I am incredibly proud of another year at Advance CTE, filled with significant progress toward the bold vision of CTE Without Limits. With all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Palau and the U.S. Virgin Islands once again members of Advance CTE, all that is outlined in this annual report are truly shared successes. These accomplishments are proof that through shared conviction and purpose, progress is forged no matter the challenge. When we create spaces that are inclusive and welcoming, our work is strengthened with diversity. And when we come together in community and unity, our voices are amplified and our impact multiplied.

Together, our community secured another consecutive year of increased federal funding for Career Technical Education (CTE). We reconvened — in person — to support one another in our personal and professional leadership and learning journeys. We continued to challenge systemic inequity and inefficiencies. We built solutions for vexing challenges.

There is so much to celebrate, and yet, there is more to do too! I am confident that with your leadership, our community will continue to thrive in its efforts realize CTE Without Limits for every learner.

With gratitude,
Kimberly Green
Executive Director
When we released *Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education (CTE Without Limits)* in 2021, we knew that this vision was ambitious — and that it would take all of us, working together, to ensure equitable, high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE) for every learner. As we collectively work to realize this vision, we are laser focused on supporting our members. We are dedicated to meeting our members where they are, continuously prioritizing their needs and designing our supports to support both leaders and leadership while positioning each member to achieve their goals.

**Meeting Members Where They Are: Support and Engagement Opportunities**

We provide myriad opportunities for members to **benefit from best practices and lessons learned** from one another and other CTE stakeholders; collaborate with other members and experts to **solve common issues**; and **receive direct, sustained technical assistance** to build knowledge and support systemic policy and practice transformation. As members work to realize the vision of *CTE Without Limits*, their needs are evolving. In 2022, we provided more intensive and customized technical assistance to states. At the same time, we worked to expand offerings that are open to all members — in particular, creating more communities of practice and piloting an affinity group for state CTE leaders of color.

**State CTE Directors Value Their Membership in Advance CTE**

- **100%** agree or strongly agree they are satisfied with the value of their membership
- **94%** agree or strongly agree Advance CTE is their first stop when they need a resource on a CTE topic
- **100%** agree or strongly agree they are a valued member
- **100%** agree or strongly agree that Advance CTE staff are responsive to their inquiries/needs

**Communities of Practice in 2022**

Communities of practice are designed to widely share knowledge gained through research or intensive technical assistance with some states or to deepen and extend implementation supports. In 2022, our communities of practice included:

- Implementation of *CTE Without Limits*
- Career Advising
- Advancing Postsecondary CTE Data Initiative
- Opportunity Gap Analysis
- Receiving Technical Assistance
- Participating in Communities of Practice
- Participating in Shared Solutions Workgroups/Committees
Attending to all dimensions of equity is a foundational commitment for realizing the vision of CTE Without Limits. To deliver on this commitment, Advance CTE applies an equity lens to every aspect of our work and strives to build knowledge, empathy and trust through our resources and supports for the field. This work is complex and multi-faceted; therefore our member supports include personal one-on-one technical assistance, cohort-based technical assistance, staff and Board trainings, and more intensive experiential and skill-building workshops.

**Identifying and Closing Opportunity Gaps**

Through our Opportunity Gap Analysis Workshop, we are building our members’ capacity to use data to identify and close equity gaps. In 2022, we hosted two cohorts of states and provided ongoing support for the cohort that was launched in 2021. During these workshops, which are supported by the Joyce Foundation, participants identify and prioritize root causes, explore evidence-based intervention strategies, and propose specific action steps to address any gaps. As part of our train-the-trainer model, participants create plans for and conduct their own trainings within their state after the workshop. To provide greater support, we added a six-month community of practice for participants to engage with each other and learn from preceding cohorts.

**Preparing Postsecondary CTE Leaders**

Closing opportunity gaps for learners is a critical step in advancing equity and diversity in CTE. However, learners also need to see themselves in CTE leadership, which requires strengthening and diversifying the pipeline of future state leaders and removing systemic barriers that contribute to racial representation gaps. In 2022, members of the first cohort of the Postsecondary State Career Technical Education Leaders Fellowship at Advance CTE — Sponsored by ECMC Foundation gained the skills and network to pursue state leadership positions and advance high-quality, equitable state postsecondary CTE systems. A second cohort of Advance CTE — ECMCF Fellows began their work in fall 2022.
In addition to direct support for our members, we continue to be an effective advocate at the federal level to secure increased funding for CTE and to position CTE at the forefront to meet pressing education, workforce and economic needs. In doing so, we create a supportive policy environment for our members to implement CTE Without Limits.

