

June 2, 2021

## KACTE Survives Pandemic, Pursues Strategic Plan

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### Our Mission: Student Success

2021 Career and Technical Education Summer Program  
July 20-23, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky

Whether in person, as 87 percent of the 1,596 registrants as of June 2, or via the limited virtual program, KACTE thanks those attending the 2021 Kentucky CTE Summer Program in Louisville at the Galt House Hotel, July 20-23. KACTE is pleased to again work with the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to present the most comprehensive professional development opportunity for Career and Technical Education teachers and administrators. The registration deadline is June 15. Go to [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org) to register. **Please see CTE Summer Program preview page in this issue of News & Notes.**



For the 20th consecutive year -- every year since its inception -- KACTE was notified it is an Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Quality Association Standards honoree. The recognition signifies that KACTE pursues quality customer service and administers its programs in alignment with accepted association best practices.

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) 2020-22 Strategic Plan guided the organization's efforts through President Kelli Dickson's first nine months of leadership. Careful fiscal management in spite of a membership decline chiefly caused by the inability to recruit members at the annual CTE Summer Program, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns, allowed the organization to sustain programs. Dickson teaches Family and Consumer Science at Monroe County High School. Her theme is **CTE: Connecting Kentucky**.

Treasurer Mark Hobbs, Manufacturing instructor, Harrison County Area Technology Center, reported at the April 29 KACTE Board Meeting the association spent \$15,000 less than projected in the 2020-21 budget. Reserves are recovering, and the Board adopted a 2021-22 fiscal year

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budget balanced at \$183,420. The budget projects 675 members. A major membership recruitment effort is planned for the CTE Summer Program as detailed in this issue.

In a unanimous action, the Board voted at the April 29 meeting to recommend to the membership assembled at the KACTE Annual Meeting in the Carroll-Ford Room of the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, on July 21 at 5:15 p.m. that the association officers retain their positions for the 2021-22

association year. The Board felt the officers were unable to participate in activities normal for the offices due to the pandemic. If adopted, the motion will result in the following officers repeating their term in the coming year:

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**TAMMY CAMEL**, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Rockcastle County High School, continued KACTE member success in the ACTE national awards program by receiving the 2021 Carl Perkins Community Service Award. Camel received the 2019 Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Community Service Award to qualify for regional and national honors. KACTE Awards Committee Chair Laura Spiegelhalter, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, duPont Manual High School, noted the 2021 CTE Awards will be presented at the CTE Summer Program July 20-23. The nomination process closed June 1.

The eight CTE Award winners recognized at 2020 KACTE Day will be entered in the 2022 ACTE awards competition: Ashley Rogers, Agriculture teacher, Nicholas County High School; Lauren Williams, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, McCracken County High School; Jessica Harley, School Counselor, Frankfort Independent High School; Dr. Kim Bellah, Associate Professor, Murray State University; Jodi Adams, Director New Teacher Institute, Office of Career and Technical Education; Dr. Kemaly Parr, Assistant Professor, Murray State University; Kimberlea Embry, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Butler County High School; and Lisa Sletto, Family and consumer Sciences teacher, Beachwood High School.

## ***KACTE Action Schedule***

### **2021-2022**

All times listed are Eastern.

