

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), National Policy Seminar (NPS) Report

Feb 29 - March, 2-4, 2016, Washington D. C.

Opening General Session

Finally, a National Policy Seminar with mild weather that began with a welcome by Doug Meyer, President ACTE and a message from Le Ann Wilson, Executive Director ACTE. She invited everyone to come to the ACTE CareerTech VISION 2016 conference November 30 – December 3, Las Vegas, Nevada reference www.careertechvisioin.com., early Bird registration by July 15, for the best ACTE member rate of \$395.

She also announced the new featured CTE publication, Your First Year in CTE: 10 More Things to Know, ACTE and NOCTI (Handout#1) offer this book as a great resource for both new and veteran CTE teachers to “survive “and “thrive “in the CTE classroom. Members of ACTE price is \$ 19.95 at www.acteonline.org/shop or Amazon smile.

Keynote Speaker, was The Honorable Thomas Davis. Mr. Davis provided political strategies on navigating the current and changing political environment in Washington and how the political world is changing. How did we get here in three reasons:

1. Redistricting with the thin ideological base-either very conservative or liberal and don't like compromise. Residential sorting with people living around like-minded people sharing the same view. The voting rights act does not bring people together and old-fashioned gerrymandering in safe pack districts only leave about 20% in play.
2. Media business models with cable news, talk radio and the Internet.
3. Money in politics with the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill which moves money from the center to the wings. Thus, all our on the outer wings causing deep ideological basis and polarization which is hard to change.

In 1982 there were 348 or 79% moderates in Congress (now there are 3) and in the Senate there were 58 moderates (now there are 0 moderates). The house has 247 Republicans and 188 Democrats with the Senate 54 Republicans and 46 Democrats. In 2016 election there are 24 Republican seats up for change and 10 Democratic seats resulting in a possible seven seat change in the Senate if the Democrats win the presidency, with people voting on party lines. Democrats start off with 242 electoral seats compared to 100 seats for Republicans, making Ohio, Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina critical for Republican win. Democrats make up most urban areas and Republicans in rural areas. Nationally Trump has the 70% unfavorable rating and Clinton 67%.

In talking with congressmen and senators promote career and technical education (CTE) as a pathway to jobs. Policy members are looking at the economy and how we can create jobs and technically trained workers with the right skills, a lot of people are underemployed.

The general session and breakout sessions emphasized the recent passage of the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the long-awaited reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which provides unprecedented opportunities and connections between CTE and more traditional “academic” education and past with strong bipartisan support.

Dr. Monique Chism; Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary; Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; U.S. Department of Education stated the act insures opportunities for all Americans.

Standards and Assessments

- requires all students be taught to college and career ready standards
- high academic standards
- access to high quality pre-school for more students
- maintains annual information for parents and students while supporting reducing the burden of testing

Accountability

- empower state and local leaders for school improvement
- maintains the expectation for accountability and action
- encourages multiple majors of a school’s success

Teachers and school leaders

- ensures that low income and minority students are not being taught in this disproportionate right, right majors
- maintains dedicated funding for low performing schools
- includes competitive grants

Noelle Ellerson; Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy AASA; The School Superintendents Association

Believes the new ESSA act is a significant improvement over the current law. It maintains federal role, but emphasizes this role is to strengthen and support states.

Mitch Coppes; Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, ACTE

Mitch provided a CTE connection to the ESSA act which included:

- alignment of academic standards to state CTE standards
- career counseling and guidance
- CTE integration and professional development
- CTE is a core academic subject

The ESEA conference reported summary highlights: (Handout #2)

- repeals adequate yearly progress and replaces it with a statewide accountability system
- maintains important information about student performance
- affirm state control of standards
- help states to improve low performing schools
- improves accountability for learning for all students
- targets funds to at-risk children
- help states increase teacher quality
- supports at-risk populations
- provides greater funding flexibility to enhance support for students and schools
- promotes high quality choices for parents-improves the Charter schools program
- maintains and strengthens critical programs-like increased access to STEM education

The ESSA act reviews started over seven years ago and will be phased in with 2015-16 standards the same, 2016-2017 a soft transition and 2017-2018 being fully implemented. All questions can be addressed to essa.questions@ed.gov

Breakout Session C, ESSA Career and Guidance Counseling

Jan Bell; Guidance and Career Development Division Vice President, ACTE, stated guidance and counseling is the key theme of the new ESSA act.

