In this Issue
✓ Josh Mitcham Installed as KACTE President
✓ Members Adopt Bylaw Amendments; DEIB Role
✓ Successful CTE Summer Program Impacts Budget
✓ KACTE Plans Membership Initiatives
✓ KACTE Board Adopts Strategic Plan
✓ Members Recognized for Achievement

At the 2023 Kentucky Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program, Josh Mitcham, Director of the FFA Leadership Training Center, was installed as president of the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE). Mitcham announced his theme, Moving the Needle, to symbolize the impact KACTE has had on CTE in Kentucky and how the association is positioned for further progress.

Elected at the KACTE Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the CTE Summer Program were President-Elect Christi Hack, Principal, Jessamine Career Technology Center; Treasurer Dexter Knight, University of Kentucky; and ACTE Region 2 Representative Kelli Dickson, Council on Post-secondary Education. Completing the 2023-24 officer corps is Secretary Sharon Collins, Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), who is serving the second year of her

For the 23nd consecutive year -- every year since its inception -- the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) was recognized as 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. KACTE received its award at the annual ACTE Career Tech Vision Conference in Phoenix Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2023.

two-year term; Past-President J.R. Drummond, Jefferson County Public Schools; and Past-Treasurer Mark Hobbs, retired from Harrison County Area Technology Center.

TWO IMPORTANT ACTIONS took place at the Annual Meeting. Several amendments to the association Bylaws specified KACTE does not participate in partisan politics, adopted the common use of “divisions” to denote the groups represented by Board vice-presidents, and clarified terms of office. Subsequently, the KACTE

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Board incorporated the revised Bylaws and amended the KACTE Policy and Procedures Handbook regarding the newly named Advocacy and Communications Committees.

The revised Bylaws and the KACTE Policy and Procedures Handbook are available on the association’s website, www.kyacte.org.

One resolution passed stating that KACTE “encourages KACTE members, CTE teachers, and CTE leaders across the Commonwealth to examine policies, procedures, instructional best practices and funding decisions to ensure children of identifiable groups have equal access to career and technical educational opportunities. We urge district leaders to think unconventionally and innovatively to serve all students regardless of race, gender, faith, learning ability, sexual orientation, geographical location, or socioeconomic status.” KACTE officers, committees, programs and tasks are to incorporate this principle into their programs of work.

Summer Program; Budget Impact

The 2023 CTE Summer Program was a success by several measures. More than 1,900 CTE teachers and administrators attended, the largest attendance in more than 10 years. The CTE Meeting Place exhibits sold out, with CTE professional associations sharing in the exhibition’s profit. The attendees rated the 2023 CTE Summer Program 4.4 (out of 5.0) as a professional development opportunity, with 90 percent grading it good or excellent.

(NOTE: The 2024 CTE Summer Program will be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville July 8-11. These dates are earlier in July due to a large, city-wide convention in Louisville during the CTE Summer Program’s usual dates. Members are asked to mark their calendars and advise colleagues of the dates.)

The 2022-23 KACTE Board adopted a 2023-24 budget of $198,420, but the financial success of the 2023 CTE Summer Program resulted in the KACTE Board being able to invest in additional member benefits and CTE professional development programs. Decisions on the distribution of funds will be finalized at the January 18, virtual KACTE Board Meeting.

Among the programs for funding are Professional Development Grants, Michael McMillan Scholarships for Pre-service Teachers, Donnalie Stratton Stipends for Middle School Teachers, Carl Perkins Assistanceship Grants, Stratton-Tipton Special Needs Scholarships, Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) support, and various member-benefit initiatives, including a special event at the 2024 CTE Summer Program.

Membership Initiatives

The 2023-24 KACTE Board met twice on September 8 in person at the FFA Leadership Training Center and virtually on November 16. The most significant action was formal adoption of a strategic plan to guide KACTE activities in fulfillment of the association’s mission. (Please see accompanying article on the strategic plan.) Within the context of finalizing the strategic plan, the Board discussed membership development. The need was explained for an “elevator speech,” that members could
use to quickly present the value of KACTE membership to prospective members and why a growing membership can impact programs and services, including the association’s standing on advocacy issues. The elevator speech is on the agenda for approval at the January 18 Board Meeting.

