Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education (CTE Without Limits) puts forth the need for industry leaders and stakeholders from across the Career Technical Education (CTE) continuum to engage together to formulate lasting systemic solutions where each learner, no matter their race, gender or zip code, can access and be successful in equitable, connected work-based learning systems. A key component to such systems are Registered Apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships. High-quality apprenticeship programs are designed with the supports each learner needs in order to reach career success. Apprenticeships advance equitable access to high-skill, high-wage and in-demand careers by offering paid, on-the-job skills training and real-world experience for learners. They leverage functional data ecosystems to identify industry needs, evaluate program impact, monitor learner and employer equity, and identify best practices.

Over time, Advance CTE and its partners have contributed to the research base on promising practices around scalable, state-wide apprenticeship programs. This research has grown to include, but is not limited to:

- Increasing funding opportunities for learners to participate in apprenticeship programs;
- Expanding apprenticeship models into new industries not typically served by apprenticeships;
- Increasing the diversity of participants, with an intentional focus on communities that have traditionally been historically marginalized; and
- Expanding access to pre-apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships aligned with postsecondary pathways.

This month’s CTEWorks Newsletter is an extension of our ongoing advocacy for apprenticeships. We are continuing to share resources, tools and guides for state CTE leaders to develop, implement and scale state-wide programs and opportunities.
The Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeships (PAYA) supports efforts in states and cities to expand access to high-quality youth apprenticeship opportunities for high-school-aged youth. PAYA convenes experts and partners, supports a community of practitioners, publishes research, and provides grants and direct assistance to promising youth apprenticeship programs in cities and states across the U.S.

This network was launched by New America in partnership with Advance CTE, CareerWise Colorado, Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships, Education Strategy Group, JFF, the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions and the National Governors Association.

The following resources are a result of Advance CTE’s involvement in the PAYA network:

- *Improving Youth Apprenticeship Data Quality: Challenges and Opportunities* outlines the challenges and opportunities of youth apprenticeship data quality. Also described throughout the report are the roles that state CTE leaders, local intermediaries, and education and employer partners can play in improving the quality and use of data.
- *The Role of Data and Accountability in Growing Youth Apprenticeship Programs* examines how states are collecting and validating youth apprenticeship and work-based learning data, and what steps can be taken to expand quantitative and qualitative data collection that would support program development and expansion.
- Blog Series: *Using Data to Advance Youth Apprenticeship* highlights how PAYA network sites are using data to improve youth apprenticeship quality and equity. The first blog is available now, and more updates will be posted throughout the year.

Use CTE Without Limits for Advocacy
Advocacy is how you persuade an audience to take the desired action, whether that action is the enactment of a policy or increased enrollment in Registered Apprenticeship or youth apprenticeship programs. Consider using the below resources to use CTE Without Limits as a tool as you advocate for apprenticeships in your state.

Communication Resources:
- Executive Summary of CTE Without Limits (March, 2021)
- PowerPoint slides and aligned talking points (June, 2021)
- Promotional Toolkit for CTE Without Limits (March, 2021)

State Policy Actions on Apprenticeships

In the past year, at least 19 states enacted legislation impacting work-based learning opportunities including expanding access to apprenticeships, allowing credit to be earned for out-of-school-time learning and increasing transparency in communication about apprenticeships. The following policies listed in this update represent a small sample of pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and work-based learning policies already passed in 2021.

For any questions related to state policy actions, contact Dan Hinderliter, Policy Associate, dhinderliter@careertech.org.