

Thirty-Third Annual

**Conference on INTEGRATED LEARNING:
THE SCHOOL-TO-CAREER CONNECTION**



**Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Career and Technical Education**

www.education.pa.gov/integratedlearningconference

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM **REGISTRATION**

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM **COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS**

Lobby Area

Visit our exhibitors. Resources, equipment, and educational materials related to integration of academic, CTE and other school restructuring initiatives will be on display.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **LUNCHEON BUFFET**

Presidents Hall

Your nametag will be your meal ticket.

WELCOME



Judd Pittman – Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Judd R. Pittman is a champion for policies, practices and programs that help learners enter careers that enable them to attain a family thriving wage. Judd spent eight years as a middle school science teacher in Harrisburg City School District and spent seven years serving on the Harrisburg City School District and Dauphin County Technical School Boards of Directors. He has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an educational consultant at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), as the Special Consultant to the Secretary of Education for STEM and as the Director of K-16 Initiatives at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. He now serves as the State Director for the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education.

SPEAKER



Kevin Rice – Executive Director, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Kevin Rice serves as the Executive Director at Steel Center for Career and Technical Education. Before this role, he was the Assistant Director and Principal at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center.

Kevin is the recipient of PACTA's 2024 *Jacqueline L. Cullen Distinguished CTE Leadership Award*. This leadership award celebrates those currently serving in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) leadership role and seeks to recognize those leaders for their extraordinary contributions and demonstration of the core values and commitment to CTE.

Kevin's commitment to CTE is steadfast. As a former CTE student and SkillsUSA officer, he brings a deep personal connection to the field. Over the years, Kevin has played an active role in supporting CTE reform, including serving as a PACTA officer and participating in several committees dedicated to advancing CTE initiatives. His dedication to the cause is lifelong.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Room 108 Next Level NOCTI Data Analysis: NOCTI Data Mining

Todd Luke – President, MAX Teaching

Scott Rogers – Administrative Director, York County School of Technology

Are you capitalizing on all the NOCTI data resources available to you to increase student achievement on both the written and performance components of the NOCTI assessment? Gain first-hand insights into best practices for analyzing historical and current assessment data, along with actionable steps you can implement across your school and technical program areas. This process will provide an in-depth look at a turnkey approach to creating detailed action plans for teachers and guiding students in developing their own individual action plans, using their NOCTI pre-test results and study guides.

Room 109 Creating a Strategic Comprehensive CS Plan

Avni Dyer – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN
Lauren Walker – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

In this session, we will discuss the benefits and how to start creating your school's strategic comprehensive Computer Science (CS) plan. A comprehensive CS plan will ensure success for all students who want to pursue a CS.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM DEEP DIVE SESSIONS**Room 104 Essential Components of Instruction: Help for Beginning and Emergency Certified Teachers**

Bob Shields – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN - Central

Participants will engage in key practices and routines designed to set a strong foundation for both the start of the year and their career trajectory. This session will address and provide supports for instructors in a classroom and career and technology center (CTC) studio/lab setting. From classroom management to managing the paperwork, we will explore practices and supports that will lead to a long and fulfilling career. Participants will understand the different instructional delivery models and be able to select the best for their content/lesson. Participants will explore strategies to increase student engagement in both classroom and lab settings. Participants will be exposed to free and easy scaffolding and accommodating strategies for their diverse learners.

Room 105 From Jargon to Job-ready: Vocabulary Instruction in CTE

Laura Moran – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN – Central - [Handouts](#)

Career and technical education (CTE) often involves specialized terminology that students need to master. This session reviews how to select the appropriate tiered words to teach, particularly Tier 2 (high-utility academic words) and Tier 3 (domain-specific technical terms). Participants will leave this session with effective vocabulary routines to immediately implement in the classroom. These effective routines include explicit instruction of word meanings, providing multiple exposures in context, and encouraging active use of new vocabulary.

Room 106 Empowering English Learners in Math - [Handouts](#)

Allison Moyer – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

This session will introduce teachers to the PLUSS Framework as a planning tool to support English Learners in math class by briefly explaining five key elements: pre-teaching, language modeling, use of visuals, systematic instruction, and strategic use of native language. Participants will be able to define the PLUSS framework's five components and identify two to three strategies for implementation in their classrooms to support student learning.

Room 107 Building an Understanding of the Formative Assessment Process - [Handouts](#)

Timothy Runge – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN - Central
Erica Kaurudar – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN - Central

This session examines the impact of the formative assessment process on student achievement. By focusing on key strategies - clarifying learning objectives, providing multiple opportunities to respond, utilizing active engagement practices and providing feedback – participants will learn how to adapt teaching given data from formative assessments to meet student needs. The session will highlight how small changes in teaching practices can lead to improvements in student outcomes. Attendees will engage in activities that demonstrate the practical application of these strategies, providing tools to support continuous student growth and school-wide improvement. The session will also highlight the benefits of higher achievement and improved teaching satisfaction.

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM WORKSHOPS AND TOURS (OFF-SITE)**Microbiology Experience Tour**

Location – Penn State University

The Biotechnology Experience will highlight Penn State research in biotechnology and microbiome sciences while offering a behind-the-scenes tour of three labs within the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Eberly College of Science. Participants will explore the role of microbes in food safety, food quality, and the management of mosquito-borne diseases. After touring the labs, we will discuss classroom implementation and explore opportunities for partnership. ***A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this tour.***

Mid-Atlantic Semiconductor Hub (MASH) Tour

Location – Penn State University

Nearly 115K smart manufacturing jobs are expected to be created in the next decade through the semiconductor industry and the CHIPS and science act. In this tour, participants will tour semiconductor “Clean Rooms” to see semiconductor work in progress. Participants will also experience “Digital Twinning” technology in smart manufacturing as well as meet with a semiconductor K-16 professional. ***A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this tour.***

Weatherization Workshop and Tour

Location – Central PA Institute of Science and Technology

An engaging hands-on workshop that introduces to participants the organizations involved, some sample activities included in their pilot programs, and a hands-on demonstration of a Blower Door. This session will take place at the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology in Pleasant Gap. ***A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this tour.***

Turf Management and Mushroom Research Facilities

Location – Penn State University

This session will take participants on a tour of the Penn State Mushroom Research Facility and The Penn State Valentine Turf Research Facility as examples of outdoor learning labs that can be replicated at both career and technical centers and/or secondary comprehensive schools. Participants will not only learn about actual research taking place at each of these locations, but also see industry-relevant equipment/ machinery in action, use and management of physical spaces, and identify the various career and technical education trades/content areas represented. The intent of this session is to inspire CTE administrators and instructors with ideas for similar outdoor learning labs that can be replicated and utilized at their home schools. ***A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this tour.***

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS**Room 108 Powering Up CTE with Science! Oil Changes, Spark Tests, and Electronic Trash**

Ann Andrews – Field Instructor, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Lyle Taylor – Metal Fabrication Instructor, Erie County Technical School

Ron Aldridge – Auto Mechanics Instructor, Fayette County Career and Technical Institute

This session will introduce the new STEELS standards, offering an overview to help participants integrate these standards into their industry-based lessons. The session will begin with an overview of the STEELS standards and guide participants to resources on PDE's website, which will assist them in creating lessons that align with Science, Technology and Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and

Sustainability. Participants will have the opportunity to 1) explore real-world examples from fellow teachers who have designed effective lessons incorporating the STEELS standards, sharing insights on lesson design, student engagement, and the impact of these lessons and 2) engage in interactive learning through a mini deep dive into the STEELS standards, connecting them to your own program tasks. Bring your own device/laptop to access the STEELS standards, fully participate in the interactive exercises, and access resources.

