

**Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), National Policy Seminar (NPS) Report
March 13-15, 2017, Washington DC**

Unfortunately, this year's NPS shifted into another colder than normal March snowstorm and Tuesdays hill visit session which was hit with a 3 hour government worker delay and all surrounding schools closed.

Opening General Session

The opening session started with Lori Carlile, President, ACTE, welcomed the packed room of attendees with the new 2017 ACTE theme, CTE working wonders generating new interest and excitement in CTE.

LeAnn Wilson, Executive Director, ACTE stated the conference theme, *Forging New Paths*, and recommended everyone should check ACTE.org for \$2500 scholarship graduate and postgraduate opportunities, with hundreds awarded in 2016.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the ACTE national Visions conference December 6-9, 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Featured speaker was Josh Kraushaar, Political Editor, National Journal, who pointed out the major conflict in Washington is the clash between the Republican lobbyist and Trump supporters. In Kraushaar's opinion, Trump is a big government conservative which supports more government spending. It's everything relating to jobs. The Republicans outnumber Democrats for passage of bills, but the Democrats will try to divide these two groups to promote their agenda. Trump won 71% of working white class votes and he feels technical education could excite the Trump base.

His job approval is in the low 40% because of the polarized country. But most people think the country is heading in the right direction. We are more polarized between Republican and Democrat party with Trump's approval rating among Republicans; it is even higher than that of Ronald Reagan.

In the upcoming 2018 elections in the Senate the Democrats have 12 seats open with 10 in states which Trump won and Republicans have nine seats open with only 2 really open for competitive elections. The house is in more play in suburban congressional areas with the question can the Democrats bring in votes versus the far left side. Betsy DeVos, the new Secretary of Education, may not be as bad as critics claimed and perform okay. The Trump camp versus the Ryan legislation beliefs will tell what will happens.

General Session: The New Administration and New Congress

An overview of the priorities of the new administration and the new Congress, including an in-depth outlook on education and workforce development issues.

Special greetings, Kim Ford; Acting Assistant Secretary; Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education; U.S. Department of Education, former dean of a community college which promoted four-year, two-year college and CTE certificates.

The administration supports American working age population for upward mobility and all educational pathways. Secretary DeVos values CTE and craftsman education. We need to link and connect staffing credentials, apprenticeship, and employability skills. Contact her at kim.ford.ed.gov.

Carmel Martin, Executive Vice President for Policy, Center for American Progress says there is concern in moving money to private school vouchers, which is hard to predict what will happen. The new Secretary of Education and Labor appointments have led to an unpredictable situation and possible cuts. Reauthorization will be a slow process because of the other current priorities. People at the state and local levels are looking for direction and program guidelines. Showing results for CTE is what resonates with Congress and legislators.

Michael Petrilli, President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute states the Trump legislation and Secretary of Education should favor CTE education. This is our first coalition government with a lot of tension to appointment of key operational staff members. Congress did repeal a lot of regulations and there will be a big change in the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) with the response to request policy versus the Obama administration active outreach policy. The good news is the push for school choice will not take money away from traditional school funding. The tax reform bill will help the school choice, new money and overall efforts. Think about school choice being part of CTE and parental choice, which will be around for a long time to come. There is an interest in establishing CTE charter schools. Continue to show CTE is not for low performing students, they need strong reading, math, and science skills.

Breakout Sessions: Advocacy Strategies

What Reporters Want to Hear and Going Local: Reaching Policymakers in Your Communities.

This session was intended to spread the CTE message and promote programs at the local, state, and national level. Key points and possible stories to highlight are:

- What kind of areas do students need to get employment?
- How do you get funding and what is needed to develop a new CTE program?
- Reach out to someone who would be interested in your story, possibly sending out a blog to create interest.
- Tell stories other people don't have.
- What does the reader want to know? Focus on your message.
- Engage conflict and turn your story around.
- Letters to the editor of local papers are widely read.
- Find people who have covers similar topics in the past.
- Dumb down your story to a few good quotes and video visual, which on TV is about a minute.
- Best time to reach out is first thing in the morning.

- Very important to have a name and phone number on every press release.
- Check with your school's public relations office as required.

General Session: Federal Funding

Mitch Coppes, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Office Manager, ACTE

FY 17 appropriations, the latest in confusing and chaotic federal funding.

Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT), Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) circulated letters to relevant subcommittees for increased Perkins funding in FY 17 appropriations with 118 Representatives and 32 Senators signed on in a bipartisan effort. House and Senate appropriations committees recommended level funding and probably will be the same for a while.

