



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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NCACTE Students & Representatives Wow Legislators



NCACTE Legislative Day Big Hit: Allison Dees, chair of NCACTE's Legislative Committee, is to be commended for her leadership in putting together one of the best NCACTE Legislative Days since we began doing these important events nearly 13 years ago. Ms. Dees, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Carteret County Schools, said the following about NCACTE's March 28th event (photo above taken of NCACTE students, CTE directors and others on the red-carpeted stairs leading to the NC House and Senate galleries):

“The NCACTE Legislative Day 2017 was an overall success. Over 70 students, plus CTE educators, from across North Carolina attended. Marketing of CTE curriculums, pathways and CTSOs were displayed throughout the NC Legislative Building. Many student projects were also exhibited. Students responded to questions from legislators about the importance of CTE and the power of CTSOs in our schools. Many CTE students were invited to attend committee meetings to get a better understanding of how laws are passed. This was an exceptional educational experience for our CTE students.”

NCACTE Message for Legislators: In addition, NCACTE representatives hand-delivered to the offices of the 170 legislators a colorful brochure, as we have been doing for years, that breaks down the high graduation rate for students in the state’s public high schools who completed a 4-credit CTE pathway in 2016. The brochure, with CTE graduation rates for each of the state’s 100 counties, says in part:

- *In 2016, 85.8 percent of North Carolina students graduated from public high schools. When these same students completed a 4-credit CTE pathway, the graduation rate increased to 97.7 percent.*

CTE Bill Moves During NCACTE Legislative Day: In addition to legislative visits and student exhibits that were displayed in the Legislative Building’s four quadrants, NCACTE attendees also were treated to a CTE bill moving through a House committee on the morning of March 28th. The legislation – [House Bill 450](#), which NCACTE strongly supports – has a short title of “Future Ready Student Act of 2017;” it amends existing laws involving CTE.

The bill – as noted in a [legislative summary](#) – would establish business advisory councils, expand CTE to lower grades, and modernize terminology related to CTE throughout existing statutes, including:

- Establish the CTE Expansion Program: Effective upon appropriation of funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Program would expand CTE by prioritizing the inclusion of students in 6th and 7th grade through grants administered by the NC Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.
 - Funding: Used to award competitive grants in a total amount of **up to \$5 million** to be allocated as non-reverting funds to an LEA over seven years. Funds would be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas, and support services to **expand CTE to 6th and 7th graders**, and maybe used for multiple schools in an LEA.
 - Award of Grants: LEAs must include the in applications (1) a plan for expansion of the CTE program to 6th and 7th graders, including specific programs to be expanded, the significance of CTE in the LEA, and how the grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community; (2) a request for funds description of how the funds would be used, and other sources of funds available for the program and (3) a

proposed 7-year budget with details on use of funds to add personnel, increase CTE efforts, and provide support services; (4) a meaningful strategy.

In addition, H450 establishes CTE requirements that such education be available to all students, with priority for students in grades 8-12. The bill – sponsored by **Reps. Horn, Johnson, Dixon, and Williams** – would also make these changes:

- Update CTE statutes to replace “vocational” with “career” to consistently use CTE throughout Chapter 115C.
- Establish work-based opportunities, requiring local boards of education to offer, as part their CTE instruction, at least 2 work-based learning opportunities involving on-the-job training through an internship, cooperative education or apprenticeship program.
- Encourage career awareness program, from students in grades 5 to educate students on available CTE education programs, with local boards of education that adopt such programs required to report student outcomes to the State Board of Education annually by Oct. 1.
- Establish Business Advisory Councils to identify economic and workforce development trends related to training and education needs of the local community and “advocate for strong local CTE programs.”

Committee Action: The bill unanimously passed through the House Committee on Education – K-12. It was re-referred to the Committee on Education – Community Colleges. The action followed a lively discussion, led by Rep. Craig Horn, who said that the construction trades, for example, have thousands of jobs currently available.

“We are a booming state,” said Horn, R-Union County. “Part of the problem is we don’t have enough people pursuing electrical and plumbing work as well as other construction trades.”

Thanking Legislators: Please take a moment to thank legislators for their support of CTE generally and encourage them to vote for House Bill 450. To confirm [who your legislators are click here](#). For contact info, click to the links for members of the [House](#) and the [Senate](#).

Quote of the Week

“If the mailman stopped to kick every dog that barked at him, he’d never deliver the mail.”

- UNC Coach Roy Williams, commenting on coaches and how to deal with negativity. Go Heels tonight!