Room 109 Modern PD for Modern CTE: Creating a Culture of Sharing Best Practices

Mark Covelle – Administrative Director, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology
Matthew Gale – CTE Supervisor, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

CTE is modernizing and our professional development deserves to be modern as well. How can we accomplish the goals of professional development, value our team members' time, recognize and reward exceptional effort, and develop our teacher leaders? In this session, the presenters will share their modern professional development practices that highlight truly individualized professional development plans that teachers ENJOY and foster a culture of enthusiasm and growth. They will also discuss the highly successful pedagogy development model that is new and unique. Rooted in the Danielson Framework, the "Framework Focus" sessions empower educators to refine their instructional practices while promoting innovation and leadership. Combined, these efforts not only support high quality CTE instructional practices, but they have the added benefit of improving school climate and culture and promoting teacher innovation and leadership.

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Room 104 Teacher Quality, Attrition, and Turnover in Pennsylvania Career and Technical Centers

Edward Fuller – Professor, Penn State University
Seong Ji Jeong – Assistant Professor, Penn State University
Mark Threeton – Professor, Penn State University

Prior evidence on the stagnation in the number of individuals obtaining certification and teacher attrition has strongly suggested that Pennsylvania districts are experiencing staffing challenges. This study uses data from the PDE on teacher qualifications from the 2020-21 academic year to examine the extent to which teachers in Pennsylvania schools are underqualified. The issue of under-qualified teachers is important by itself because research suggests that under-qualified teachers are often less effective in improving student outcomes than better qualified teachers. This study examines the following measures of teacher qualifications: 1) percentage of novice teachers; 2) percentage of teachers assigned out-of-field; and 3) percentage of teachers teaching a subject area of grade level for which they are not fully certified and are teaching on an emergency permit. Each of these three measures is associated with lower teacher effectiveness in improving student outcomes, as well as schools having trouble hiring qualified teachers to fill all their teaching positions. The findings indicate that overall, 16.4 percent of all teaching positions in CTCs were not filled by a fully certified teacher proportion. 15.1 percent of CTC teachers had three or fewer years of experience (novice teachers). Furthermore, CTC teachers' annual attrition rate and CTC turnover rate were both above the state average.

Room 109 Introducing Innovative Career Pathways in Pennsylvania CTE: ESports, Drones, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence Feedback Session

Sergio Anaya – Assistant Director OESE Special Assignments, PDE/PaTTAN
Sara Frey – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN
Bryan Hower – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

Today's session will explore new and exciting career pathways in esports, drones, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence for Pennsylvania's CTE programs. These industries are rapidly growing and offer students a chance to pursue future-ready careers. We'll gather your thoughts and feedback on integrating these pathways into current or new programs of study, discuss challenges, and brainstorm solutions. Your insights will be key in shaping how we prepare students for tomorrow's job market. Let's work together to create programs that inspire and equip the next generation!

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM **DEEP DIVE SESSIONS**

Room 105 Success Begins with Empathy

James Osborne – CTE Advisor, CTE Center, Temple University
Michael Glatts – President, 901 Innovation

Empathy is a valuable 21st-century skill that employers want in their employees. Empathy contributes to better communication, fosters effective collaboration, and leads to more focused customer service. Empathetic leaders can build a positive workplace culture that improves employee engagement and productivity. In the classroom, the teacher is a role model, and when the teacher demonstrates empathy, the teacher can create a very positive classroom culture leading to a productive and engaging classroom. However, empathy is a skill that must be modeled and taught. This interactive presentation was designed to teach students about empathy. Through engaging discussions and improv games, students are encouraged to explore empathy in new ways. The presentation has been used successfully in several high school classes. The feedback from students showed that the exercises lead to stronger connections among the students which hopefully reduces bullying, improves teamwork, and creates a greater sense of community. Teachers participating in this session will leave with resources and methodologies that can be used in the classroom.

Room 106 STEM Synergy: Integrating Math and Science to Enhance CTE

Elizabeth Diamond – Interim Director/Associate Professor, CTE Center, Temple University
Mary Miller-Ettwein – Director of Teacher Certification and Curriculum, CTE Center, Temple University
Ed Denton – Field Resource Association, CTE Center, Temple University

This presentation will explore practical strategies and best practices for integrating math and science into CTE courses, making these subjects more relevant and applicable to students' future careers. By demonstrating how foundational STEM concepts directly support technical skills in fields such as engineering, healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing, educators can improve student engagement and outcomes. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to create interdisciplinary lesson plans, hands-on projects, and assessments that emphasize the real-world connections between math, science, and technical education.

Room 107 Overlooked: Navigating and Identifying Student Barriers

Candace Claar – Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State University
Patti Leibfried – Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State University
Maria Border – Instructor, Penn State University

This interactive presentation aims to enhance awareness of the challenges students may encounter due to various life circumstances. In the first half of the session, participants will engage in immersive scenarios that reflect the significant impact these challenges can have on students' educational experiences and outcomes. Educators will work through these scenarios to deepen their understanding, empathy, and compassion for students facing such difficulties. In the second half of the session, participants will explore essential resources and strategies designed to help students overcome the barriers they may encounter in their daily lives.

Room 108 Teach Literacy in CTE, How? We'll Show You!

Monica Murdoch – Center Director, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Palma Darenkamp – Field Resource Person, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Patricia Patula – Field Resource Person, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Literacy skills are your tools, not a separate subject to learn. Your content area is what you teach, but literacy can be the how. Join this session as the presenters share proven strategies to incorporate literacy and standards into your CTE content. This will be a workshop to help you brainstorm and create tools to teach your content, and your students will like it.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS**Room 104 Using Outdoor Land Labs to Increase Student Engagement in CTE – PSU Mushroom Research Center/Valentine Turf Research Center Action Planning Debrief Session**

John Ewing – Professor/Director, Center for Professional Personnel Development in Agriculture Education, Penn State University
Jonathan Seaman – Education Program Specialist, Penn State University

This session will guide participants who toured the Penn State Mushroom Research Facility and the Penn State Valentine Turf Research Facility through a debriefing session to develop action plans for replicating similar learning labs at their home centers/schools. The intent of this session is to guide CTE administrators and instructors through small groupwork to analyze and discuss what they saw on the tours and develop a potential action plan to implement at their home centers/schools. Participants will complete an action plan guide worksheet while participating in both tours that will be used during the debrief/action planning session.