The Board also narrowed the focus of its recruitment efforts. It still will reach out to all CTE professionals — at all levels of instruction, middle school to postsecondary — and encourage joining the only professional association that represents and advocates for all of CTE.

Recruitment effort will concentrate on pre-service and new CTE teachers. The newly appointed student liaison to the KACTE Board, Lauren Ervin from Murray State University, is working with Teacher Educator Vice-President Angela Gott, Western Kentucky University, to increase student membership, which currently is free. The Board also discussed providing financial support for CTE pre-service teachers to attend the CTE Summer Program. Presentations at the OCTE-led New Teacher Institute will be paired with outreach to new industry-based teachers.

Supporting both initiatives is a partnership being developed with OCTE: Teach CTE Recruitment and Retention. Not only will this initiative seek to increase the number and quality of new CTE teachers, it also will address the loss of CTE teachers within the first five years of their service.

**Additional Board Action**

The 2024 Kentucky General Assembly session begins January 2 and will meet 60 days until April 15. The main task facing the legislature is adoption of a 2024-26 biennial budget. KACTE’s primary concern is maintaining the funding gains for CTE in the current budget. The KACTE Board voted to fully support a CTE funding model developed by OCTE based on full-time equivalent students. The model, if adopted, will ensure funding for all high-quality CTE programs at any middle or secondary school.

KACTE Advocacy Committee Chair Michael Miller, OCTE, is drafting statements to present to the General Assembly. One will support funding. One will support increased teacher compensation. One will support efforts to address teacher recruitment and retention. KACTE will be active educating and informing the General Assembly. KACTE is assisted by McCarthy Strategic Solutions as its registered Legislative Agent.

Unfortunately, the KACTE Fellows Leadership Program for 2023-24 was cancelled due to registration and location complications. With Christi Hack’s election as Vice-President, her co-chair position on the KACTE Leadership Committee goes to Katy Disney, Fayette County Public Schools. She joins Jodi Adams, OCTE, who remains as co-chair. The Committee is planning for a full Fellows Leadership Program cohort in 2024-25. Announcements for registration will be available in the spring 2024.

**CTSO Student Leadership Day** will mark its 22nd year in 2024. A CTSO State Officer Legislative Leadership Program led by Matt Chaliff, OCTE, will be held in Frankfort on Monday evening, February 12. The CTSO state officers will visit with General Assembly leadership and members on Tuesday, February 13. A representative of SkillsUSA will testify before both the House and Senate Education Committees.

The larger CTSO Student Leadership Day activities will be held on Tuesday. An assembly for the first 300 who complete registration will take place Tuesday morning at the Frankfort High School auditorium. The attendees will visit their legislators, may tour the State Capitol and may witness the General Assembly in session following the assembly.

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**KACTE Board Adopts Strategic Plan to Guide Mission**

With the framework developed during a 2022 retreat, the KACTE Board finalized a strategic plan during its September and November 2023 meetings. KACTE’s mission remains: “The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) will develop and provide leadership and advocacy to advance Career and Technical Education.”

The strategic plan governs KACTE’s primary activities. There are five goals, each with a set of specific objectives. Please e-mail kmstone1951@gmail.com to request the complete strategic plan matrix. The goals are:

- **MEMBERSHIP**: Increase KACTE membership through expanded knowledge of member benefits and association programs.
- **LEADERSHIP**: Provide Professional Development opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) professionals.
- **ADVOCACY**: Advocate for CTE and CTE professionals with legislators, policy makers and the community.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA/MARKETING**: Increase use of social media and expand awareness of the KACTE brand.
- **BUILDING CAPACITY**: Expand opportunities for professional involvement on KACTE Board, committees, and task forces or working groups.
**Awards and Recognition**

2023 continued KACTE’s award achievements. **Angela Gott,** who was named Kentucky Farm Bureau Career and Technical Teacher Educator of the Year in 2022, was named ACTE Region 2 Teacher Educator of the Year. She was one of five finalist for the national award presented at the CTE Career Tech Vision Conference in Phoenix, November 29-December 2.