Current Status

In the summer of 2016, the House and Senate appropriations committees approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funding bills that maintain funding for the Perkins basic state grant program at \$1.118 billion and CTE National Programs at \$7.4 million. However, Congress was unable to complete its appropriations work by the end of the physical year in September, which necessitated a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to provide temporary funding for the federal government through December 9. This CR included an across the board cut to keep overall spending within the required budget caps for the year. Because of the way Perkins funds are budgeted and dispersed, the cut (a total of 5.5 million overall) impacted Perkins basic state grant advance funding for 30 states that was distributed on October 1. Example: Ohio amount change \$0, Texas - \$490,392 and Virginia - \$127, 012. (Handout #1 Perkins Basic State Grant Revised 2016 allocations)

The cut could be restored (and has roundly been in years past) if Congress approves a full-year funding bill. Lawmakers seemed poised to pass such a bill before adjourning at the end of 2016, but at the request of incoming Trump Administration, they opted to table funding decisions until April 28 and yet another CR. Though the new CR, which Congress passed before leaving for the holidays, adjusted the across-the-board cut down slightly, states will not receive any supplemental funds until this year funding bill is passed, which seems unlikely, leaving the initial cuts in place for the foreseeable future.

The Trump Administration has indicated that its FY 2018 budget request will include \$54 billion increase in defense spending. This increase would have to be offset with cuts to non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending, which compromises the funding for all domestic programs, including Perkins, HEA, WIOA and ESSA. That cut would amount to approximately 10% of all NDD spending, which would like the resulting cuts to many domestic programs and a major setback for federal funding of education and job training. The budget process for FY 2018 will be

abbreviated, with the Administration's initial budget outline (known as "skinny budget") expected this week. A more detailed budget will likely be made available in late spring.

An updated ACTE Blog on 3/16/2017 states Trump pushes cuts for education and job training in First Budget initial budget framework. Specifically, the budget would cut \$9 billion (13 percent) in total from the Department of Education. It proposes \$250 million for a new private school voucher program and an additional \$1 billion for ESSA Title I for the purpose of incentivizing states to adopt "portability in school funding". Workforce development programs at the Department of Labor would be cut by \$2.5 billion or (21 percent) overall, shifting more of the funding job services to state, localities, and employers. No information on proposed Perkins funding was included and lack of details is not promising according to Mitch Coppes.

A 3.21.2017 follow up blog ask all ACTE members to ask your representatives to sign Perkins Funding letter using the CTE Action Letter on the ACTE web site.

Washington's budget dysfunction has real impact on CTE programs in our community. Mitch says it is important to stick together as an educational community overall because year-to-year cuts will be hard to get back.

Sarah Abernathy, Deputy Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding. The overall budget and suggested ways to help make the case for additional CTE funding.

Education funding and Congress will not be as has been suggested. The 2011 Budget Control Act then sequester caps are continuing and it is hard to pass bills for programs when funding is being cut.

On a good note, CTE funding is frozen which is better than elementary and secondary education and higher education funding which will be cut. Increase in veteran's health programs will also impact cuts on nondefense discretionary funding, including education.

Kermit Kaleba, Federal Policy Director, National Skills Coalition says about workforce funding's recent gains. It will be hard to cut funding for Perkins if it gets reauthorized. He expects an increase in funding for apprenticeship and the national Institute for health (NIH).

Policy Seminar Federal Funding Section Highlights, Center Forward. The How's of Government Spending: a primer on the budget process, see more at www.center-forward.org.

Step1. The President sends a budget list to Congress (February). When a new administration comes in, however, they are given more latitude.

Step2. Congress decides how much to spend; the deadline for resolution is generally April 15.

Step3. Congress decides where to spend it. Key facts, in 2017, it is estimated that the U.S.

Government will spend 3.65 trillion in revenue and will have collected 3.21 trillion in tax

revenue. Currently, the government is operating on a continuing resolution (CR) that expires on

April 27, 2017 for 2017. This means Congress will be considering funding for the rest of FY 2017 and FY 2018 concurrently.

Committee for Education Funding (Handout #2)

Federal Funding for Education, February 6, 2017- Federal education funding is low; only about 2% of the federal budget is spent on education. Funding for the Department of Education is still below what it was seven years ago, excluding the Pell grant program that spends like an entitlement program and does not rely on just the funding provided each year. In inflation adjusted dollars, the cuts are even steeper than portrayed.

Federal funding plays an important role-federal funding accounts for almost 8 percent of all elementary and secondary education spending in the United States. It concentrates on leveling the field, almost 2/3 of funding for the Department of Education supports schools and teachers in low-income communities or aids low income college students.

Myth versus Fact on Federal Funding for Education (Handout#3). Public spending on education in OECD countries average 4.7% of the economy, the exact level spending in the United States. Among 35 industrialized and emerging nations, data shows that the United States spends 4.7% of its gross domestic production on public K-12 education the exact average among OECD countries. Federal education spending is efficient. The Department of Education is the smallest cabinet agency and is efficient with its money. It administers the third largest discretionary budget and provides over \$150 billion in student loans each year.

The Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW; Handout#4), includes key support for Senate and House ranking members including Perkins.

NDD United (Handout#5) Full sequestration returns in physical year (FY) 2018, when the two-year relief provided by the bipartisan act of 2015 expires. Congress should avoid making further reductions in these programs. Overall NDD appropriations have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years, as a result of sequestration and other austerity measures enacted beginning in 2011, the cap on NDD funding in FY 2017 is 13.4% below 2010 levels, adjusted for inflation. Without action to stop sequestration, in FY 2018 NDD programs are projected to decline to 3.1% of GDP - equal to the lowest level in more than 50 years. *Investing in the American Workforce* article states the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93%, compared to the national adjusted cohort graduation rate of 83%.

January 26, 2017 House and Senate CTE Caucus Co-Chairs letter, (Handout#6) urged Congress to support the Perkins act as we consider federal policy proposals, can achieve president Trump's promise to "make America great again ". From 2007 to 2016, total Perkins grant funding to states declined by 13%, nearly \$170 million less funding to support CTE.

Perkins Reauthorization

Alicia Hyslop, Director of Public Policy, ACTE

Five Perkins related hearings from fall 2013 to 2016 led to introduction of “ Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act” (HR.5587) which passed with an overwhelming bipartisan positive house vote 405-5 last year and the Senate themes align with CTE goals and plans. The new Perkins Bill will be renumbered and marked up for approval hopefully later this year. The moderate proposal largely maintained Perkins bill content including:

- Federal to state to local formulas remain
- Six-year authorization level
- Authorization level 8.5% increase
- New definition for CTE concentrator the primary outstanding level
- Accountability indicators streamlined but more defined
- One major for concentrator instead of two as in the past

Secondary level, States can pick from three measures like in ESSA: 1. Work-based learning, 2. Dual enrollment and 3. Industry credentials.

Post-secondary level was also streamlined.

- CTE concentrator definition – HR5587 secondary definition, complete three or more CTE courses; or complete at least two courses in a single CTE program for CTE program of study.
- Two very distinct student populations-three different CTE courses being redefined with ACTE input.
- Local application
- Needs assessment
- Local use of funds
- State governance structure remains the same
- Expansion of state reserve funds
- State/local flexibility to meet labor market needs
- New innovative funding
- Hold harmless is adjusted
- Many new definitions for WIOA and ESSA plus “programs of study”,

A new formal definition for CTE programs of study is introduced here and is emphasized throughout the legislation. The term uses some of the existing language from current law, the finding is CTE program of study as a coordinated, non-duplicative sequence of secondary and postsecondary courses that incorporates challenging, state defined academic standards and addresses academic and technical knowledge, as well as employability skills (a purposeful undefined term in the bill) which are aligned to the needs of industries in the state, region, or local area. Additionally, a CTE program of study progresses in content specificity, has multiple “entry and exit points” that allow for credentialing, and ultimately culminates in the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential.

What Now

The House restarted efforts with the hearing on 2/28/17 and we could see a bill later in the year. The Senate side is moving slower. Funding will continue with Perkins so ACTE is not putting pressure on Congress because of the high bipartisan level in Washington. The key message is: Pass a full year funding bill, continue working on a Perkins Bill from last year which ACTE supports, and support reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Higher Education Act (Handout#7)

The Association for Career and Technical Education presents the following recommendations to reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA):

1. Reduce barriers to Higher Education for all (A-G)
2. Ensure program quality and integrity while reducing data collection burden (A-F)
3. Support CTE teacher preparation programs and alternative pathways to certification (A-C)

Current Status

Appearing before a national summit of community college leaders in February, Secretary DeVos spoke highly of community and technical colleges and their partnerships with business and industry. She offered few specifics, but did assert that providing “multiple pathways for postsecondary education” would be a top priority.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Kaine, along with a new group of bipartisan cosponsors, has already reintroduced the Jobs Act. The education committees in the House and Senate will likely continue their efforts to advance a comprehensive HEA reauthorization bill in the coming months, although the process could be complicated by other priorities.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has previously identified four key priorities for HEA reauthorization:

- Ending overregulation
- Ending useless federal data collection
- Improving accreditation system
- Institutions sharing in risk on federal student loans

Additionally look for the upcoming White House budget request and subsequent Fiscal Year 2018 congressional appropriations bills to provide a preview of the higher education funding priorities for the administration and the Republican leadership in Congress.

Tuesday Hill Visit

In spite of the snow delay, most conference attendees continued on with adjusted Congressional House and Senate hill visits with their members on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for an effective ACTE lobbying effort. ACTE in Action: Real World Learning, Real-World Results Capitol Hill reception

sponsored by Project Lead the Way featured high school students who showcased and demonstrated projects that highlighted real-world problem-solving skills. Invited remarks by key CTE Caucus Senate and House leaders were also provided as they announced the introduction of the “Educating Tomorrow’s Workforce Act” which would raise the quality of CTE programs.