Room 109 Creating a Culturally Responsive Classroom

Wendy Leyden – Cosmetology Instructor, Eastern Center for Arts and Technology
Karen McGeehan – Veterinary Science Instructor, Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

Eastern Center for Arts and Technology has implemented a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging initiative for the past four years. The 2023-2024 Climate and Culture Survey yielded 97 percent positive responses overall, with no identified subgroup falling below 95 percent. Our students feel safe, heard, included, and a sense of belonging. Attend this session to hear directly from a few teachers who want to share strategies to help other schools achieve the same positive school climate in their schools and classrooms. This interactive session will provide reflection, actionable strategies, and resources.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CONFERENCE DINNER BUFFET

Presidents Hall Your nametag will be your meal ticket.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST**Presidents Hall**

The Penn Stater Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND STUDENT EXHIBITS**Lobby Area
Refreshment Area**

Visit our exhibitors. Resources, equipment, and educational materials related to integration of academic, CTE and other school restructuring initiatives will be on display.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS**Room 104 ELLevating Voices: Advocating for English Language Learners in Career Technical Schools**

Ashley Detweiler – EL Teacher and Coach, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute
 Stacie Knehr Kutz – Instructional Technology Specialist, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

Join us in this dynamic session as we explore a range of strategies for advocating and supporting English Language Learners (ELLs) within career and technical schools. The session will highlight practical approaches for fostering an inclusive learning environment, promoting equitable access to technical education, and ensuring that ELL students receive the resources they need to thrive academically and professionally. Participants will leave with actionable insights to champion ELL success in CTE programs.

Room 105 AI in Schools

Bryan Haas – Instructor, Bucks County Technical High School
 Tyler Fortna – Instructor, Bucks County Technical High School

During this session, the presenters will share with educators and administrators their findings about AI. Join this session to learn current methods used for both instructors and students, as well as student guidelines and expectations in the ever-growing AI world.

Room 106 Realistic Learning, Real-World Results: Integrating Standardized Patients into Healthcare Education

Sherry Appleton – Medical and Health Professions Instructor, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Standardized patient training is the future of healthcare education. Similar to medical school training, the use of standardized patients in the classroom offers a dynamic, real-world learning experience for students and enhances student communication and healthcare skill proficiency while boosting their self-confidence. By practicing with "actor" patients, students can safely develop their skills without the pressure of high-stakes scenarios. This approach takes learning beyond traditional methods, offering students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in realistic, hands-on encounters. The immediate feedback students receive on technical skills and communication strategies helps them refine their performance, creating a deeper, more impactful learning experience. The presenter will share the journey of piloting a Standardized Patient (SP) program. From the initial concept, to recruiting patients, engaging students and alleviating their anxiety, this session will showcase how this innovative project significantly enhanced student learning, while boosting confidence and improving skill retention.

Room 107 PDE Approved Career and Technical Programs - [Handouts](#)

Lisa Golding – Program Standards and Quality Assurances Division Manager, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
 Tammy Keisling – CTE Advisor 1, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Are you curious about what is involved in having a CTE approved program at your school? Join advisors from the Program Standards and Quality Assurances Division of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education to hear all the information you'd need to know start and maintain a high-quality CTE program at your school.

Room 108 Grow Your Own with Educators Rising

Marthe Gulledge – Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, PDK International/Educators Rising

This session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and resources necessary to implement a "Grow Your Own" model within their communities. Attendees will explore strategies to motivate students to pursue careers in education, leverage resources to support current teachers in inspiring future educators, and learn how to start, grow, or sustain an Educators Rising chapter.

Room 109 Developing Community Partnerships – Just Say 'Yes'

Eric Kahler – Administrative Director, Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center

Dan Marks – Assistant Administrative Director, Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center

Developing community partnerships is essential to provide Live Work opportunities that create practical, hands-on experience for students to showcase their skills. Refine your approach to community requests so that you are looking for all the ways that you can make them work instead of focusing on all the ways that doing so is difficult and challenging.

Room 204 Is the Dryer Really Normal on the Normal Setting?

Chuck Culbertson – Paraprofessional, Huntington County Career and Technology Center

Attend this session to find out that the normal setting on the dryer may not actually be normal. This seminar will address A.C.E. from an adult perspective who experienced A.C.E. The presentation will tell how different people's compassion, caring and commitment encouraged an at-risk youth to overcome their adversity.

Room 205 Townhall Discussion – What's Not Working in Your Class and How Can We Help?

Nick Webster – Special Program Developer, The Arc of PA

Robin Massina – Program Specialist, Include Me Program

This townhall will introduce The Arc of PA's Include Me (IM) program and offer insights and feedback opportunities into how the program may benefit CTCs. The topics covered will include a brief overview of ways IM supports classrooms, gathering feedback on inclusive challenges faced in implementing IEP goals, challenges with incorporating students with disabilities, and addressing challenging behaviors. The session will conclude with integrating roleplay to support learning outcomes and a brief questions and answers time.

Room 206 Evidence-Based Practices – Customized Professional Development and Technical Assistance Feedback Session

Angela Kirby – Director, PaTTAN - Central

Sergio Anaya – Assistant Director, PaTTAN

The session will provide an overview of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education's vision for systemic alignment, emphasizing evidence-based, customized professional development and technical assistance offered through the IDEA-funded State System of Support. Additionally, CTC administrators will have the opportunity to provide feedback on how this system can best support CTCs.

Room 207 Empowering Student Voice to Improve School Climate

Stacey Minahan – Assistant Director, Schuylkill Technology Center

Gretchen Witman – Social Worker, Schuylkill Technology Center

Research has shown that soliciting student input in the decision-making process in education helps to create a positive impact on the school environment and student outcomes. This presentation will

provide an overview of the different ways the Schuylkill Technology Center is including all students in the discussion surrounding school climate. The presenters will showcase their Student Ambassador program and introduce a new initiative, The Principal's Council, aimed at addressing the needs of disengaged students. This program creates a platform for students who are often overlooked and typically excluded from decision-making, giving them a voice in driving meaningful change. However, they are an incredibly important voice in the change process and their inclusion ensures all students are heard, not just the best students. Join this session for a discussion about these programs and learn how you can implement them in your school to enhance your school climate initiative.

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM **DRONE EXPERIENCE**

Presidents 4 CSinP A Build Fly Code® – Experience Session

Timothy Heffernan – President and CEO, Innovation Institute for Tomorrow, Inc., Pennsylvania Rural Robotics Initiative

In this session pre-registered participants will build their own Hopper® drone, from installing motors to the printed circuit board, highlighting the accessibility of drone technology and the practical engineering and problem-solving skills essential to maintaining Hopper. This session will also feature an in-depth presentation of the Build Fly Code platform, showcasing how educators bring classroom lessons to life through interactive, hands-on flying and coding activities. Lastly, attendees will participate in a Build Fly Code Live competition, applying their newfound skills in a fun, fast-paced game against fellow attendees. Build Fly Code Live is a national competition that simulates real-world problem-solving created to inspire students to pursue careers in technology. The Build Fly Code Live competition manual, leaderboard scoring system and its on-the-ground implementation will be covered.