At a special Awards Dinner held in conjunction with the 2023 CTE Summer Program, KACTE Awards Committee Chair Laura Speigelhalter announced the winners of the 2023 awards. The seven awards represented the largest group in several years and represented more program areas than previously. Each honoree will be able to enter the 2024 ACTE regional and national awards process.

**Elizabeth McGinnis,** health sciences teacher, Paul Blazer High School, was named Career and Technical Teacher of the Year.

**Phyllis Sweatt,** family and consumer sciences teacher, retired from Bowling Green High School, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Joey Norman,** principal Glasgow High School, was named Career and Technical Administrator of the Year.

**Mark Hobbs,** KACTE immediate past-treasurer who retired from Harrison County Area Technology Center, was named Teacher Educator of the Year.

**Rachel Stanfield,** counselor, Mason County High School, received the Counseling and Career Development Professional Award.

**Naomi Chamblee,** information technology teacher, Shelby County Area Technology Center, was named Career and Technical New Teacher of the Year.

**Shannon Roberts,** family and consumer sciences teacher, Mason County High School, received the Carl Perkins Community Service Award.

The second KACTE Award for Meritorious Service on Behalf of Career and Technical Education in Kentucky was presented by **Rep. James Tipton,** who chairs the Kentucky House of Representatives Education Committee. He was honored at the Awards Dinner for his long-standing support of CTE.

**Jacob Ball,** who was 2015 Kentucky Farm Bureau Career and Technical New Teacher of the Year and 2017 ACTE national New Teacher of the Year, received the 2023-24 Kentucky Milken Educator Award. The Locust Trace agriscience teacher received $25,000 with the award.

**Ariel Fader,** a senior at Ryle High School and 2023-24 national TSA treasurer, was named as one of the 104 students participating in the United States Senate Youth Program. The program is designed to enhance students’ leadership potential.

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**Earn continuing education credits at your own pace**

**Credit Courses** — 180+ online courses that cover a wide range of instructional, leadership and career guidance topics for CTE professionals. Each self-paced course takes approximately 4 hours to complete and comes with nationally recognized CEU credit. Postsecondary credit may be available.

**Advance your knowledge and skills with free resources**

**CTE Lessons** — 50+ online lessons addressing specific professional development topics for CTE teachers, staff and administrators.

**Workplace Skills Tutorials** — 20+ online tutorials covering essential workplace skills for career and technical education professionals.

**Career Ed Lounge** — 120,000+ CTE professionals sharing and learning from each other in a thriving online learning community.

**Development Tool** — Interactive online tool to help career education professionals identify, track and achieve their individual performance goals.

**Support your students with a free career success system**

**CareerPrepped** — Engage your students in virtual WBL activities to help them build, prove and showcase the essential skills in demand by employers. Provide lifelong career support through an integrated suite of self-help tools and engage alumni in a continuous improvement process.

*CTE Learn is part of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Online Learning Network. CTE Learn provides comprehensive professional development opportunities for Kentucky’s CTE community. Visit CTE Learn at: ky.ctelearn.org.*
Recognition and Inspiration
FOR CTE PROFESSIONALS

Recognize Excellence in Career and Technical Education

Nominate a colleague — or yourself — for excellent service to students and advancing CTE in Kentucky. Your nominee — or yourself — could join the long list of Kentucky CTE professionals who have received Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Award recognition at the Annual CTE Summer Program as well as recognition at Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) regional and national conferences. In 2023, Angela Gott, teacher educator at Western Kentucky University, was a finalist for national Postsecondary Teacher of the Year.

The list of awards can be viewed here: https://www.actonline.org/professional-development/acte-awards/.

Use the QR code at the left to submit a nomination. The deadline is April 1, 2024, for the new, easier award nomination process. The awards presented at the 2024 CTE Summer Program, July 8-11, at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, will not require the old “short form.” Please fill out a separate form for each nomination. Anyone may nominate themselves or another member of KACTE. The nomination period is open January 1-April 1 each year. If you would like KACTE to send an email to a colleague encouraging him or her to apply, please email: laura.spiegelhalter@jefferson.kyschools.us.