- ➔ **June 15** -- CTE Summer Program registration deadline
- ➔ **July 20-23** -- CTE Summer Program, Galt House Hotel, Louisville
- ➔ **July 20** -- 2021-22 KACTE Board Orientation, Galt House Hotel, Clements Room, Louisville, 4 p.m.
- ➔ **July 20** -- TALENTS Leadership Academy third session, Galt House Hotel, Louisville
- ➔ **July 21** -- KACTE Annual Meeting, Galt House Hotel, Carroll-Ford Room, Louisville, 5:15 p.m.
- ➔ **Aug. 1** -- KACTE Fellows Leadership Academy applications due
- ➔ **Sept. 10-11** -- KACTE Fellows Leadership Academy first session, Bowling Green, Site and Times to be determined
- ➔ **Sept. 15** -- 2022 CTE Summer Program Planning Committee Meeting (tentative)
- ➔ **Sept. 23-24** -- ACTE Region 2 Leadership Conference, Nashville and Virtual, Site and Time to be determined
- ➔ **Sept. 30** -- KACTE Board Meeting, Physical Site to be determined, 5:30 p.m.
- ➔ **Nov. 18** -- KACTE Board Meeting, Virtual, 5:30 p.m.
- ➔ **Dec. 1-4** -- ACTE Career Tech Vision, New Orleans
- ➔ **Jan. 7-8** -- KACTE Fellows Leadership Academy second session, Georgetown, Site and Times to be determined
- ➔ **Jan. 8** -- Surviving to Thriving Teacher Retention Program, Georgetown, Site and Time to be determined
- ➔ **Jan 18** -- KACTE Board Meeting, Virtual, 5:30 p.m.
- ➔ **Feb. 8** -- CTE Student Leadership Day, Frankfort (tentative)
- ➔ **March 20-24** -- ACTE National Policy Seminar, Crystal City, VA.
- ➔ **April 28** -- KACTE Board Meeting, Site to be determined, 5:30 p.m.
- ➔ **June 1** -- 2022 Kentucky Farm Bureau Awards deadline
- ➔ **July 19-22** -- 2022 CTE Summer Program, Galt House Hotel, Louisville
- ➔ **July 19** -- KACTE Fellows Leadership Academy third session, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Room and Time to be determined
- ➔ **July 20** -- KACTE Annual Meeting, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Room and Time to be determined

- **President Kelli Dickson**, Family and Consumer Science teacher, Monroe County High School;
- **President-Elect J.R. Drummond**, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Tech and Design Academy at Doss High School;
- **Immediate Past-President Margo Bruce**, Agriculture teacher, Webster County High School;
- **Treasurer Mark Hobbs**, Manufacturing instructor, Harrison County Area Technology Center;
- **Secretary Sharon Collins**, Family and Consumer Science teacher, Warren East Middle School;
- **ACTE Region 2 Policy Committee Representative Dexter Knight**, Principal, Jessamine Career Technology Center; and
- **Immediate Past-Treasurer Elizabeth Bullock**, State HOSA Adviser, Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE).

Two resolutions, shown below, will be considered by the membership at the KACTE Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will conclude with installation of the 2021-22 KACTE Board and Dickson's acceptance remarks outlining her goals for the year.

**ADVOCACY EFFORTS** are reported in more detail in the *Issues Update* in this issue of *News & Notes*. Most significant was presentation of a white paper, *CTE: A Relevant Education*, to members of the Kentucky General Assembly. Written by a select task force of KACTE members, the white paper offers a comprehensive overview of CTE in Kentucky with recommendations to achieve equity and access in CTE programs. The document can be viewed on the KACTE website, [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org), in the Issues section.

The General Assembly session ended with passage of a budget that essentially holds CTE funding level, but there were statements that some members would consider increased CTE funding in the 2022 session that begins in January and lasts 60 days.

Although the ACTE National Policy Seminar was held virtually, which precluded KACTE visiting legislative offices in Washington, DC, the association maintained its communication with congressional staff. Federal appropriations for CTE via the *Carl Perkins Act* were increased in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Some legislators are advocating for increased *Perkins Act* funding in 2022.

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## Resolutions to be Presented for Approval at KACTE Annual Meeting

### Resolution One

#### Increased Professional Development for All Involved in Career and Technical Education

**WHEREAS**, the Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education (KACTE) represents all Career and Technical Education (CTE) members from all instructional levels representing every pathway in CTE; and

**WHEREAS**, the KACTE Board sees a need for teacher support programs; and

**WHEREAS**, non-traditional instruction will continue for many districts; and

**WHEREAS**, curriculum is continually changing along with industry certifications to keep up with the trends of industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the KACTE will continue with its online professional development platform to ensure ease of access to CTE related professional development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, new teacher support and professional development will continue to be provided to increase retention and support; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the CTE Summer Program will continue to not only be offered but also adjust to meet the ever changing needs of KACTE's members.

### Resolution Two

#### Membership Growth Including Recruitment and Retention

**WHEREAS**, our legislative goals are enhanced with support from all CTE teachers in Kentucky; and

**WHEREAS**, the association's ability to provide opportunities and resources to the CTE teachers, administrators, counselors, industry partners and postsecondary partners is supported by dues; and

**WHEREAS**, KACTE sets programs and goals off the needs of its members;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) will continue to recruit all new teachers into the organization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, KACTE will reach out to non-renewed members to solicit participation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, KACTE will continue to utilize surveys and other feedback to ensure we meet the needs of our members to create a rapport that fosters continued membership.