A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this session.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Room 104 Student Run Manufacturing Enterprises: Real World Experiences and Connections Focused on Addressing Future Workforce Needs

Sean Reams – Teacher/Coordinator Parkway Industrial, Bradford Area High School
Matt Degolier – Machine Technology Instructor/CTE Lead Instructor, Bradford Area High School
David Ray – Principal, Bradford Area High School

In the spring of 2022, Bradford Area High School partnered with the North West Industrial Resource Corporation (NWIRC) to apply for and receive a Manufacturing PA Training-To-Career grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This grant was used to create a student-run manufacturing enterprise operated by the students in the CTE programs of study. The NWIRC was integral in helping the high school plan and launch Parkway Industrial, build awareness in the local business community, and connect with local manufacturers. The Student Run Manufacturing Enterprise model allows students to put what they have learned in CTE classes to practical use as they produce actual parts, deliver services, and contribute to the success of local manufacturing companies and local economy. Students interact with local manufacturers and learn about their requirements for production, quality, and on-time delivery. Students find mentors, gain expert insight, and refine the real-world skills they will need in the workplace. This program provides students with a way to break apart the walls that typically separate programs of study as well as form real-world partnerships with local manufacturing community. The students are passionate about what they do and are ready to help local companies with their design and machining needs.

Room 105 Work Ethic Unleashed: The Gateway Between Education and Industry - [Handouts](#)

David Ayres – Building Trades Instructor, Central Montco Technical High School
Jerrold Mackereth – Building Trades Instructor, Central Montco Technical High School

Imagine a classroom where discipline isn't just about rules but about cultivating a mindset that transforms students into professionals, ready to thrive in the workforce from day one. In this session, go beyond textbooks and lectures to explore how career readiness in CTE education is essential for building successful futures. The presenters will introduce their innovative "work ethic sanction," a

strategy that shifts classroom management into career preparation by replacing traditional discipline methods with a focus on instilling values that students carry into their lives and careers. This interactive townhall will provide you with the opportunity to share your own strategies for fostering a strong work ethic and professionalism in students, while also learning from fellow instructors. Learn how to integrate career readiness standards into your existing curriculum and CTE program of study, offering new insights that you can apply in your classrooms. Whether you're a seasoned educator or new to the field, this collaborative workshop will draw on the knowledge, experience, and expertise of CTE educators who are teaching and training the next generation of young professionals in their respective fields. The presenters will redefine what it means to be career-ready in the CTE classroom, preparing students for success by building the right mindset today.

Room 106 Building Tomorrow's Educators: Emerging Benefits of High School Education Classes for Future Teachers - [Handouts](#)

Lori Berryman – English Language Arts Educator/Gifted Co-coordinator/Adjunct Professor, Eastern Mennonite University's Graduate Education Program, Oley Valley School District

This session will explore the growing trend of offering first-year teaching courses to high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in education. The discussion will focus on the emerging benefits of these courses after one year of implementation. Some emerging benefits include instilling professional standards, offering hands-on experience with lesson planning and classroom management, and expanding students' understanding of the realistic requirements of the profession. The presenter will share student feedback and self-reflection. This session is geared towards administrators and curriculum directors looking to implement teaching courses in the future.

Room 107 Pre-apprenticeship Showcase

Lisa Golding – Program Standards and Quality Assurances Division Manager, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Danielle Demirovic – Pre-apprenticeship Supervisor, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Join this session for a showcase of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship agreements across the Commonwealth. Join staff from schools from the West, Central, and Eastern locations of Pennsylvania as they share about the partnerships forged with area industries and the opportunities they are affording to students. Greater Johnstown High School, Indiana County Technology Center, and Admiral Peary AVTS are working with JWF Industries. Keystone Central CTC will showcase an Industrial Manufacturing Technician (IMT) pre-apprenticeship offering connected to the Ag Mechanization, General CIP Code. Philadelphia Academies will share information on APPRENTI and collaboration with the Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technology. Learn outcomes of their initiatives and how they have utilized grant monies at their schools.

Room 108 Using AI to Enhance Learning and Efficiency in the Classroom

Michael Stein – CTE Innovation Systems Coordinator, Berks Career and Technology Center
Roger Voit – Business Management and Entrepreneurship Instructor, Berks Career and Technology Center

This session will explore the use of AI as a tool in education. The presenters will discuss how AI can be leveraged to enhance learning opportunities by fostering interactive, student-centered conversations, offering personalized feedback, and supporting diverse learning needs. Additionally, the presenters will examine how teachers can utilize AI to streamline curriculum development, thereby freeing up more time for impactful teaching. Examples will be provided, including students receiving instant verbal feedback through interactive GPT sessions, and will demonstrate the real-world application of these ideas.

Room 109 We Are! Empowering Biotech Leaders in the CTE Classroom

Sarah Bordenstein – Associate Research Professor and Director, The Wolbachia Project, Penn State University
Dina Constantinides – Project Coordinator, The Wolbachia Project, Penn State University

Learn how CTE students across the nation are making novel scientific contributions within their communities while developing skills and competencies for the biotechnology workforce. Do you struggle to identify appropriate industry and research-based apprenticeships for your students? Would your students like to graduate with hands-on lab experience and an online publication? The Wolbachia Project guides students through the amazing world of host-microbe symbiosis while building skills in microbiology, molecular biology, and bioinformatics. Join this interactive presentation to learn how you can partner with Penn State researchers to receive freely accessible curriculum, training materials, reagents, and DNA sequencing.

Room 204 Multi-Lab Collab

Nicole DeVincenzo – Advertising Design/Commercial Art Instructor, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

Kaitlyn Olson – Instructional Coach, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

In the dynamic landscape of CTE, fostering inter-program collaboration is paramount to creating robust, real-world learning experiences. This presentation delves into the innovative strategies employed by our career and technical school to synergize various programs, enhancing educational outcomes and preparing students for the multifaceted demands of the modern workforce. Join us to discover how multiple diverse programs collaborated on a single project and learn the essential building blocks to kickstart your own collaborative efforts.

Room 205 Authentic Vocational Assessment: Engaging Tools for Effective Workplace Skills Training - [Handouts](#)

Nicole Emery – Include Me Program Specialist, The Arc of Pennsylvania

Jen Higgs – Include Me Program Specialist, The Arc of Pennsylvania

This session is designed to provide educators and vocational support providers with tools and strategies that result in authentic vocational assessment. Strategies to make workplace skills training accessible and engaging for all students will be highlighted. Presenters will share the tools of group Discovery, engaging role play, and other drama therapy techniques, that make delivery of employment skills instruction and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) more effective and engaging.