John O’Leary’s Inspirational Message Keynotes Summer Program

John O’Leary will keynote the Opening Session of the Annual CTE Summer Program at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 8 a.m. Please note that due to large conventions in Louisville, the Summer Program will be earlier than usual. Mark your calendars because you will not want to miss John’s inspiring message. Again in 2024, the CTE Summer Program will be the most comprehensive professional development event for CTE professionals. Registration for the July 7-11 event will open February 1, 2024.

In 1987, John O’Leary was a curious nine-year-old boy. Playing with fire and gasoline, John created a massive explosion in his home and was burned on 100% of his body. He was given less than a 1% chance to live. This epic story of survival (first showcased in 2008 with his parents’ acclaimed book Overwhelming Odds) has never felt more relevant.

John is the author of the #1 National Bestselling books ON FIRE and IN AWE. John is the host of the top-rated Live Inspired Podcast and a live and virtual event speaker teaching more than 50,000 people around the world each year how to live inspired. Consistently described as “the best speaker we’ve ever had” John’s emotional story-telling, unexpected humor and authenticity make each presentation unforgettable. His keynote moves from inspirational to transformational, with clients saying their teams are more focused, collaborative and engaged than ever. Plan to hear John’s message next July at the CTE Summer Program.
KACTE Scholarships and Grants
Supporting the Profession; Helping New Teachers; Enhancing Professional Development

Professional Development Grants

Discretionary Professional Development Grants are awarded based on a submitted application reviewed by a select committee of KACTE officers, staff, and OCTE and KCTCS representatives. No limit on amount that may be requested. Must contribute to member or CTE professional development.

Michael McMillen Scholarship for Pre-service Teachers
Available for student teachers pursuing CTE degree. Provides $500 to up to 15 individuals annually.

Carl Perkins Assistanceship Grant
Provides one $500 grant to a high school senior pursuing CTE coursework at a postsecondary institution, and one $500 grant to a current postsecondary CTE student. Application must be signed by a KACTE member.

Donnalie Stratton Middle School Summer Program Stipend
Provides 15, $500 stipends to middle school teachers to attend CTE Annual Summer Program. Stipend may be applied to registration fee and other expenses.

Stratton-Tipton Scholarship
This discretionary scholarship is awarded to postsecondary applicants, or applicants starting college, who are special needs students or who are studying education of special needs persons.

KACTE gives back to CTE the money made at the CTE Annual Summer Program through these member and CTE community benefits.

To obtain an application or for more information, please contact KACTE at krisstone56@gmail.com or kmstone1951@gmail.com.
KACTE Moving the Needle

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) is Moving the Needle!

“KACTE’s strong and growing membership is the foundation of its efforts to support CTE and CTE professionals like you,” 2023-24 KACTE President Josh Mitcham, Director, FFA Leadership Training Center, said in announcing his theme for the coming year. He hopes to involve all members in moving the association forward in fulfilling its mission to provide educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce. KACTE is working for CTE and for YOU.

KACTE’s advocacy helped secure a doubling of Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding by the Kentucky General Assembly. The commitment includes a contract with a registered lobbyist.

Annually, Kentucky gives back to CTE professionals and CTE pre-service teachers thousands of dollars in scholarships, stipends and grants.

KACTE’s CTE Learn on-line portal is a CTE professional development site, with some courses offering transferable college credit.

KACTE’s professional development commitment includes managing the logistics of the Annual CTE Summer Program. It offers leadership development through the KACTE Fellows Leadership Program.

KACTE communicates with information sharing on its website, www.kyacte.org, member e-blasts, and social media.

KACTE’s annual awards program recognizes members, CTE professionals, and CTE champions for outstanding accomplishments.

Thank you for your support of KACTE and its mission, programs, and services.

Highlights of KACTE’s Member Benefits show what’s in KACTE for CTE career professionals.