**KACTE WILL MAINTAIN** its contract with McCarthy Strategic Solutions to represent the association and CTE with the Kentucky General Assembly. The KACTE Board felt, even with a tight budget, this membership benefit for effective advocacy for CTE was critical, particularly with likely discussions in 2022 on CTE funding and organization.

The **LEADERSHIP** Goal joined with the Advocacy Goal as the two Strategic Plan 2020-22 goals with the most action this year. KACTE believes enhancing professional development improves leadership and offers a wide range of opportunities for all CTE educators.

As detailed elsewhere in this **News & Notes**, KACTE worked with a 2021 CTE Summer Program Planning Committee to return to an in-person annual professional development conference. The annual CTE Summer Program, this year to be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville July 20-23, is the largest and most comprehensive CTE professional development opportunity for CTE teachers and administrators.

The CTE Summer Program, Planning Committee is composed of CTE program consultants, leadership at OCTE and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), and KACTE officers. Fueling the decision was a survey of secondary teachers that indicated 74 percent wanted to attend an in-person conference. The planning did accommodate a limited virtual conference not only for those reluctant to attend in a possible pandemic or those who had conflicts and could not attend, but also to record an archive of program update sessions.

Following the tight-budget, pandemic year, KACTE returned to offering its long-standing efforts to enhance professional development.

- **The Michael McMillen Student Teacher Scholarship** annually supports up to 10 pre-service teachers with \$500 scholarships to offset costs of their first student teaching assignment.
- **The Donnalie Stratton Middle School Stipend** provides \$300 to up to eight middle school teachers to help offset the cost of attending the CTE Summer Program. Middle school teachers do not have access to **Perkins Act** funding as broadly as secondary and postsecondary teachers.
- **The Carl Perkins Assistantship Grant** offers a \$500 scholarship to one secondary and one postsecondary student pursuing a CTE postsecondary degree or credential.
- **The Stratton-Tipton Scholarship** goes to applicants facing special needs challenges in pursuing their education.
- In 2021-22, KACTE again will consider applications for **discretionary professional development grants**.

Although the annual Career and Technical Education Student Organization (**CTSO**) **Student Leadership Day** was not held, KACTE maintained its commitment to CTSOs with funding of the annual **CTSO Entrepreneurial Contest**. KACTE's \$2,500 contribution provides the financial award to the four contest winners.

In the coming year, plans are to update and re-name the KACTE TALENTS Leadership Academy as the **KACTE Fellows Leadership Academy**. The program and name changes intend to align Kentucky's leadership development effort with the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Fellows program. An eighth Academy cohort will be formed following the CTE Summer Program. In-person sessions are scheduled in Bowling Green Sept. 10-11, Georgetown Jan. 7-8, 2022, and at the 2022 CTE Summer Program in Louisville July 19-22. Funding for scholarships to attend the Academy is being pursued.

KACTE again will try to present **Surviving to Thriving** in Georgetown Jan. 8, 2022. The program is offered to teachers in years one-three of their careers who may be struggling with a decision whether to continue teaching.

KACTE is working with OCTE and KCTCS to offer continuing education opportunities developed specifically for CTE teachers. **CTE Learn**, which is promoted elsewhere in this **News & Views**, offers more than 170 free and fee-based CTE courses for teachers and administrators.

All of these professional development programs help establish KACTE as the CTE PD source.

Additionally, OCTE is using KACTE's logistic resources to create and present targeted professional development opportunities for principals and CTE school leaders.

The **SOCIAL MEDIA** goal gained momentum through the year under committee chair Christi Hack, Assistant Principal, Jessamine Career Technology Center. There are about 300 Facebook followers at **@kyacte**. There are about 600 Twitter followers at **#kyacte**. The "handles" for the social media accounts align with the KACTE website address, [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org), bringing consistency to the association's communication platforms.

Work continues on the **CAPACITY** goal of the Strategic Plan 2021-22. The major accomplishment was increasing attendance at the quarterly KACTE Board meetings by conducting virtual meetings. The plan is for a mix of in-person and virtual Board meetings next year. In addition, KACTE seeks to increase the number of members participating in KACTE activities and on committees.

