Career and technical education (CTE) professionals and administrators want to work with employers in their community but building and maintaining partnerships has proven to be a challenge for many. In a recent survey of 918 CTE administrators (principals, superintendents and directors) in 44 states across the United States, stark examples of expressed need were identified.

**Data Point #1**
98% of CTE administrators say industry partnerships are ‘important’ or ‘extremely important’.

**Data Point #2**
Over 94% of CTE administrators would value having access to additional partnership-building resources and training.

**Data Point #3**
CTE administrators say lack of time to reach out to employers is the biggest barrier to success.

**Data Point #4**
Industry lacks time to engage and doesn’t understand what high-quality CTE is.

**Data Point #5**
Safety, liability and age restrictions are major barriers to providing opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning (WBL).

**Next Steps**
- Develop training and tools to build and maintain effective relationships.
- Host in-person meetings that convene education and business & industry leaders.
- Adopt creative solutions to support WBL opportunities for students under age 18.
- Ensure access and equitable opportunities for all learners to be engaged in HQ CTE.
- Move beyond partnerships, that are limited to career exploration, to those that expand learning experiences.

Visit acteonline.org/wfd-cte to see how the Coalition for WFD-CTE is working to create these opportunities.