KACTE Member Benefits

- Legislative Advocacy — KACTE is the only Kentucky association representing all CTE levels and pathways before both the U.S. Congress and the Kentucky General Assembly. A contract with a Kentucky Legislative Agent helps educate legislators.
- Professional Learning opportunities, include the Annual CTE Summer Program.
- On-line professional development through CTE Learn.
- Leadership Skills development, including the KACTE Fellows Leadership Program.
- Teaching Resources and access to ACTE’s best practices database, podcasts and more.
- Information sharing at conferences, by e-mail blasts, and through mailed communication to members.
- Recognition and Awards for outstanding effort at work or for contributions to CTE and the community.
- Support of Student Organizations, including the annual Student Leadership Day in Frankfort.
- KACTE’s Website, www.kyacte.org; Facebook page, @kyacte; and on Twitter, @kyacte.
- ACTE’s Techniques Magazine, the premier CTE publication.
- Several scholarship, stipend, and grant programs to support pre-service teachers, professional development, enhancing partnerships, and furthering CTE in Kentucky.
KACTE Welcomes New Members

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) has moved forward with new technology to collect dues and recruit new members. The implementation began at the beginning of 2023, and fine tuning of the process is ongoing. Membership applications now is a paperless process.

KACTE is growing within the Kentucky CTE community and KACTE wants you to be part of that growth! KACTE offers its members many resources for leadership, advocacy, communication, and professional development.

A special rate of $99 is offered for a first-year, first-time professional membership. Please click on this link keacte.memberclicks.net/newmembership-application#!/ to set up a member profile which includes a user name and password. Once your profile is completed, an invoice will be generated to pay either online with a credit card or print and send a check or purchase order.

Agriculture and Family & Consumer Sciences Dues: Please know that at this time, Agriculture and Family & Consumer Sciences will continue to collect their member dues at the CTE Summer Program. If you are a member of one of these groups, you will also receive an invoice for your dues during the year. Please contact either brandon.davis@education.ky.gov for Agriculture or kayla.howard@education.ky.gov for Family and Consumer Sciences to pay your dues.

You also may use the QR code below to access the online new membership application and dues paying procedure (credit cards are accepted).
Legislators Talk Money, Policy at Preview Conference

The amount of money in the Kentucky Budget Reserve Fund, approaching $4 billion, is the largest in history, but that does not necessarily mean the General Assembly will increase appropriations. Speakers at the 2024 Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Legislative Preview Conference in Lexington on Nov. 13 emphasized the need to maintain a significant balance in the account. Most of the speakers, primarily Republican members of the General Assembly, pledged to follow the plan to eliminate the state income tax.

The two priorities to maintain the reserve fund and lower the income tax means increased spending must be a documented need. Some of the reserve fund balance is a result of one-time federal dollars received during and after the pandemic. The speakers voiced concern not to spend money on new, recurring programs with the one-time money, which would force future legislatures to find ways to continue the programs either by raising taxes or cutting other expenditures.

House Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chair Jason Petrie asked the attendees to remember three principles: 1) maintain the reserve fund; 2) understand one-time money and recurring expenditures; and 3) know the difference between needs and wants. There must be structural balance.

Knowing this, advocates for increased spending are trying to identify items that can be funded with the one-time money, such as construction.

**TWO AREAS SINGLED OUT** by several speakers for funding consideration are pensions and education. Although improving and on a positive track, it will be several years before the state pension funds will exceed liabilities. The Teachers Retirement Fund (TRF) has assets of almost $25 billion. TRF officials are asking for $1.3 and $1.5 billion funding in the respective years of the biennium.

Funding education received a lot of support. Senate Education Committee Chair Sen. Stephen West said the first priority in the 2024 General Assembly session that begins Jan. 2 is to pass the biennial budget. He added that the legislature made significant investments in education the past few years, and noted education represents 60 percent of the state budget.