**MEMBERSHIP** was the fifth Strategic Plan 2020-22 goal, and it had the least success. With no 2020 CTE Summer Program, the usual membership recruitment and renewal efforts were unavailable. Membership declined by about 100 in the Fall 2020, but has since rebounded although still below the previous level. As detailed elsewhere in this **News & Views**, there will be a coordinated effort at the 2021 CTE Summer Program seeking membership renewals and new members. Several contests will be available, and details of KACTE member benefits will be noted.

***KACTE strives to enhance CTE in Kentucky in many ways. A larger membership offers more ways to improve.***



**ONLINE  
LEARNING  
CENTER**

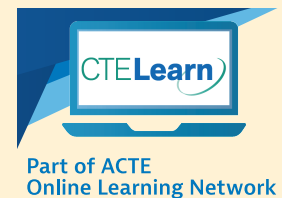


## *Watch a 1-Minute Video on CTE Learn's Kentucky Professional Development Portal*

[https://youtu.be/AXeRYI\\_6IdI](https://youtu.be/AXeRYI_6IdI)

Comprehensive Professional Development Opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teachers and Administrators Are Available Through **CTE Learn**, the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Online Learning Center -- <https://ky.ctelearn.org>.

- ★ **More Than 170 Self-Paced Online Courses**
- ★ **Each Course Provides 4 Hours of Continuing Education**
- ★ **Digital Badge & Certificate of Completion**
- ★ **Opportunity to Apply for College Credit**



Please visit the KACTE Online Learning Portal -- <https://ky.ctelearn.org> -- to learn more about the Professional Development opportunities available for all CTE professionals at all levels of CTE instruction. Discounts for KACTE members and organizational/school groups are available, as well as free resources.

## *CTE Learn Network Change -- No 5-User Requirement*

The 5-User requirement for subscription purchases across the entire **CTE Learn** network was removed. Among the reasons for the change is to facilitate smaller schools with small CTE staff to still access the training through group purchase. Individuals, too, may purchase subscription access to all courses. For more information, please contact [tarlonm@maxknowledge.com](mailto:tarlonm@maxknowledge.com).

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## 2021 CTE Summer Program Registration Deadline **June 15**

### No On-Site Registration Will Be Accepted

Due to required room capacities made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kentucky Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program was forced to impose a firm registration deadline of June 15. No on-site registrations will be permitted due to capacity restrictions. New hires who need/want to attend will be managed separately by e-mailing [krisstone56@gmail.com](mailto:krisstone56@gmail.com).

Registration can be completed at this link: [www.tinyurl.com/m2nn3sqa](http://www.tinyurl.com/m2nn3sqa)

### Galt House Hotel Room Block Nearing Capacity

Cutoff date to make room reservations at the Galt House Hotel is **June 17**

Housing reservations can be made at this link: [www.KACTE2021](http://www.KACTE2021)

## Keynote Address by Mark C. Perna

*Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations*



Join dynamic education expert Mark C. Perna at the **Wednesday, July 21, Opening Session** as he unveils the groundbreaking innovations and strategies for engaging today's younger generations. Fast-moving, funny, and packed with practical action steps, Mark's message will help you inspire young people, show them why education matters, and empower them to achieve at a higher level.

*Learn more in Mark's deep dive on Wednesday afternoon, July 21:  
Engineering Explosive Growth in CTE Enrollment, Retention, and Performance*

Today is the single greatest opportunity in education history to shift the paradigm in career-focused education. We must engineer our CTE recruitment and retention strategies for explosive growth. Performance expert and bestselling author Mark C. Perna will show you how.

### In Person

Full registrants will interact in a safe environment with **more than 1,400 CTE colleagues** from across Kentucky who teach and lead in all CTE pathways at all levels of CTE instruction. More than 200 breakout presentations, sessions and workshops provide the largest, most comprehensive CTE professional development available.

The 2021 CTE Summer Program **will follow safety protocols** for meetings taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic until restrictions are lifted. Be prepared for mask requirements for unvaccinated attendees and possible social distancing rules. Louisville and the Galt House security are working to ensure visitors can enjoy their conference experience.