Closing General Session

Wednesday morning session focused on ACTE Teacher Education Pipeline Symposium

Ms. Weingarten, who leads the 1.6 million American Federation of Teachers, provided the following comments:

- CTE is the only bipartisan education issue in Congress.
- The President’s “skinny budget” will drastically cut educational funding and the job training pipeline.
- She cannot stress enough the jobs pipeline shortage coming and how it can be addressed with CTE programs.
- We need to find ways for CTE career changers from business and industry who want to become teachers.

Other panel statements and recommendations on teacher pipeline and recruitment initiatives included: 3 Core recruiting and retaining CTE teacher’s principles:

1. High quality CTE teachers matter
 2. Standards matter
 3. Mentoring matters-join forces with higher education
- Professional development has to be ongoing
 - Provide stipends/and tuition assistance for career changers at community colleges
 - Provide certification for part-time teachers
 - 91% of states have alternative certification and 50% of states have part-time teachers
 - Define what is the state role versus the local role, industry recruitment of teachers needs to be a statewide comprehensive strategy
 - Start with the two day CTE boot camp, midyear boot camp and ongoing mentoring for new CTE teachers and administrators
 - Needs student teacher scholarships
 - Provide teacher college entrance help
 - Recognize accomplished CTE teachers
 - Retain teachers - 50% believe what they do are not happening because of bureaucracy
 - Provide credit for industry standards for new teachers

Dan Brown, Co-director, Educators Rising

Future teacher education group in 18 states with the new CTSO organization for future teachers.

- We hired 300 new teachers every year
- Over 60% of teachers teach within 20 miles of where they went to high school
- Only 4% of students taking the SAT say they want to be a teacher, need to attract them early
- 40% of high school sophomores would be open to teaching if engaged

Ellen Thompson, Director, National Teach Ag Campaign Project

- Ag concepts can be transferred across all CTE areas
- Can't do anything without quality data on needs, a long game to employee and retain CTE teachers
- Need a clear and consistent message, most teachers have been told they would be a good teacher
- Develop the simple card to give out on how to get teacher standards
- Ag Ed graduates are 65% white female in the rest mostly white males

Final Thoughts and Updates

Looking ahead to future ACTE conferences the next ACTE conferences and ACTE Career Tech Visions Conference series are:

- 2017 regional conferences go to www.ACTEonline.org/regionone and so on. Region I April 26-28, New York New York, Region II September 29-October 1, Jekyll Island Georgia, Region III June 21-23, Indianapolis, Indiana, Region IV April 6-8, Biloxi, MS and Region V April 6-8, Rapid City, SD
- Best Practices 2017 September 27-29, Albuquerque, NM
- Career Tech Visions 2017 Nashville, December 6-9, 2017
- Career Tech Visions 2018, San Antonio, Texas, November 28-December 1st, 2018
- Career Tech Visions 2019, Anaheim California, December 4-7, 2019
- National Policy Seminar 2018, Arlington Virginia March 5-7, 2018

Hill visit leave behinds/key handouts:

- Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, (Handout #8)
- Perkins CTE Funding, (Handout#9)
- CTE Today! (Handout#10)

While President Trump's 100 day action plan notes the importance of expanding vocational and technical education, the almost unanimous bipartisan support by House and Senate members for Perkins reauthorization and Perkins funding bill provide hope for strong support for career and technical education and workforce development initiatives, the future for maintaining and adding funding will be

an ongoing struggle. With continued cuts in non-defense discretionary funding hurting all of education, it is only a small amount of cutting the overall deficit spending. The growth in entitlement programs and larger debt payments on the national deficit, which has doubled over the last eight years, must be addressed to control even bigger budget cuts in the future.

Hopefully the new Perkins legislation will pass this year with continued improvements and be better than ever. But unless there is real change in the dependency direction the country has been going, CTE will continue to have to do more with less from federal funding support and more dependent upon state and local funding to drive increased CTE services for technical training and job growth.

Continue to follow ACTE online for the latest news; they are our voice on Capitol Hill. Also reach out to local representatives as well as your House and Senate representatives to be part of the CTE caucus. Invite all political representatives to visit your school or invite them to use your school for local meetings and connections to business and industry. You can check the ACTE website Policy and Advocacy Publication section for the state fact sheet options, for a one-page fact sheet on your state CTE program highlights.

Take time to celebrate your successes and recognize your deserving CTE professionals by nominating them for ACTE regional or national awards as well as ILS awards at www.IOTALAMBDA SIGMA.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 Nashville and thanks for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Hoyman, ILS Grand Chapter policy seminar representative and board member.