

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

March 3-5, 2014, Washington D. C.

Reported by President and NPS Representative Rhonda Hoyman

For the second year in a row a major snow storm has closed down the federal government with winter storm TITAN, but not ACTE staff, speakers, and policy seminar attendees. Even when the mail doesn't go thru ACTE moves forward, just as we do in this turbulent economic and education times.

Starting off the Policy Seminar, Navigating Capitol, Mitch Coppes and Brendan Hill, Legislative Liaisons for ACTE message to the packed room and congress was:

- We are living on the edge and can't take a cut to Perkins funding
- If funding is cut we will lose CTE programs which need Perkins funds to survive
- Funding to CTE programs has been severely cut in recent years, despite the growing need for career education and job training
- Check the March issue of Techniques magazine, Backyard Advocacy, and ACTE web site for the tip handout "Effective Types of Communication" (Handout #1). It only takes 5 minutes to turn a policymaker into a CTE champion through letters, email, social media, telephone and face-to-face contact.

Opening General Session

While The Honorable Brenda Dann- Messier, Assistant Secretary, Office of Career and Technical Education was snowed in, Steve De Witt , Deputy Director for ACTE kicked off the Opening General Session to 400 plus attendees by stating that having a physical presence on the Hill does make a difference. He pointed out ACTE's new book release, "Putting your Data to Work: Improving Instruction in CTE", is an important new resource of data-driven decision making and the positive impact it has in the CTE classroom. Available online at the Shop ACTE! www.acteonline.org/shopacte for \$19.95 member price or \$24.95 non-members (Handout#2).

Another important step is that ACTE is starting to work with other legislative groups on avoiding duplication and to maximizing efforts. An example is the new ACTE issue brief, CTE's Role in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, (Handout#3) and on the ACTE website. This issue Brief will explore the integral role CTE programs and initiative play in addressing the STEM challenge and securing America's leadership in innovation.

Keynote Speaker: Catherine "Kike" Mc Lean is co-founder of No-Labels, a growing citizen's movement of Democrats, Republicans and Independents dedicated to promoting a new politics of problem solving. Develop shared goals to move the country forward.

Started 3 years ago the changes and the nature of how partisan politics work, they now have 93 House and Senate congress members working together on four key areas and goals of:

1. Creating 25 million jobs
2. Reform Medicare and social security for sustainability
3. By 2030 balance the budget
4. Making America energy independent by 2035, for more go to No Labels.com.

Perkins and Federal Legislation

At the General Session - Perkins Reauthorization session, Alisha Hyslop, Director of Public Policy, ACTE stated the current Perkins bill was authorized in 2006 and technically expired in 2013. Congress began the year with strong hearings on CTE and wants to see how CTE is working around the country, including strong business and industry partnerships, certification completion and secondary/postsecondary partnerships. Also democrats and republicans in Congress have no interest in President Obama's competitive grant funding plan for Perkins and support the traditional formula funding plan.

She also points out the Programs of Study concept is taking hold and building for strong secondary and postsecondary education business and industry recognition. We should make sure legislation gives more options for articulation agreements at the local and state levels.

ACTE's Perkins Reauthorization Guiding Principles include:

1. Redefine the Federal Role in CTE
2. Target Expenditures
3. Define Program Quality Elements
4. Ensure Relevant and Consistent Data
5. Offer Incentives for Innovation
6. Provide Infrastructure to Support the System

The new Perkins bill reauthorization will make progress this year but not probably pass until next year at the earliest Ned McCulloch, Global Issue Manager Skill Development and Education IBM, said. IBM is a strong partner with CTE supporting experiential learning and that the business community has CTE's back in authorization of Perkins.

Sasha Padelski, Assistant Director, Policy and Advocacy, ASSA, The School Superintendents Association said AASA supports strong business and industry advisory council connections and would like the process of measuring CTE streamlined including the percentage of students completing industry credentials and college and career ready.

Policy and Breakout Session options provided input on key pieces of authorizing legislation by Congress including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) originally scheduled for reauthorization in 2003 is long overdue (Handout#4) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) originally scheduled for

reauthorization in 2007 (Handout#5) is also long overdue. Progress is being made and the bills build on prior year's language until passed.

The ACTE recommendations for the Workforce Investment Act include priorities:

1. Increase Access to High-quality Training
2. Strengthen Connections Between Education and Workforce Development Systems
3. Address Administrative & Infrastructure Challenges

Also reference the ACTE and State Directors paper, Career Tech Concerns Regarding Workforce Investment Act Infrastructure Funding Proposals, to find One Stop infrastructure and other activities. For more information contact Brendan Desetti, ACTE at bdesetti@acteonline.org.