We were among the first organizations to publicize recommendations for the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act based on lessons learned from the implementation of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). We also continue to maintain a strong and trusted relationship with the U.S. Department of Education, particularly the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, by engaging in regular check-ins and ensuring members’ issues are promptly addressed. These efforts are paying off with growing bipartisan support and funding for CTE and Perkins V.

**Influencing Federal Policy**

### Perkins V Funding Increased for FY 2023

- **$50M** increase in Perkins V basic state grant program
- **$1.43B** total Perkins V funding
- 3.6% increase over FY 2022

These figures are both **historical highs** for federal CTE funding for Perkins V and **outpace authorization levels** in the law.

### Support Is Growing in Both Chambers of Congress

**Resolution to Support CTE Awareness Month**

- **+183%**
- **+29%**

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<td>Numbers of Members in Support</td>
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- **255 Congressional engagements** in 2022
Building Community & Knowledge

A key aspect of achieving a shared vision is serving as a convener, bringing members together to learn from each other and experts in the field. In 2022, we resumed in-person events. These gatherings included a state leadership retreat in the spring for State CTE Directors and other senior state leaders to focus on leadership development and relationship building as well as our Fall Meeting that was open to all members and partner organizations.

We also hosted a national data summit, which served as the capstone for the Advancing Postsecondary CTE Data Quality & Use Initiative (PDI), sponsored by ECMC Foundation. During the summit, participants heard lessons learned from the initiative, explored promising practices to improve the quality and use of postsecondary CTE data, and discussed strategies to sustain the work into the future.

Between these in-person meetings, we continued our virtual learning events. Our new June Meeting Series featured three sessions of keynote speakers and workshops aligned to the foundational commitments of CTE Without Limits. The fall series featured national leaders and partners who are taking CTE to new heights, including Dr. Amy Loyd, assistant secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Members Value Professional Learning Events

**SPRING STATE LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Leaders from 40 states

41 percentage point increase in participants reporting that they “felt well connected to other state CTE leaders across the country” after the retreat

**FALL MEETING**

Leaders from 48 states

99% found the meeting to be a valuable or extremely valuable use of their time

97% are likely or very likely to apply knowledge they learned in their work

96% learned something new

**VIRTUAL LEARNING EVENTS**

2,000+ attendees from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and 3 territories

4 out of 5 likelihood that participants will use the information they learned in the event in their own work
Providing Impactful Tools & Resources

Our impactful tools and resources equip the field to focus on quality and equity, empower our members to implement CTE Without Limits, and elevate high-quality and equitable CTE. The following are just some of the resources released in 2022.

 Equip the Field

These reports and briefs provide national policy landscape reviews and recommendations to improve connections among systems, support local education agencies and postsecondary institutions, and advance equity for historically marginalized learners.

- Advancing Employment for Secondary Learners with Disabilities through CTE Policy and Practice — Learners with disabilities stand to strongly benefit from participation in CTE when programs are designed to support their needs. This report, produced in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, reviews the policy landscape of state-level efforts to support secondary learners with disabilities in CTE programs.

- Making Good on the Promise: Improving Equity and Access to Quality CTE Programs for English Learners — Despite the considerable benefits of CTE for English learners, significant barriers remain for them to fully access and succeed in CTE programs. This brief, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, outlines the key barriers and provides five recommendations to leverage federal and state resources to lower and remove these barriers.

- Lessons in Collaboration and Innovation: The Impact and Promise of the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment — This resource, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, highlights how states have worked to drive meaningful implementation of the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) among local education agencies. It includes six recommendations for state leaders to consider to ensure that they continue to build on early CLNA success and drive quality and equity within their CTE systems and programs of study.

- Braiding Funding To Support Equitable Career Pathways — This resource, developed through JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s New Skills ready network, provides recommendations to aid states in braiding state, local, federal and community funding sources to improve CTE program design and delivery for learners.

