



This month's CTEWorks newsletter features resources related to stakeholder engagement. Sustainable and successful transformation of state career readiness systems, including but not limited to Career Technical Education (CTE), requires engagement with a variety of stakeholders who are deliberately working to share ownership of learner success in a career of their choice. For example, business and industry leaders have an essential role to play in the design and delivery of high-quality CTE programs. They bring unique perspectives on the foundational competencies and qualifications for entry-level work in their respective industries and can provide input into the design of programs of study, learning standards and classroom-based curricula. Additionally, as we work to achieve the principles set forth by *Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Technical Education* (CTE Without Limits), it is critical that we engage learners, families and key community partners to share their unique experiences with state CTE leaders to inform and improve upon programs and supports.

## Resources for Stakeholder Engagement in CTE

- *With Learners, Not for Learners: A Toolkit for Elevating Learner Voice in CTE* provides state and local CTE leaders with actionable resources, guidance and tools to ensure CTE learner voices are elevated and heard for the improvement of CTE policies and practices.
- *Engaging Representatives of Learners with Special Population Status through Perkins V* helps state CTE leaders establish processes and routines for systematically engaging representatives of learners with special population status.
- *Career Readiness Stakeholder Engagement Tool* guides users through nine steps in planning effective interactions with specific stakeholders.
- *Opportunities to Advance Statewide Industry Collaboration and Engagement in Career Technical Education* explores state strategies to systematically engage business and industry leaders in support of CTE through the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

From our Partnering Organizations

- Guide/Tool — U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation — *Managing the Talent Pipeline: A New Approach to Closing the Skills Gap*
- Guide/Tool — Education Commission of the States — *ECS Special Report: Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement*

- Guide/Tool — U.S. Education Delivery Institute — *Stakeholder Mapping Tool*
- Guide/Tool — Council of Chief State School Officers — *Stakeholders and Perkins V: Meaningful Engagement for Student Success*

[View the Learning that Works Resource Center](#)

## New Research from Advance CTE

Career Technical Education  
**CONTRIBUTES TO JOB GROWTH  
 AND MEETS SKILL NEEDS**



### CTE's Reputation is Strong Among Employers

96% FAVORABLE

63% VERY FAVORABLE

96 percent of employers who had heard of CTE had a favorable view, and 63 percent held a very favorable view.

Employer engagement is fundamental to building and sustaining high-quality CTE programs. As skill gaps and labor realignments continue to impact the workforce, it is crucial that CTE leaders effectively communicate the return on investment CTE provides to both learners and employers to fully leverage CTE's potential to develop job-ready individuals in in-demand fields.

Advance CTE has published a new report and related fact sheets that provide timely insights on the top skills desired by employers, their attitudes toward CTE, and their current involvement in and support for CTE partnerships. This research was generously supported by the Siemens Foundation.

*Shifting the Skills Conversation: Employer Attitudes and Outcomes of Career Technical Education* highlights findings from a national survey of more than 300 professionals actively involved in hiring decisions in predominantly in-demand fields. The findings demonstrate strong support for CTE, robust alignment with top skill needs, and widespread interest in starting, expanding, and increasing funding for partnerships with CTE programs.

[View the report](#)

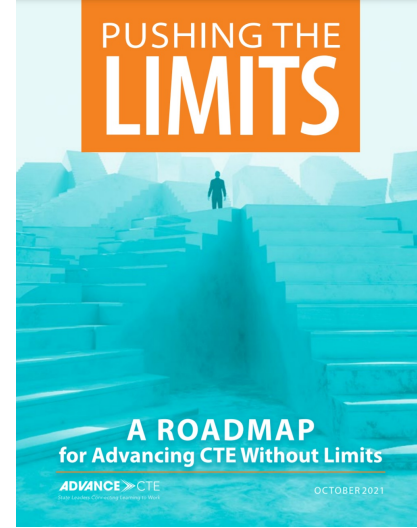
## CTE Without Limits

Advance CTE has released a new implementation guide to help realize a new vision for CTE, *CTE Without Limits*, which is only possible through shared commitment and action across all CTE stakeholders. *Pushing the Limits: A Roadmap for Advancing CTE Without Limits* helps states to:

- Conduct an initial assessment;
- Identify top areas for action; and
- Develop implementation strategies for one or multiple vision principles.

This step-by-step guide also:

- Unpacks each of the five principles and related actions of *CTE Without Limits*;
- Provides self-assessment questions to help state leaders reflect on the current alignment of policies and practice, capacity for change, and potential impact of moving the needle for each action;
- Provides sample implementation steps, policies and resources to inspire action; and
- Offers an action planning tool to develop SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound) goals to drive systemic change.



[View the roadmap](#)

## Getting to Know Advance CTE



Meet Dan Hinderliter! Dan is a State Policy Associate at Advance CTE and supports a number of different national projects. As a site liaison for the *New Skills ready network*, Dan works with two sites (Columbus, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana), providing resource and research support while also serving as a direct link to the national project team. He also works on site snapshots, the annual report and quarterly newsletters, as well as major publications that highlight promising national, state and local practices aligned with the principles of the *New Skills ready network*.

Dan also supports the modernization of the [National Career Clusters® Framework](#) and spearheads the [Year in Review](#), the annual aggregation of state policy impacting CTE. As part of the Year in Review process, Dan regularly tracks state-level legislation and other policy actions.

**Q: Considering your work on the *New Skills ready network* initiative, how are the six sites leveraging stakeholder engagement to advance career pathways?**

**A:** Each of the six *New Skills ready network* sites is working to leverage stakeholder engagement in some capacity to advance career pathways. First, because each of the sites is composed of a variety of stakeholders, engagement with business and industry, postsecondary partners and K-12 institutions has to happen to ensure each voice is involved in and buys into the work of the site.

[Read more](#)