The Higher Education Act (HEA) is just beginning its work in Congress (Handout#6) and includes ACTE recommended priorities of:

1. Reduce Barriers to Short-Term Higher Education
2. Ensure Adequate Access to Financial Aid Programs for All Students
3. Support CTE Teacher Preparation Programs & Alternative Paths to Certification
4. Evaluate Data Collection Requirements to Reduce Burden and Ensure Program Integrity

I attended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act session which discussed what ACTE issues should be included in the on key priorities of:

1. Incorporate Career Readiness.
2. Support Secondary School Reform by Strengthening the Integration of Academics and CTE.
3. Increase Support for Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling. Schools should expose students to apprenticeships, 2 year as well as 4 year college goals and individualized learning plans.
4. Include CTE Teachers in Efforts to Improve Recruitment, Retention and Effectiveness. Senator Tammy Baldwin, amendment regarding career readiness measures includes adding certification and other career post secondary options on report cards.

Check the ACTE web site for position papers for full details.

The 1st day ended with ACTE message briefing with State planning time as ACTE staff stated there is little hope for partnership this year before elections as our message to congress and senators should emphasize:

- All students should have access to high quality career and technical education
- Need to align programs and standards
- Oppose competitive grants in Perkins
- Perkins is not just funding for education but an investment in the community
- Continue to ask congress and senators to join the CTE caucus

Support the bipartisan budget act and set new spending caps for FY2014 and FY2015 sequester budget cuts.

Perkins cut by 58 million in 2013 and restored by 53 million in 2014, Perkins Basic State Grant- State Estimated Allocations (Handout#7), which lowers the overall funding bar for Perkins. ACTE is asking for the Perkins Basic State Grant to be restored to at least the pre-sequestered level of 1.123 billion in (FY) 2015. Since 2010 Perkins state funding has been cut by more than 140 million. As CTE moves our economy forward, Congress moves funding backward.

ACTE Hill Resources (available on ACTE online.org)

Handouts provided to house and senate representatives include:

Help American business close the skills gap by building a competitive workforce, building your investment in CTE. (Handout#8)

CTE Today! (Handout#9)

- CTE Works for High School Students
- CTE Works for Students and Adults
- CTE Works for the Economy
- CTE Works for Business

Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, (Handout#10) Priorities:

1. Redefine the Federal Role in CTE
2. Target Expenditures
3. Define Program Elements
4. Ensure Relevant and Consistent Data
5. Offer Incentives for Innovation
6. Provide the Infrastructure to Support the System

Build our Investment in CTE (Handout#11), good description for CTE funding levels and justification. Example: In a recent survey by the Education Development Center, Inc., (EDC) approximately 73% of respondents reported flat or declining CTE budgets over the past five years, while over 62% of programs surveyed by the EDC reported anticipated growth next year.

Each state group (Handout#12, Maryland example) was given a customized fact sheet with an overview, data information, and CTE program of excellence example. I made copies and provided to Maryland representatives.

The Labor, Health Human Services and Education budget, which CTE falls under, is trading water now and in the future for a long time. Mitch Coppes, legislative liaison for ACTE showed the overall federal budget breakdown is: 19% Defense, 16% Non-Defense/Discretionary other than education, 22% Social Security, 15% Medicare, 7% Medicaid, 13% Other Mandatory, 6% Interest (and growing), 2% Education.

In reality over the years 2002 to 2014 Perkins funding is about the same, and it took a lot of hard work to maintain that level.

Finally the Office of Vocational Adult Education (OVAE) has officially been changed to Office of Career and Technical Education and Adult Education (OCTAE).

Tuesday morning Advocacy in a Partisan Environment and Policymakers

Betsy Brand, Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum, Be honest, efficient, provide data and tell a good story. Find ways to send a positive message to your representatives on regular bases and invite to a school visit.

Erik Fatemi, Vice President, Cornerstone Government Affairs- explained why federal funding is so important. Last year there were 24,000 requests for federal funding, 22,000 democrats and 2,000 republicans.

Danica Petroschius, Principal, Penn Hill Group, Congress is more partisan then ever and more upfront about it. The Executive Branch does more lobbying and control measures than ever. The regular order of working out issues to agree on a bill between house and senate is not happening.

Before visiting congressional representatives Tuesday afternoon we meet at the Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium for congressional staff latest updates on key legislative affecting CTE and representative Awards.

Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI), Introduced the Counseling for Careers Act – helping match students with non-4year degree skills grants to help counselors visit business and industry to share with students.

Policymaker of the Year Awards: Senator, Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), for work with Career and Technology Colleges and Senator, Mark Begick (D-AK) strong support for CTE.

We now have a joint house and senate CTE Caucus with Co- Chairs Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) with 3 senate members to start. Senator Kaine has put forth a proposal to recognize a boy and girl in each state for a CTE congressional scholarship like the presidential scholarship given out each year.

Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA), House CTE Caucus Co-Chair also spoke and said, in Washington D.C. if you are not at the table you are probably part of the menu. Congress had to work hard to add the 53 million sequester funds for 2013 back in Perkins and believes Americans number one asset is a qualified educational workplace.

Wednesday, CTE Research Updates and Closing General Session

Help shape your advocacy message and identify policy trends:

Iline Kantrov, Director, Pathways to College and Careers, Learning and Teaching Division, Educational Development Center, Inc. Says there is concern that non-CTE administrators and academics will

dominate content in the Common Core. The largest CTE program growth and expansion in the next 2 years of 36% will be in STEM versus 20% anticipated expansion across 10 Career Clusters.