Amanda Fitzgerald; Director of Public Policy; American School Counselors Association described the three main types of counseling are:

1. career counseling
2. personal/social and emotional counseling
3. academic counseling to help create equity and guidance and counseling for all students

Of the 1.65 billion in ESSA that is allocated but needs funding for distribution to all states through formula funding for local control 20%, for well grounded-including CTE 20%, personal and emotional counseling and 15% use for technology.

Perkins Funding and Reauthorization

Monday afternoon session, Perkins Reauthorization Update - Latest News and Next Steps

There has been renewed interest in Perkins reauthorization of the last few months and Congress is making great progress toward a new bill. Some believe it could happen this year even though that is unlikely in an election year.

Alisha Hyslop; Director of Public Policy; ACTE

Education issues on the hill are at the forefront thanks to the recent passage of the ESSA bill and workforce development in general. FY 2006 through FY 20012/2013 is the current Perkins bill with summary

authorization activity in early 2014. House and Senate congressional attention turned to Perkins reauthorization in late October of last year and it is unclear about the outlook for actual passage, but that is okay. Many congressional staff work on all education legislative issues and in an election year this may have to wait another year.

Late October 2015 the Senate launched its own early reauthorization efforts with Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Bob Casey (D-PA) were designated as the leaders of the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions, "Improving Career and Technical Education to help students succeed in the workforce" or (HELP) committee's reauthorization work. The committee agreed upon a set of bipartisan principles for reauthorization:

1. Make it easier for States and locals to run their CTE programs to serve all students who desire to gain access to CTE course work, including students with disabilities
2. Increase access to, and support of, career counseling for all CTE students
3. Maintain CTE as a formula program
4. Align with ESSA and the WIOA (where applicable) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the education and workforce development programs
5. Support the expansion of public/private collaborations with secondary and postsecondary programs, including alignment with State or local-determined in-demand industries and occupations
6. Support efforts to integrate into and strengthen career pathways of the state and local levels;
7. Address unfunded programs
8. Improve evaluation and research to support innovation and best practices

A draft Senate Perkins reauthorization bill could be released at any time, and will significantly increase activity around Perkins.

On the House side Rep. Todd Rokita R-IN, said we should consider more local control in Perkins as both the Republicans and Democrats have separate Perkins reauthorization bills compared to the bipartisan Senate position.

The National Governors Association, Community College Association, and others were closely with ACTE as a unified front with legislative members.

An increasing range of groups are interested in Perkins including:

- Individual business like: IBM, Boeing, etc.
- Business organizations like: Chamber of Commerce
- State policy groups like: National Governors Association and CCSSO
- Education groups like: NEA and AFT
- Workforce groups like: National Skills Collation

ACTE recommendations for Perkins Act reauthorization (Handout#3) are:

- increase equitable access to high-quality CTE programs
- require greater coordination between planning, spending and accountability
- prioritize and strengthen connections between secondary and post-secondary education
- emphasize increased engagement with employers in the design and implementation of programs that are responsive to economic priorities
- streamline the law to increase clarity and consistency and any duplication between and within sections
- align the law, to the extent appropriate, with other federal education and workforce development legislation

Other proposals include:

- shift more resources to serving out-of-school youth
- require common definitions
- use the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- require work-based learning for all programs
- set-asides/new programs for specific industries, like STEM
- new high school reform focus
- career pathway connections
- dual and concurrent enrollment-requiring or incentivizing
- competitive grant funds (not as often)
- pay-for-performance/incentive grants

ACTE position is to not require as many specific requirements since Perkins is not a one size fits all bill.