Room 206 A Model for Effective Partnerships Between CTE and the IU - [Handouts](#)

Nate Minium – Director, Lycoming Career and Technology Center

Monica McCarty – School Counselor/Region V SAP Coordinator, Lycoming Career and Technology Center/BLaST IU 17

Mandi Fair – Instructional Coach/STEM and Online Learning Specialist, Lycoming Career and Technology Center/BLaST IU 17

Resources can be scarce for both CTCs and comprehensive high schools. Funding and staffing do not always exist for additional positions in curriculum and student services support. Effectively exploring, evaluating, and implementing IU-based services is one way to fill those gaps. This session will specifically focus on the partnership between BLaST IU 17 and Lycoming CTC from initial outreach to securing the long-term provision of instructional coaching and school counseling/student support services. This can be a model for any CTC or comprehensive high school to initiate targeted support.

Room 207 Partnerships for Success

Ted Pavlack – Carpentry Instructor, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Matthew Waltman – Director of Education and Workforce Development, Associated Builders and Contractors of Western PA

Kevin Rice – Executive Director, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Discover how Steel Center for Career and Technical Education has excelled in building a robust high school Carpentry program through strategic industry partnerships. This session specifically highlights the collaborative efforts with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania, focusing on their role in supporting the National Association of Home Builders Student Chapter Construction Competition, providing technical guidance and curriculum advisement, and facilitating pre-apprenticeship opportunities. Learn how partnerships like these are shaping a successful model for CTE that can be applied to any CTE program in Pennsylvania.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **LUNCHEON BUFFET**

Presidents Hall Your nametag will be your meal ticket.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Room 104 Developing Transferable Advanced Manufacturing Skills Through Competitive Robotics in Rural Pennsylvania: A Review of PAsmart Advancing Grant Work

Melissa Day – Director of K-16 and Strategic Initiatives, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
Tim Heffernan – President/CEO, Innovation Institute for Tomorrow, Inc. Pennsylvania Rural Robotics Initiative

In this session, participants will learn about the work to expand computer science and robotics in rural Pennsylvania through a collaboration between Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and the Innovation Institute for Tomorrow. The presenters explore what strategies have proven most effective in engaging both teachers and students with competitive robotics, with a focus on developing transferable advanced manufacturing skills. Specific topics include training programs (professional development sessions for teachers to enhance their skills in robotics and computer science); potential funding sources (financial support for purchasing equipment, such as robotics kits, as well as for hosting competitions); community partnerships (collaboration with local businesses and organizations to provide mentorship and real-world insights); and student engagement activities (resources for organizing workshops, competitions, and hands-on projects to maintain student interest and involvement).

Room 105 Future Forward: Supporting Postsecondary Success for Foreign Born Students Through Soccer

Justin Forzano – CEO, Open Field

Future Forward is a new, innovative program in Pittsburgh that supports postsecondary exploration. In its first year, Future Forward engages 80 teenagers, nearly all immigrants and refugees, in soccer-centric activities that utilize a Sport Based Youth Development framework that builds team dynamics and promotes inclusion and a sense of belonging. There are two key components to this program: League Play and After-School Mentoring. The cornerstone of this program is the Future Forward Soccer League where participants spend half the day engaging in postsecondary exploration and preparation workshops and the other half on the soccer field. In the Spring 2024 Season, there were three girls teams and six boys teams composed of youth from 12 different countries, speaking even more languages. All programming was facilitated in English and Spanish, with some additional side-bar interpretation in Swahili and French. Throughout the school year, the After School Mentoring component of the program combines pick-up soccer games and practices with guest speakers and one-on-one mentoring support to participants to ensure they follow up on opportunities that interest them. Field trips to local colleges, universities, and trade schools are centered around soccer tournaments and tours so that program participants gain exposure to postsecondary environments and opportunities. This session will focus on highlights from the first year and engage attendees in a brainstorming session for how to improve and expand the program.

Room 106 Filing Cabinet Refresh

Stacie Knehr Kutz – Instructional Technology Specialist, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute
Kaitlyn Olson – Instructional Coach, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

Learning activities get passed from teacher to teacher, often outlasting the technology they were created on. Let's refresh these hand-me-downs by breathing new life into traditional educational materials! Don't empty the filing cabinet full of old word searches, rubrics, and worksheets – use them as content building blocks to revive it. This session will explore innovative approaches to updating and revitalizing classic educational content, ensuring it remains relevant, engaging, and effective for today's learners.

Room 107 K12GP Overview

Mycenea Worley – CTE Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Do you have questions about the K12GP? Per Title 22 Chapter 339.31-32, a K-12 Guidance Plan is required for all Career and Technology Centers and all Local Education Entities that offer or utilize PDE-approved CTE programs. We will discuss recent updates, best practices, and strategies to complete this plan in the Future Ready Career Planning Portal. This presentation is tailored for school counselors and administrators.

Room 108 Pioneering Wellness: Integrating Mental/Behavioral Health into CTE

Janelle Schaeffer – Supervisor of CTE, Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School
Janessa Herman – Mental/Behavioral Health Instructor, Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School

Discover an innovative CTE course that uniquely merges career development with mental and behavioral health support. This groundbreaking program is designed specifically for high school students, offering a dual benefit: preparing future professionals in the mental health field while simultaneously addressing and supporting mental and behavioral health concerns within the school environment. The presenters will explore how this one-of-a-kind course provides students with the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience necessary to pursue careers in mental and behavioral health. The curriculum integrates essential training in counseling, psychological principles, and therapeutic techniques, tailored to high school learners. Students will engage in practical, real-world applications through internships, simulated counseling sessions, and collaborative projects with mental health professionals. Beyond career preparation, this course serves as a proactive measure to enhance the mental and behavioral health infrastructure in schools. It empowers students to identify, understand, and respond to their peers' mental health needs, fostering a supportive and empathetic school environment. By creating a community of informed, compassionate students, the program not only supports individual career aspirations but also contributes to the overall well-being of the school community. Join this session to learn how this unique CTE course is setting a new standard in education, equipping the next generation with vital skills while simultaneously addressing crucial mental health challenges in schools.

Room 109 Cows to Careers: Building the Agriculture Pipeline Through Apprenticeships and Pre-apprenticeships - [Handouts](#)

Michelle Shearer – Workforce Development Manager, Center for Dairy Excellence

Pennsylvania is growing in the number of registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in the nontraditional area of agriculture. These group sponsors manage and facilitate their own programs and apprentices and pre-apprentices. Given the large number of agriculture education programs at CTCs and public schools, the group sponsors also want to collaborate with schools to enroll students who are interested in careers within plant and animal agriculture and agriculture mechanics in their Pre-RAs and industry credentialed programs. Students who complete these programs can enter the RAs after graduation representing a true school to work pipeline for the agriculture industry. During this presentation, participants will engage with representatives from these organizations and receive resources to enroll their students in agriculture pre-apprenticeships and other industry credentialed programming while still in high school. In addition, participants will hear from students who have completed these programs and are employed in the agriculture industry as a result.