Instructional resources shift over the next 2 years to digital and on-line growth of 4% to 36% versus a decline of 25% to 5% in primarily print. <http://ltd.sdc.org/resources-library/> CTE whitepaper for more details.

Joan Perry, Director, Strategic Alliances, National Research Center for College and University Admissions, CTE Works! Results from a National Survey, www.acteonline.org/CTE-report.

Keynote Speaker: James R. Stone III, Director, National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, University of Louisville

Bureau of labor Statics, BLS, National Occupational Projections 2012-2022 shows the #1 fastest growing job is personal care aide with the top 12 mostly require less than a HS degree, the top job at #2 with a AA degree is registered nurse and #11 with a BA is general and operations manager . Education and Future Work Force 2022 projected growth by Education Requirements:

- BS/BA 20%
- PHD. 4%,
- Masters 3%
- AA 7%
- Post Secondary, non-degree award 9%
- High School 30%
- Less than High School 27%

Only 40% of 27 years old have earned an AA Degree or more

Book purchase recommendation – A 3rd Perspective: Technology The Race Against the Machine, by Erik Brynjolfsson, \$8.00, Technology is destroying more jobs than it creates. Manufacturing jobs are coming back to America in dozens not thousands.

63% Americans are in the labor market, lowest percentage since the depression?

The top skills gap is soft skills like SCANS skills, a gap in behavior and attitudes.

Stem gap-represent only 5% of the labor market. Universities graduate 435,000 in science and engineering but only need 150,000 annual jobs increase in science and engineering employment.

One in three college grads are in a job that require less than college. We are getting more kids through college 43% with a 41.7% college grad supply and a 27% college grad demand.

47% of college grads in a job that require less than a BS/BA degree and 34% that only require a high school degree.

3 things to focus on in 21st Century CTE: A Systems Approach, Rigorous Programs, and Curriculum.

It is very difficult to get good data in education because of cause and effect.

Greatest predictor of finishing high school is 9th grade GPA and students taking 3 or more CTE courses.

We are having a boy problem, 75% of all d's and f's are from boys.

Men are a minority in college (40%)

Labor market earnings and HS graduation among boys improves when taking CTE courses.

Key factors for achievement in CTE: Engage business, Classroom instruction, Work based learning (WBL), Career technical student organizations (CTSO's)

For more details and data check the ACTE web site or web at James. Stone @nrccte.org or www.nrccte.org . Dr. James R. Stones book – College and Career Ready in the 21st Century

State Policy Focus

Governors are using their bully pulpit to establish new CTE initiatives, opportunities and standards (Check your local state).

Catherine Jacques, Research Associate, Center on Greater Teachers and Leaders, Conversation on non-tested areas standards are just being started. Important to give CTE teachers support; align teacher evaluation with instruction standards and data points.

John Foster, President /CEO, NOCTI, CTE teacher evaluations generally based on student outcomes, growth and achievement and teacher observation /effectiveness, but vary widely on models and types of objectives.

ACTE 2015 Budget Press Release

The ironic topic on closing day was the March 5th press release, Association for Career and Technical Education Express Disappointment in Response to Obama Administration's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, released on March 4th (Handout#13).

FY 2015 budget provides inadequate support to CTE educators, administrators, and students; under serves needs of American workforce to fill the skills gap.

"The Obama Administration's budget request does nothing to build the federal investment in CTE". Continued inadequacies in state Perkins funding, which is proposed \$5 million below pre-sequester levels and over \$140 million below FY2010 levels, negatively impact high schools, CTE centers, community and technical colleges, employers and millions of CTE students nationwide.

Though the Administration's budget does create several new programs including high school redesign grants, Skills Challenge Grants and First in the World Fund, the scarce resources provided to education would be better directed toward proven programs that have already demonstrated success, rather than untested and unproven alternatives.

Congress must make investment in CTE a top priority. Fortunately they are friends to CTE and should make changes to the Obama administration's budget.

Upcoming 2014 ACTE Events

- CTE and Literacy: The Common Core Institute, April 16-17,2014, New York City, NY , Free but limited to educator teams, register at www.acteonline.org/ccss/
- Best Practices and Innovations Conference 2014, September 17-19,2014 ,Cape Cod, Massachusetts, register at www.acteonline.org/best practices
- Career Tech Vision 2014, Nashville, Tenn. Nov. 19-22, 2014, register at www.Careertechvision.com
- 2014 Region conferences, check www.acteonline.org/region?

Closing Remarks – as usual Career and Technical Education like many Americans are asked to do more with less in these challenging times. Fortunately we have many strong supporters in Congress on our side, so check with your house and senate representatives to support and join the CTE caucus before you vote next November. Also check with what's happening with your local, state representatives to make a difference. Keep up with the ACTE web site for ever changing updates and remember to celebrate our many CTE success stories by nominating members for the ILS awards at the www.iotalambdasigma.com web site.

Hope to see you in Nashville and thanks for all you do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Hoyman, ILS Grand Chapter Policy Seminar Representative and President