Key messages for 2016:

- support CTE students and educators by incorporating our priorities in the next Perkins Act
- funding for the Perkins basic state grant program at 1.3 billion in FY 2017, a 15% increase (Handout#4). This much-needed investment in Perkins could support an additional 1.7 million students by expanding access to CTE programs of study, straightening the integration of academics and CTE content, providing career guidance and academic counseling services, ensuring that CTE classrooms have the latest technology and equipment, and provide professional development and technical assistance for CTE educators.
- Thanks to the budget agreement, Congress was able to pass an anonymous appropriations bill to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2016 that level funds both the Perkins basic state grant and CTE national programs.

On February 9, the White House released its budget request FY 2017-which proposes to level fund the Perkins basic state grant at 1.118 billion-approximately 5.4 million below the FY 2012 sequestration level. Adjusted for inflation, this amounts to a 23% decline in Perkins state funding despite Perkins-

funded CTE programs proven track record. The administration has requested an additional \$75 million for Perkins; however, the additional funds would support the proposed American Technical Training Fund that would support short term or accelerated job programs in high demand fields.

The limitations on overall non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding availability, less than 1 billion increase over the 2016 level for FY 2017 will make it very difficult for education and workforce development programs to see significant increases. ACTE will continue to push for a greater federal investment in Perkins, but the funding battle will be a challenge!

Perkins funding distribution, federal basic state grant Perkins allocation, approximately 1.12 billion annually. (Handout #5)

Perkins basic state grant-state estimated allocations (Handout #6) or check the ACTE website.

Non-defense discretionary spending falling to historic lows. (Handout #7)

Include CTE priorities in the reauthorization priorities for the Higher Education Act: (Handout#8)

1. Reduce barriers to higher education for all students
2. Support CTE teacher preparation programs and alternative pass to certification
3. Evaluate data collection requirements to reduce burden and ensure program integrity

Consider corresponding to key CTE legislation.

For online training on social media text 385-399-2090 advocacy

Capitol Hill Visit

Tuesday morning March 1 started off with the Congressional staff panel in the says Senate Russell room.

Legislative assistants emphasize CTE as the jobs bill, the use of a common language for CTE across all education legislation, a strong connection between secondary and postsecondary CTE, support innovation at the state level, services for the underserved population, and other common CTE needs and services promoted by ACTE. The main message was the Perkins is only 5% of total funds spent on CTE across America and is difficult or increase at the federal level. For more assistance, go to, U.S.Government.Grants.com.

After visiting members of the Congress and Senate throughout the day with a ACTE Perkins funding support folder and asking them to join the CTE House and Senate Caucus (Handout #9), congressional representatives and everyone was invited to a reception titled I AM CTE: STEM-SAVVY and CAREER-READY in the Senate Russell office building hosted by ACTE and Project Lead the Way where local students showcased and demonstrated CTE and STEM projects.

Closing General Session

Wednesday morning was dedicated to a Career Pathways Forum.

Steve DeWitt; Deputy Executive Director; ACTE started off the session emphasizing the value and significance of career pathways.

Mark Mitsui; Deputy Assistant Sec.; Office of Career and Technical and Adult Education; U.S. Department of Education

Career pathways are a model and key to U. S. Office of Education vision for CTE. They are also used in higher education language for financial federal aid:

- 2016 funding for American Technical Training Program developed new innovative program models
- America's college promise 75% federal and 25% states match to complete local community college free for four-year college and/or post- secondary CTE school
- Stackable credentials as a key
- Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pilot programs with CTE
- There are now 13 different federal agencies promoting career pathways like the close alignment with ACTE and the U.S. Department of Labor
- We can do more of the same or expand new ideas in workforce development

Eric Seleznow: Deputy Assistant Sec.; U.S. Department of Labor Representative stated the U.S. Dept of Labor aligned is more than ever with the U.S. Department of Education.