### Limited Virtual Summer Program

A registration fee for a limited virtual 2021 CTE Summer Program is available. The Opening Session Wednesday, July 21, 8-10 a.m. will be live streamed and available via website link provided to all registrants. Other select presentations and sessions, **including all program updates**, will be available in a virtual library on the website beginning on Thursday, July 22. It was not possible to make all 200-plus breakout session available virtually. Program consultants selected the ones to be recorded and posted in the virtual library. For a list of virtual programs, please go to [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org) and click on the Summer Program page.



***Our Mission: Student Success***

*2021 Career and Technical Education Summer Program  
July 20-23, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky*

### Meet at the Meeting Place

The 2021 CTE Summer Program Meeting Place is the hub of the annual conference. In addition to more than 60 booths for commercial vendors, academic institutions and partner organizations, the CTE Meeting Place is the site of registration, the Opening Session, and continental breakfasts and boxed lunches on Wednesday and Thursday, July 21-22. It will feature specialty booths for CTSOs and gathering spaces for Business, Marketing, and Family and Consumer Science association members.

***The CTE Meeting Place is the place to be!***



# CTE: Connecting Kentucky

**KACTE**

**KAAE**

**KBEA**

**KATFCS**

**KACTE-TIE**

**KETEA**

**KHEA**

**KMEA**

## KACTE Connects CTE Professionals

### 2021 CTE Summer Program KACTE Membership Incentives

- ➔ First 50 CTE Professionals who **join or renew** will receive a gift at KACTE Membership Table
- ➔ For every 50 **new or renewed** members, KACTE will draw and award a \$25 gift card (drawing Oct. 1 to complete processing)
- ➔ For every 150 **new or renewed** members, KACTE will rebatе the full membership fee (drawing Oct. 1 to complete processing)
- ➔ **PLAY DIGITAL SCAVENGER HUNT --**  
First 10 July 21 and first 10 July 22 to identify and submit via #kyacte receive a \$10 gift card.

**First-Time Members  
Eligible for \$99 Dues**

- ★ **CONNECTING** through **Advocacy**
- ★ **CONNECTING** through **Professional Development**
- ★ **CONNECTING** through **Scholarships and Grants**
- ★ **CONNECTING** through **Leadership Development**
- ★ **CONNECTING** through **Member Benefits**
- ★ **CONNECTING** through **[www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org), @kyacte, #kyacte**

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**KACTE Represents CTE Professionals.  
KACTE Needs and Asks for Your Membership.**



# Issues Update

June 2, 2021

*Issues Update* is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and shared with members. As needed, *Issues Update* will report on state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy and legislative developments. KACTE and Stone can be reached at [kmstone1951@gmail.com](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com) or 502-223-1823.

## Kentucky Begins Interim; Feds Debate More Funding

Kentucky legislative activity picked up in June with the start of the General Assembly's interim session. The Interim Joint Committee on Education's first meeting was held June 1. It heard testimony on the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship (KEES), the Students' Right to Know Act, and how school districts managed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) worked with the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYstats) to develop a web-based, interactive tool to provide students and families with information on which to make decisions regarding postsecondary participation. Included are cost of attendance, time to degree completion, graduation rates, employment rates, salaries, annual job openings, most popular majors and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and apprenticeships. A mobile application is under development.

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### KACTE Renews Agreement with Legislative Agent McCarthy Strategic Solutions

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) renewed its agreement with McCarthy Strategic Solutions (MSS) to provide legislative advocacy services on behalf of the association and Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Kentucky.

In announcing the continuation of the agreement, KACTE notes this member benefits serves not only its members but the entire Kentucky CTE system.

With the 2022 Kentucky General Assembly session to determine a 2022-24 biennial budget and consider legislation impacting CTE, MSS is positioned to deliver KACTE's advocacy to all legislators and the Executive Branch, as it did with the 2021 KACTE white paper, **CTE: A Relevant Education**. Members can review the white paper and accompanying one-page summary at [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org) in the Issues Section.

### CTE's Impact Evidenced in Enrollment Data, Results

2020 state profiles released by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) reveal Career and Technical Education (CTE) participants in the 2019-20 school year totaled 11.1 million, with 7.6 million secondary and 3.5 million postsecondary students. Nationwide, there were 3 million secondary and 1.9 million postsecondary CTE concentrators.

Among secondary CTE concentrators, the top four career clusters were: Business Management and Administration; Health Science; Arts, A-V Technology and Communications; and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Among postsecondary CTE concentrators, the top four career clusters were Health Science; Business Management and Administration; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; and Information Technology.