Room 204 Building Bright Futures

Randy McDowell – Electrical Technology Instructor, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology
Carla Zapotek – Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Bucks/Montgomery Counties

Hear about the success story of Middle Bucks Institute of Technology's Construction Cluster and the Home Builder's Association (HBA) partnership in organizing a transformative career fair to address the growing workforce needs in the construction industry. As a Pennsylvania Builders Association member,

our collaboration with HBA of Bucks/Montgomery Counties has yielded meaningful outcomes. Learn firsthand about strategies for cultivating industry relationships, leveraging those relationships to provide opportunities to students, and broadening engagement among programs in your schools. The presenters will discuss how successes can serve as a blueprint which can be replicated across various industries, fostering meaningful connections and experiences for students and professionals alike.

Room 205 Individualizing Professional Development: The Five W's and the H

Terry Miller – Administrative Director, Franklin County Career and Technology Center
Lesli Shuman – Assistant Director, Franklin County Career and Technology Center
Dan Perna – President/Owner, James Daniel and Associates, LLC

Franklin County CTC has gained some recognition for their Individualized Professional Development program. This process is designed to give teachers the opportunity to develop their own professional growth. The teachers are given the latitude to establish a professional development goal and then report each month the progress toward achieving the goal. In this session, the presenters will outline the who, what, where, when, why, and how individualized professional development can be used to develop a professional culture by offering teacher autonomy.

Room 206 Computer Science in CTE

Sara Frey – Educational consultant, PaTTAN

This session will discuss the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and CTE. The presentation will delve into how AI is revolutionizing the future of CTE – impacting students, instructors, and administrators. It will shed light on the implications of AI and the challenges of integrating AI in CTE, such as data privacy and ensuring equitable access.

Room 207 Report Cards Are In! Are You Future Ready?

Laura Fridirici – Career Readiness Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Anthony Durante – Business Analyst, Office of Data Quality, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Karen Rubican – Counselor Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Join the presenters as they dive into the Future Ready PA Index. Whether you are a teacher, counselor, or administrator, need a refresher, or a new to your role, this session will demonstrate how the dashboard can positively impact your school, students, and community. Learn what is required and how it is reported to the Career Readiness and Industry-Based Learning Indicators, as well as the relationship of the other "buckets" of the Future Ready PA Index and its impact on learning success. Participants will share in reviewing their "report card" and can ask questions and learn what resources can support student success. The session will also provide the opportunity to ask questions on how evidence for FRPI is aligned to Act 158. Karen Rubican will join us to provide perspective from the counselor's lens.

12:45 PM – 3:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Presidents 4 CSinPA Build Fly Code® – Experience Session

Timothy Heffernan – President and CEO, Innovation Institute for Tomorrow, Inc., Pennsylvania Rural Robotics Initiative

In this session pre-registered participants will build their own Hopper® drone, from installing motors to the printed circuit board, highlighting the accessibility of drone technology and the practical engineering and problem-solving skills essential to maintaining Hopper. This session will also feature an in-depth presentation of the Build Fly Code platform, showcasing how educators bring classroom lessons to life through interactive, hands-on flying and coding activities. Lastly, attendees will participate in a Build Fly Code Live competition, applying their newfound skills in a fun, fast-paced game against fellow attendees. Build Fly Code Live is a national competition that simulates real-world problem-solving created to inspire students to pursue careers in technology. The Build Fly Code Live competition manual, leaderboard scoring system and its on the ground implementation will be covered.

A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this session.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Room 104 Cross-curricular Farm to Table Garden Project

Teri Baller – Director of CTE, Pottstown High School
Marci Bieber – Biology/Environmental Science Instructor, Pottstown High School
Steve Irick – Culinary Arts Instructor, Pottstown High School

The Farm to Table Garden project is a dynamic initiative that fosters collaboration across various disciplines. Engineering students crafted a strategic plan to transform a section of the school's courtyard into a vibrant garden, carefully considering space, layout, and irrigation systems. Construction Trades students then built a protective fence to shield the garden from wildlife. Science students engaged in hands-on learning by researching suitable plants for the garden, growing seeds, and transitioning them from a greenhouse to the garden beds. Culinary Arts students incorporate the garden's fresh produce into restaurant dishes, creating a direct farm-to-table experience. The school has also partnered with Trellis for Tomorrow, who installed grow towers, which allow students to cultivate various greens and herbs year-round. The newly established garden club now maintains the garden, ensuring its continued success. Surplus produce is donated to the local food bank, benefiting the community directly. This project has successfully brought together community partners and showcased the value of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Room 105 Developing Entrepreneurial Mindsets

Shira Woolf Cohen – Co-Founder, Innovageous
Tiffany Searles – Lead Partner of Community Engagement, Innovageous

Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets can empower young people to embody a growth mindset, tap into their creativity, and build cross-sector skills that will support postsecondary success. In this session, you'll learn about key terms in entrepreneurship, envision a future where students tap into entrepreneurial mindsets, and explore classroom strategies that can be used with middle and high school students to prepare them for their future.

Room 106 Breaking the Stereotype: How CTE is Transforming School Communities

Zack Zebrasky – High School Principal, Trinity Area High School
JoMarie Giorgi – Instructor, Trinity Area High School
Alison Migyanko – Instructor, Trinity Area High School

This session will explore the transformative impact that CTE programs have had on our school community and culture. Attendees will gain insight into how these programs foster student engagement, promote career readiness, and challenge outdated stereotypes about CTE. The presenters will provide a comprehensive overview of the school's CTE initiatives and their role in driving positive changes for students, educators, and the local community. This session is ideal for school administrators, educators, policy makers, and industry partners who are interested in learning how CTE programs can create lasting positive impacts on students and school culture. Join this engaging and informative session, where presenters will share their successes and provide practical guidance on how to implement similar initiatives in your own educational environments. Together, we can work to change the narrative surrounding CTE and highlight its role in preparing students for the future.

Room 107 Perkins Monitoring 2024-2025

Jeannie McCleary – CTE Advisor, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Jamie Pauling – CTE Advisor, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Open to all Perkins recipients. New Perkins contacts/directors are especially encouraged to attend this session to learn about procedures and expectations for an onsite review. Equipment inventory procedures, Perkins-funded job descriptions, and time logs will be discussed. Assurance files to document your efforts to implement grant requirements will be stressed.

Room 108 Luzerne Learns to Work

Shanie Mohamed – Director of Economic Development, Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce
Susan Kuhl – Career Ready Liaison, Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18
Ty Yost – Assistant to the Executive Director/Career Ready Liaison, Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Join this session to explore Luzerne Learns to Work, a dynamic program designed to connect Luzerne County students, parents, and educators with essential career development tools and work-based learning opportunities. In this session, the presenters delve into the program's origins, highlight key partners, share the challenges encountered, and showcase how we are forging impactful pathways for students' future success.