- The State of CTE: Early Postsecondary Opportunities — Advance CTE’s annual 50-state review, produced in partnership with the College in High School Alliance and supported by the Joyce Foundation, illuminates the presence and impact of early postsecondary opportunities, with a focus on steps states can take to advance equity and access to these meaningful avenues to jumpstart postsecondary success.
Empower Our Members

The following resources, developed through JPMorgan Chase & Co’s New Skills ready network, respond to members’ needs for tools to more deeply assess their systems, connect to existing work and implement identified actions.

Achieving Inclusive CTE Goal-Setting Tool — This tool equips leaders to more intentionally plan to recruit, engage and support underrepresented learner groups to increase access to high-quality CTE programs and career pathways.

Embedding Credit for Prior Learning in Career Pathways: Policy Benchmark Tool — This tool identifies five core elements of effective credit for prior learning (CPL) policy and guides state, system and institutional leaders through a self-assessment of their current CPL policy and practice to accelerate learners’ completion of career pathways that lead to high-quality credentials.

Elevate CTE

We continue to support state leaders by providing resources to effectively and equitably engage learners in raising awareness of and success in CTE.

Elevating Family Voice in Career Pathways — Developed as part of JPMorgan Chase & Co’s New Skills ready network, this resource provides five strategies to effectively engage learners and families in CTE.

Empowering Students through Career Technical Education and Career Advising — Originally developed with support from the Siemens Foundation and delivered in 24 states, this workshop is now a public resource. Using a train-the-trainer model, more than 50 additional leaders in 21 states have received information and resources on how to expand existing strategies for effective career advisement and empower learners to skillfully navigate their path to career and college success.

Find Out More

For more impactful resources our members and other stakeholders can use to support high-quality, equitable CTE, visit the Learning that Works Resource Center. The Resource Center contains:

- Case studies to profile and draw lessons learned from innovations and trends in career readiness strategies;
- Research/reports to build an evidence base and inform readers about the latest research and information;
- Tools and guides to assist in the design and implementation of states’ career preparation systems; and
- Policies, including career readiness-focused legislation, regulations and administrative actions, to provide models and promising practices to state leaders.
While 2023 will see a transition in leadership for Advance CTE, our commitment to serving as an effective, leading advocate to preserve and expand CTE's role in federal policy and our dedication to proactively and robustly responding to the needs of our members will remain steadfast.

We will continue to lead the field in providing resources to adapt to the ever-changing world of work and achieve responsive, equitable CTE programs. The refreshed The National Career Clusters® Framework, expected to be released in 2024 and developed with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will better reflect current and future workforce needs and will be a valuable tool that states can use to guide their CTE improvement efforts. The second cohort of the PDI will build on lessons learned during the first year of the initiative and continue efforts to improve postsecondary CTE data collection and use. And our involvement in national efforts to scale and improve career pathways will continue through the kickoff of Launch, a multi-funder initiative.

Helping our members address systemic challenges starts with knowing what works and does not work so we can provide recommendations that inform and empower states to transform state systems. In 2023, our research, supported by the Walton Family Foundation, will focus on exploring state K-12 CTE funding models and removing geographic barriers to provide high-quality CTE across state lines.

The needs of each learner are at the center of all CTE improvement efforts and the priorities of our vision. In 2023, we will launch two state cohorts to help our members create learner-centered state policy and practice. One cohort, supported by the Joyce Foundation, will focus on embedding learner voice in policy evaluation and formulation. The other, supported by the Siemens Foundation, will focus on reaching and involving learners, particularly under-represented learners, in state-led program recruitment and communication practices.

In the area of federal policy, we plan to gather input from members and the wider community to develop Advance CTE’s inaugural formal policy recommendations regarding apprenticeships. We also will be conducting early planning for Perkins reauthorization priorities.

We are committed to fostering community among our members to learn together and advance the CTE field. From our Fall Meeting to our regional Perkins meetings, shared solutions workgroups, communities of practice, and the New State CTE Director Leadership Program, we will continue to build meaningful relationships among and with our members to ensure that we are meeting their needs and unite our efforts to provide the high-quality, equitable CTE every learner needs and deserves.