advisory panel to provide recommendations to expand access to computer science education for K-12 students.

Read more on Advance CTE's [State CTE Policy Updates Blog](#) and stay tuned for regular updates from the states.

## ➤ Learning that Works Resource Center

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This month's edition of the Resource Center roundup examines research and policy strategies to close access gaps and ensure all learners can enroll and succeed in high-quality CTE programs. From using technology to reach rural students in Idaho to structuring outcomes-based funding to promote equity in community colleges, the Learning that Works Resource Center contains several reports, tools and policy profiles to address [access and equity challenges](#).

- **Report - [Achieving Educational Equity and Justice in Career Academies: Challenges and Promising Strategies](#)**: This report from the Education Development Center, funded by Ford Next Generation Learning, examines career academies in seven communities and summarizes key equity issues that the districts have encountered, strategies they are using to address inequities, and research-based approaches communities can consider to reduce disparities across different demographic groups.
- **Policy - [Idaho: CTE Digital & Idaho Digital Learning Academy](#)**: The Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), a fully-accredited online school serving students in all of the state's 115 districts, enables students across the state to access online CTE.
- **Report - [STEM: Classroom to Career: Opportunities to Close the Gap](#)**: This report from the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) draws on results from a survey of 7,325 high school students in STEM classes to diagnose equity issues.
- **Report - [Equity Measures in State Outcomes-Based Funding: Incentives for Public Colleges to Support Low-Income and Underprepared Students](#)**: This report from CLASP outlines how states can encourage equity through their community



and technical college systems by including equity measures in their outcomes-based funding formulas.

## Where We've Been

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We've presented in a number of events including:

- High Schools that Work, Southern Regional Education Board
- Tennessee's CTE Institute
- North Carolina State CTE Conference
- Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators

Attended events and meetings with:

- After school and Workforce: Building Systems to Serve Older Youth Discussion Group, American Youth Policy Forum
- AIR-Advance CTE Industry Experts Working Group
- Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Meeting
- Education Matters: Investing in America's Future, CEF
- PostsecData Working Group Monthly Meeting, Institute for Higher Education Policy
- Jobs and Careers Coalition Meeting, Opportunity America
- Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce, CAW
- Federal Linkages Subcommittee Meeting, Postsecondary Data Working Group
- Supporting Successful Re-entry Through CTE, Senate CTE Caucus
- Education Taskforce Quarterly Meeting, Women in Government
- Partnership Meeting, Apprenticeship Forward
- New Skills for Youth Project Team Meeting
- NCC-CTSO Quarterly Meeting
- National Governors Association Learning Roundtable
- Manufacturing Skills Council Board Meeting
- Manufacturing Institute's 4.0 Event
- Harris School Solutions
- Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education
- Education Development Center
- MDRC
- RTI International
- Gates Foundation
- Ballmer Foundation
- National Technical Honor Society
- Department of Defense Educational Activity
- Credentials Engine
- Association for Career and Technical Education

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