Room 109 Engagement Strategies That Work!

Kelly Santoro – Instructional Coach, Elizabethtown Area High School
Lacie Meyer – Career Pathway Coordinator, Elizabethtown Area High School

How do we support student engagement with a balance of low- and high-tech methods? Participants will explore engagement strategies to use in CTE classrooms for all kinds of learners. These strategies help encourage collaborative experiences and give all students the chance to think and respond. Leave with an arsenal of innovative engagement strategies you can use tomorrow in class!

Room 204 Student Based Enterprises

Denise Magasich – Industry Development Specialist, Business Pathway Office of CTE, School District of Philadelphia
Sam Yun – Curriculum Development Specialist Office of CTE, School District of Philadelphia

This interactive working session will explore how student-based enterprises simulate real-world experiences to raise funds, build student resumes, create a strong classroom culture/community, integrate with the POS task list to provide hands-on experiences, support CTSO integration, support CTSO competitions, support leadership roles and growth, xConnect students to clients and the general public, and support students with the industry-based decision-making process. Participants will leave the session with ideas and plans.

Room 205 Practical Program Procedures That Improve Student Success

Dorothy Lindblad – Supervisor of CTE, Career Institute of Technology
Dan Perna – President/Owner, James Daniel and Associates, LLC
Del Hart – Faculty, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The term “classroom management” is not an appropriate term for CTCs; instead, the term “practical program procedures” is much more fitting. Within a CTC, the teacher must be very aware of student behaviors in many respects. The teacher must be aware of students’ emotional stability, safety habits in a classroom and a lab, actions in a tool room, skills with technology and machinery, and activity in locker rooms. During this session, the presenters will outline and focus on the need for practical habits and program procedures to be established with all students in all aspects of the technical school environment. Topics include the difference between rules and expectations, how to develop and implement practical program procedures, how to develop relationships with students, how to use authority without being authoritarian, and how to create efficiency within the program area. These procedures, if performed correctly, will positively impact student engagement and student achievement

Room 206 So You Want to be a School Leader?

Mark Covelle – Administrative Director, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology
Cathleen Plesnarski – Director, Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

Join this engaging panel discussion with a diverse group of CTE and traditional K-12 administrators. This event is tailored for educators and emerging administrators who are either on a leadership track

or considering it for their future. The presenters have walked the path of leadership in various educational settings and will share their personal experiences and insights that go beyond what you might find in a typical training program. Join this session for personal stories of how they made their way to leadership roles as they talk about key moments and decisions that influenced their careers, giving you a sense of the real-world journey to becoming a leader. Real-world lessons learned along the way will be shared as they discuss the challenges faced, strategies used, and how these experiences shaped their approach to leadership. Learn the behind-the-scenes realities by exploring aspects of leadership that aren't always covered in formal trainings as the presenters share candid stories about unexpected challenges and rewarding moments, offering a more nuanced view of what it's really like to lead. Bring your questions and participate in an interactive and open discussion. This is your chance to seek advice, share your thoughts, and gain valuable perspectives on the leadership journey. Whether you're already on a leadership path or just thinking about it, this session offers practical insights and a chance to connect with experienced leaders.

Room 207 Building Authentic Experiences with AI

Stacie Knehr Kutz – Instructional Technology Specialist, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

In an era where AI is transforming various sectors, education stands to gain significantly once we can navigate beyond the concerns and questions this new technology brings. This presentation will explore how AI can create authentic educational experiences catering to diverse learning needs. We will examine specific examples of AI in the classroom to show practical benefits and real-world impacts. This session aims to equip educators with strategies to incorporate AI into curricula, ensuring a more engaging and effective education for students.

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room 104 The IDEA HUB – A Partnership Across Districts, CTE, and Industry

Sherri Connell – Assistant Superintendent, Penns Valley Area School District

Jessica Martin – Vice President of Secondary Education, Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology

Collin Phillips – CTE Instructor, Penns Valley Area School District

This session will introduce participants to the IDEA HUB, a unique space and partnership among three school districts, a CTE, and industry. This space, which was designed to promote collaboration and “outside of the box” thinking, is a truly versatile classroom of the future. The IDEA HUB, which is quipped with robots, STEaM equipment, a one button studio, laser engravers, Zspace computers, and 3D printers, hosts K-12 students, teachers, and industry to imagine, design, and build. From workshops, to student challenges, to CTE classroom extensions, this partnership has the ability to change how we think about education.

Room 105 Promoting School-Wide Career Readiness

Shira Woolf Cohen – Co-Founder, Innovageous

Tiffany Searles – Lead Partner of Community Engagement, Innovageous

Preparing students for postsecondary success is not just the responsibility of the school counselor(s) or CTE teacher(s) - it's everyone's! Join this session as the presenters share strategies to get everyone in your community involved in the promotion of school-wide career readiness and set your students up for success in high school and beyond.

Room 106 Data to Delivery: Connecting Assessment Data and Classroom Instruction

Jennifer Spangler – Curriculum Coordinator, Dauphin County Technical School

After developing familiarity with your data sources and stakeholders, it can be challenging to make the leap to facilitating teacher interaction with data and making meaningful changes to instruction. In this session, learn how to develop a data calendar, run an effective data meeting, and incorporate data into the curriculum development process.

Room 107 Access for All – Viewing Your School Through an ADA Lens

Cynthia Gross – MOA Coordinator, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Public buildings must serve the public. Yet, two-thirds of U.S. public schools have barriers to access limiting the participation of students, staff, and community members with physical disabilities. In the past 10 years, the presenter has reviewed more than 50 secondary and postsecondary CTE schools for compliance with Section 504 and Title II as they relate to physical accessibility. Photos of common findings noted during these reviews (along with suggestions for possible remedies) will be shared. Participants are encouraged to bring photos if they have specific questions or to share ideas of how they have improved access within their school and programs.

Room 108 In Our STEELS Era

Kaitlyn Olson – Instructional Coach, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

The PA STEELS standards encourage teachers to revolutionize science education by empowering students to lead inquiries, explain phenomena, and grasp scientific concepts as true scientists. Does this approach sound familiar? CTE teachers have long been immersing students in the roles of their respective professions. Join us as we explore how to adopt and adapt innovative strategies and learning activities from progressive science education to enhance learning for all students. Let's beg, borrow, and "STEEL" these techniques to create a more dynamic and engaging educational experience preparing students for academic and CTE success.

Room 109 Strategies for Teaching Complex Vocabulary in CTE

Christopher Hartley – Medical Science Instructor, Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology

Matthew Bornak – Field Resource Professional, Penn State University

This session focuses on effective strategies for teaching complex vocabulary and terminology within CTE programs. Participants will explore proven instructional approaches tailored to support students with diverse learning needs, including those with Individualized Education Programs. Emphasis will be placed on scaffolded learning, repetition, and contextual learning through hands-on experiences. Key strategies include integrating visual aids, peer collaboration, and real-world applications to help students connect vocabulary to practical skills. Attendees will learn how to foster a growth mindset and create engaging, inclusive environments where all learners can grasp and retain complex terminology, essential for success in CTE fields. This session will also highlight methods to reduce anxiety around technical terms, promoting student confidence and deeper understanding. This practical session aims to equip educators with tools that enhance vocabulary acquisition and retention in technical subjects.