Historic emphasis on training skills and workforce development:

- all the federal agencies involved in workplace development have common themes
- the establishment of Workforce Development Opportunity Education Act
- registered apprenticeship in all occupational areas, not just traditional construction trades
- completion rates and wages for registered apprenticeship are growing nationwide
- research on college credit for registered apprenticeships are being explored and established
- your Workforce Investment Board (WIOA) has a requirement to implement career pathways with all local players including CTE educational programs. Work with your local and workforce boards which has funding to support out of school youth. Need to have a shared vision to maximize resources.
- Sectors summit.com for Colorado career pathways model packet information

Check out stemlearningexchanges.org and doingwhatmatters.CCCO.edu - California model

New Resources and Next Steps

Key Legislation (Handout#10) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Opportunity Act and others.

Bryan Wilson; State Policy Director, State Skills Data linking education and industry 50 state plan scan to assess the status of States, the toolkit to be published this year.

Robin Utz; College and Career Transitions Branch Chief: Division of Academic and Technical Education; Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education: U.S. what is the moment Department of Education

Career pathways as a team support and career pathways cannot be implemented without CTE, three new technical assistant projects at www.cte.ed.gov for more details.

Technical assistance and coaching related to:

1. potential of apprenticeships and work-based learning at the local level
2. community college stackable credentials project, colleges form small college networks-applications coming out in April
3. technical assistance for building out career pathways networks

Chrys Limardo; Project Director; Technical Assistance for Implementing Career Pathways Systems Initiative; Manhattan Strategy Group (Handout#11)

Working with SREB and the National Resource Center, CTE to further support a year-long leadership project to create and execute their career pathways vision. Leadership academies to help strengthen their work will begin in April. Then four regional state team workshops and a national network will be conducted. Finally, in-depth assistance to five states in a year-long workshop. Check out all information by contacting Chrys Limardo at climardo@manhattanstrategy.com, and State Directors will be given information to them on March 17, 2016.

Final Thoughts and Updates

Looking ahead to future ACTE conferences the next three years of ACTE Career Tech Visions Conference series are:

- Career Tech Visions 2016, Las Vegas, November 30-December 3, 2016
www.Careertechvision.com
- Career Tech Visions 2017, Nashville, December 6-9, 2017
- Career Tech Visions 2018, San Antonio, Texas
- Best Practices and Innovations Conference 2016, Tampa Florida, September 28-30th, 2016
- National Policy Seminar, Arlington Virginia, 2017 March 13-15, 2017

Attending the ACTE national policy seminar you cannot help to see the achievements, services, value and great benefits career and technical education is providing the young people and adults of this country and it is valued by most of the House and Senate members on a bipartisan basis. However, the

U.S. government dysfunctional nature and deficit spending are strangling the nondiscretionary funds needed to increase Perkins and workforce development initiatives that are needed throughout the country. The new Perkins legislation should be better than ever but unless there is real change in potential leadership and the dependency direction the country is going CTE will continue to have to do more with less from federal funding support and depend upon state and local funding to drive increased CTE services needed for technical training and job growth

As the House and Senate Caucus for CTE expands please reach out to your House and Senate representatives and ask them to become a member if they already are not, check the ACTE website for members list, they are our voice for CTE on Capitol Hill. Invite your House or Senate representative to your school for a visit or invited them to use your school for local meetings and connections to business and industry. Check the ACTE web site Policy and Advocacy Publications section for the State Fact Sheets option for a one-page fact sheet on your states CTE programs highlights.

Keep up with the latest news at the a CTE website and in Techniques Magazine, recognize your deserving CTE professionals by nominating them for ACTE regional or national awards as well as ILS awards at www.lotambdaSigma.com website. We are all connected and reaching out for support in making new partnerships is essential for growth and survival.

Hope to see you in Las Vegas and thanks for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Hoyman, ILS Grand Chapter Policy Seminar representative and Past President