

CTE

# BUILD OUR INVESTMENT IN CTE

## SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT

**THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT (PERKINS)** is the principal source of dedicated federal funding for career and technical education (CTE)—helping to build the capacity of secondary and postsecondary institutions to serve over 12 million students nationwide through CTE programs that are academically rigorous and aligned to the needs of business and industry.

This foundational support for CTE program improvement is essential to moving our economy forward. However, funding has not kept pace with the needs of high-quality CTE programs:

- In FY 2015, Congress appropriated over \$140 million less in Perkins grant funding to states than it did in FY 2010.
- From FY 2007 through FY 2014, total Perkins grant funding to states declined by 13 percent (a 23 percent decline when adjusted for inflation).
- More than 20 states are currently receiving a Perkins Basic State Grant allocation that is at or below the level they received in 1998.
- In a recent survey by NRCCUA, more than half of CTE educators said that their program budget has decreased in recent years.

In this fiscal environment, CTE provides a strong return on investment. Across the country, states are using Perkins funding to achieve overwhelmingly positive results—meeting or exceeding the accountability targets set under the law in almost every case since 2010. This data is borne out on the ground where students involved in CTE programs are more engaged, perform better academically and graduate at higher rates. An educated and highly skilled workforce provides direct benefits to American employers, strengthening the economy through productivity and innovation.

Congress has acted to reverse most of the harmful, across-the-board sequester cut for CTE, but funding for the Perkins Basic State Grant program is still \$5.4 million below the pre-sequestration level. More needs to be done to support high schools, tech centers, community colleges, employers and CTE students across the country. Congress should restore the Perkins Basic State Grant to at least the pre-sequestration level of \$1.123 billion in FY 2016, while also working to address the long-term funding needs of CTE programs. It is time to make building our investment in CTE a top priority!

### WHY CTE?

#### CTE students:

are more engaged  
in their education

graduate from high  
school at higher rates

score higher on academic  
achievement tests

gain critical  
employability skills

earn industry-recognized  
credentials

**are the backbone of the  
future U.S. workforce!**

***Make educating and training the nation's future workforce a priority by  
supporting increased funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical  
Education Act!***

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