Room 204 Today's Workforce – What Does it Need and How Can We Help - [Handouts](#)

Mark Miller – Career Coordinator, Cedar Cliff High School

During this session, the presenter will look at data about what graduates do after they leave and the needs and opportunities of the local workforce, and then discuss the disconnect between the two and what a traditional high school can do to help. Learn how to find that data for your school. Examples of what is being done to address that gap will be shared. The presenter will try to foster a discussion during the session about what is happening in other high schools in Pennsylvania.

Room 205 Creating a Classroom Culture of Tolerance and Compassion - [Handouts](#)

Dorothy Lindblad – Supervisor of CTE, Career Institute of Technology

This presentation is designed to help educators promote tolerance and compassion towards others to improve student achievement, attendance, and teamwork within the classroom and in the workplace. Video examples are shown that could be used, as well as activities for use to help students consider the effects that their actions and words have on others to decrease bullying words and behaviors.

Room 206 Best Practices in CTE Panel Presentation

Joann Hudak – Education Consultant, YouScience
James Kraft – Education Consultant, YouScience

For over 15 years, YouScience (previously NC3T) researchers/writers have documented over 150 promising practices across dozens of Career Technology Centers and other CTE providers in Pennsylvania. Many of these practices also were derived from Communities of Practice that NC3T convened, or special research projects, with resulting policy papers and findings. Through the requirements of Perkins V, every Pennsylvania CTC and CTE program provider must complete a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment, which uses data and program analysis to identify specific needs for program improvement needs. Common practice, unfortunately, is to spend a great deal of time on program data analysis, and less time focusing on specific program and system improvement action steps. Thus, there is a specific opportunity to utilize the wealth of promising practices information to help CTE leaders apply documented promising practices to their program and system needs. This interactive session will feature a panel of CTE leaders sharing their best practices with time allowed for questions and comments.

Room 207 Learn and Earn: A School to Apprenticeship Opportunity Formed from Community Partnerships

Mark Peticca – Director of CTE, Octorara Area High School
Stephanie Smith – Workforce Manager, County of Chester Department of Workforce Development

In addition to Octorara Area High School and Octorara Career and Technical Education Programs (OACTEP), a variety of workforce/economic development, and community-based organizations were engaged and invested in a student's successful pursuit, completion, and continuation of training through an apprenticeship program. Through these relationships and experience, Octorara Area High School has been able to create actionable steps to reinvigorate meaning into our Pathways program.

4:30 PM – 7:00 PM NETWORKING RECEPTION**Presidents 4**

Join this networking reception designed for those interested in technology, drones and networking. Participants will have the opportunity to learn basic flight skills using the Hopper drone, while meeting and interacting with other attendees. This hands-on event is open to all skill levels, from beginners to experienced pilots, with prizes available for top performers. Refreshments and light snacks will be served. ***A pre-registration ticket is required to attend this event.***

Dinner On Your Own

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST**Presidents Hall**

Chef's Pancake Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

DISCUSSION PANELS**Presidents 4 Empowering Education with Drones: Innovative Applications in Pennsylvania Classrooms**

Tim Heffernan – President/CEO, Innovation Institute for Tomorrow, Inc. Pennsylvania Rural Robotics Initiative

Judd Pittman – Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Daniel Mehay – Representative, FTW Robotics

Rob Harvey – Representative, FTW Robotics

Sara Frey – Representative, PaTTAN

Ethan Pam – Representative, PaTTAN

Sergio Anaya – Representative, PaTTAN

Matt LeVerde – Director, Erie County Technical School

The panel will discuss the evolution of drone programming created and executed over the last five years and the path forward to pathways to careers for Pennsylvania students.

Room 107**Clean Energy Center Discussion Panel**

John Augustine – Director, Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center

Pam Dincher – Director of Strategic Initiatives, Clean Energy Center

Michelle Ferguson – Energy Program Specialist, Department of Environmental Protection

Daci Killinger – Cooperative Education Coordinator, Keystone Central Career and Technology

Kurt Lynch – Director, Keystone Central Career and Technology

Amanda Smith – Director of K-12 Engagement, Penn State University

In Pennsylvania, careers related to sustainability are growing with nearly 75,000 thousand jobs available through building new renewable energy infrastructure, operating new renewable energy infrastructure, and making energy efficiency improvements to existing and new construction. It is projected that occupations supporting upgrading municipal drinking and wastewater infrastructure, building stock weatherization, wind / solar construction, and HVAC installers will grow by 6.4 percent through 2026. Attendees hear from schools that have integrated these into their programs as well as how your CTC can integrate these into your current programs.

Room 108**Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Panel**

Bridget Ciolkosz – Advisor, DECA - An Association of Marketing Students

Michelle Sites – Advisor, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Nadine Standley – PDE Representative, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Michelle Tweardy – Board Member, FCCLA

Lori Beatty – Advisor, FCCLA

Chris Davis – PDE/Agriculture Representative, FFA - An Association of Agriculture Education Students

Alison Sprankle – Advisor, HOSA - Future Health Professionals

MaryAnn Volders – Advisor, SkillsUSA

Brandt Hutzell – PDE Representative, Technology Student Association (TSA)

Are you considering a new CTSO at your school? Unsure which CTSO best fits your needs? This session is for you! Join this session to hear each organization share highlights from the 2023-2024 school year. This session will showcase Pennsylvania's CTSOs and the student leadership opportunities they provide for students. After the brief overviews, participants will engage in roundtable sessions speed dating format, allowing for one-on-one assistance, and networking opportunities.

Room 207 Leadership and Cooperative Education Center Discussion Panel

Mark Threeton – Director, Professional Personnel Development Center for Career and Technical Education, Penn State University

Paula Andrei – Assistant Director, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Tim Rushton – Director of Leadership and Professional Development, Center for Professional Development in Career and Technical Education, Temple University

Joey Fleck – Workforce Education and Development, Professional Personnel Development Center for Career and Technical Education, Penn State University

Mark Holtzman – CTE Administrative Director Certification Student and Assistant Administrative Director, Bucks County Technical High School

Chris Warren – CTE Administrative Director Certification Student, Penn State University

This panel discussion will explore the Career and Technical Administrative Supervisor and Director and Cooperative Education programs provided by the three CTE Professional Development Centers. It will provide an overview of certification requirements, pathways to credentialing, and insights into the benefits and challenges of these roles. Attendees will gain practical guidance on pursuing these certifications and enhancing their CTE career.

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM **CLOSING SESSION**

Presidents 4 Drone Competition and Drawing