**A REPORT** on high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment among CTE concentrators in Nebraska and South Dakota revealed concentrators are 7 percent more likely to graduate from high school on time and 10 percent more likely to enroll in postsecondary education within two years of graduation compared to non-CTE students.

The results of the report from the Institute of Educational Sciences Regional Laboratory Central are consistent with other reports and studies showing CTE students graduate at a higher percentage and enroll in postsecondary education at a higher percentage than the overall secondary student population.

The Nebraska and South Dakota report also indicated high school CTE concentrators were more likely to earn a postsecondary award within two-five years of graduation. The evidence is CTE concentrators may have a greater likelihood of attaining a certificate, diploma or degree, which dispels misperceptions that CTE is not academically rigorous.



# Kentucky Begins Interim; Feds Debate More Funding

**CURRENT KENTUCKY TEACHERS** have an opportunity to achieve Rank I or Rank II certification through job-embedded learning experiences in their own classrooms. Approved by the Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB), **Foundations of Teaching and Learning** is described as a cost-effective program receiving applause from the 200 current participants.

The Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) is partnering with BloomBoard to offer this micro-based rank change program that eliminated required seat time and exams. Instead, it is based on self-paced learning and coached training while demonstrating capability in the classroom.

The deadline to enroll for the summer is June 15.

**THE CPE REPORTED** on two recent developments. In an attempt to make postsecondary education more affordable, it has limited to 3 percent the allowed tuition increase at the state's public universities for the next two years combined. A university can increase tuition no more than 2 percent in any year. The 3 percent ceiling applies to tuition and mandatory fees for resident and undergraduate programs.

The cap on Kentucky Community and Technical College (KCTCS) fees is \$5 per credit hour over the next two years, with no more than a \$3 increase in any year.



## ***Our Mission: Student Success***

*2021 Career and Technical Education Summer Program  
July 20-23, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky*

## **Registration Deadline June 15**

Due to hard logistic deadlines in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program to be held July 20-23 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, must enforce a June 15 registration deadline. More than 200 professional development sessions covering every CTE pathway and teaching discipline are on the agenda.

On June 2, **registrations totaled 1,596**, among which 1,389 (87 percent) will attend in-person. Registration and housing reservations can be completed at [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org). A limited, virtual registration is available. With more than 200 presentations, it is not financially or logistically feasible to provide every session virtually. Select sessions dealing with program area updates and critical programmatic issues will be provided through a secure website.

**CPE PRESIDENT AARON THOMPSON** wrote an opinion column published in **Higher Ed Dive** detailing an effort to embed employability skills instruction into all postsecondary coursework. He noted interactions with business leaders consistently stress the need for employees with good communication, leadership and problem-solving skills. The employers say they can teach the specific technical skills if the candidates have employability skills.

"That's why," Thompson wrote, "through a partnership with the nonprofit Quality Assurance Commons, the (CPE) has worked to embed career competencies into a student's educational experience. . . 16 academic programs at six participating schools, along with employers from five key industries, took part in the pilot initiative that started in November 2018 (and) were certified in April 2020."

The program's foundation is communication not only among campus faculty and administration, but also with the community and employers. More than 3,000 students have been served, and the pilot campuses indicate a number of resulting benefits. Thompson wrote the hireable graduate is adept at communications, problem-solving, inquiry and collaborations, and who is adaptable, principled, professional and always willing to learn.

**THE PUBLIC PENSION** Oversight Board met May 24 and received updates on the status of the state's managed pension funds. The Kentucky Teachers Retirement System had net assets of \$24.7 billion as of March 31, 2021, which is 58.4 percent of its projected obligations. The insurance trust fund is at 61.7 percent of its projected obligations.

The fund managers reported investment gains; however, there was a negative \$435 million cash flow in the previous fiscal year.

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**Previous Issues Updates may be found at [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org) in the Issues Section. The April 2 edition recapped the 2020 Kentucky General Assembly session.**

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## **Federal Issues**

If the budget proposed by President Joe Biden is enacted, CTE and education in general will receive a significant increase in funding. But the negotiations among the administration, congressional Democrats and congressional Republicans are just beginning. Republicans, particularly Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, has indicated opposition to large spending increases, especially if they are paid for with increased taxes.

President Biden's budget proposal would restore non-defense, discretionary funding to 3.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), \$769 billion, which is the historical average of the last 30 years. The Department of Education (DOE) would see a 41 percent increase in funding

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# Kentucky Begins Interim; Feds Debate More Funding

over Fiscal Year 2021, almost \$30 billion, to \$102.8 billion. Elements of the President's proposed American Jobs Plan would increase education spending even more.

The **Perkins Act** basic state grant was proposed for a \$20 million increase to \$1.354 billion, but that increase is less than what was adopted for the current fiscal year. It does propose a \$108 million increase in **Perkins Act** national programs, to \$115.4 million, to fund competitive grants for middle and high school CTE innovation projects, technical assistance, and evaluation.

For CTE, the American Jobs Plan, which has been described at the administration's initiative to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, proposes \$1 billion per year for the next 10 years to fund a new CTE program. It will be introduced separately and follow a different legislative path than the appropriations process.

The \$10 billion is to be spent for development and implementation of high-quality career pathway programs in middle and high schools, with a priority on program that connect underrepresented students to STEM and in-demand sectors and help increase the capacity of community colleges to offer high-quality workforce training programs.

**THE DOE SUMMARY** of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget includes three mentions of CTE, including supporting an **In-Demand Credentials for Teachers** proposal. This proposes \$1.6 billion to support additional teacher certifications at no cost to 100,000 participating teachers. The funds for the credential proposal are in the administration's American Families Plan. As with the \$10 billion for CTE proposed in the American Job Plan, it will be introduced separately and follow a different legislative path than the appropriations process.

At the start of the DOE budget summary, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona wrote: "This budget ensures all students have access to high-quality, affordable postsecondary education while also improving career pathways for students of all ages and levels."

The biggest recipients of proposed increases in the administration budget proposal are Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Pell Grants are proposed for a \$400 increase, but the big increase in Pell Grants, \$1,475, is in the American Jobs Plan. If both proposals are enacted, the maximum Pell Grant would be \$8,370.

The budget proposal adds \$100 million for registered apprenticeship programs, to \$285 million. It holds federal work study at the existing level, \$1.19 billion. Adult education state grants also would be level funded at \$675 million.

Within the Department of Labor, which would benefit from a 14 percent, or \$1.7 billion, increase to \$14.2 billion, is a \$203 million proposed increase in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to \$3.7 billion. Kentucky's Perkins Act funding is approved through the state WIOA board.

**KENTUCKY'S CONGRESSIONAL** delegation provided some support for increased CTE funding. Representatives Brett Guthrie, John Yarmuth and Andy Barr signed a "Dear Colleague" letter to the chair and ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education. The letter pointed out the importance of strong CTE program in developing a skilled workforce. It asked for consideration of increased funding.

Representatives James Comer, Thomas Massie and Harold Rogers did not sign the letter. In Rogers defense, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, he does not believe in sending letters to himself. Kentucky's congressmen have consistently voted to approve CTE spending.

The Senate has not yet circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter. Senator Rand Paul never has signed such a letter in support of CTE funding. Senator McConnell, much like Representative Rogers, is a member of the Appropriations Committee and Minority Leader. He does not send letters regarding topics on which he may have to decide. Both senators supported CTE funding in the past.

**ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY** education funding, it is notable that the American Jobs Plan proposes establishing a nationwide broadband network to give every citizen the opportunity to connect to the internet. Studies and reports during the pandemic indicate that a challenge facing education implementing non-traditional instruction is the lack of internet access for a number of students. Many schools provide devices for student use, but they are useless without connectivity.

One study on understanding student home internet connectivity needs found that video learning is essential for education; that students are mobile and rely on WiFi; that some communities, specifically in rural areas, require more support and resources; and that device quality significantly impacts remote learning.

The **BUILDS Act (Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills)** was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH). The legislation seeks sector partnerships of local business and industry organizations, workforce boards, labor representatives, and education and training providers to support workforce training programs in infrastructure-related jobs. CTE provides the educational foundation for many of these jobs.

Kaine and Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), co-chairs of the Senate CTE Caucus, re-introduced the **ACCESS Act (Assisting Community Colleges in Educating Skilled Students)**. It would establish a community college career training grant program to fund increased student success and career readiness. It envisions increasing work-based learning opportunities, ensuring students have support services, and creating career pathways for in-demand jobs.