**KACTE Develops Position Statements for ’24 Session**

The 2024 Kentucky General Assembly 60-day session will begin Jan. 2 and continue until April 15. The legislature’s primary job during the long session is passing a 2024-26 biennial budget. The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) will work to inform and educate all legislators on the on-going needs for Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Led by Advocacy Committee Chair Michael Miller, administrative consultant, Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), KACTE will work with its contract legislative agent, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, to advance CTE in Kentucky. The KACTE Board at its Sept. 8 and Nov. 16 meetings approved:

- Supporting a CTE secondary funding model proposed by OCTE and accepted for introduction by legislators. Under the bill to be filed, schools will receive funding for high-quality CTE programs of study. Most of the funding will be distributed based on student full-time enrollment in CTE. There will be incentive funding based on attaining various measures. The model can fund any CTE program at any school that meets high-quality standards. Information on high-quality CTE standards can be found at: [https://www.actonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/](https://www.actonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/).
- Advocating for continuing funding of CTE at both the secondary and postsecondary levels at the increased amounts approved in the 2022-24 biennial budget.
- Providing support for legislation to address CTE teacher recruitment and retention. It is anticipated Rep. James Tipton, Chair, House Education Committee, is preparing a bill to address the issue. Miller was tasked with developing a statement in support of recruitment and retention that will include documentation of the need to increase teacher salaries.
- Advocating for any legislation that will fund CTE school construction or maintenance.

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Legislators Talk Money, Policy at Preview Conference

House Education Committee Chair Rep. James Tipton said education is a workforce issue. “To have a productive workforce, we need an education system that prepares students,” he said. Saying that a lot of states around Kentucky have raised teacher salaries, Kentucky will have to respond. He also cited increasing pension funding, support for Career and Technical Education (CTE), raising school transportation funding, and raising the SEEK formula level would be on the legislature’s agenda.

To address the workforce shortage, West said education needs to, “focus on the core mission; get K-12 back to the core mission: reading, writing and arithmetic.” Tipton also said there need to be more adults in the workforce and to prepare for the workforce of tomorrow steps must be taken now.

West’s statements on consideration of a constitutional amendment to advance school choice were echoed in later panels by House Majority Floor Leader Stephen Rudy and Speaker of the House David Osborne. “In all other areas, you have choice; why not education,” West said. Tipton said he was all for choice, but noted parents now have the choice to send their students across district lines. “School choice is out there,” he said. What he urged was more flexibility for schools to innovate. “Allowing flexibility is critical,” he explained. “There are too many regulations and rules that prevent schools from innovating.”

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Chris McDaniel somewhat agreed with Tipton’s position. In considering increases to the SEEK formula, “leave the ability for local districts to make their decisions,” he said. “Fund SEEK with as much flexibility as possible.”

Senate President Robert Stivers indicated the legislature will consider changes to post-secondary education. SJR98 passed in the 2023 session calls for a review of postsecondary education, including the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and whether a new, regional university should be located in Pikeville. The studies will be released fully in December.

Closing the conference was Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear. Among the proposals he cited that the governor will present are increasing teacher pay, universal pre-kindergarten, and spending $100 million on CTE construction projects.

CTE Is a Model of Federal-State Partnership

Financially, federal support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) is less than 10 percent of CTE funding nationwide. Like Kentucky, CTE is funded mostly by state and local appropriations.

It was not too long ago that some education policy advocates considered eliminating CTE programs. The focus was on baccalaureate degrees, ignoring the necessity of the foundational and infrastructure jobs educated through CTE. The incentive of federal dollars kept CTE in place, and federal oversight spurred quality and innovation.

In a recent letter to the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell wrote, “America’s continued prosperity relies on a well-educated workforce. . . I supported the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act.” He noted CTE programs can help address the skills gap.

The implementation of CTE is a state and local responsibility. In recent years, recognition of the foundational and infrastructure importance of CTE has raised its profile. The states and localities have stressed quality instruction and innovation, in addition to providing the bulk of CTE funding.

What this amounts to is the very model of a federal-state program. The federal government sets the overarching policy for the nation; the state and local governments implement that policy in the best interest of their economy and citizens. CTE works!

CTE State Advisory Committee

The CTE State Advisory Committee met Nov. 20 and began with positive comments about CTE from Interim Commissioner of Education Robin Kinney. OCTE Division Director Tom Thompson advised a CTE marketing campaign will debut during CTE Month in February. Division Director for Technical Schools and Continuous Improvement Larry Garrity introduced a theme for CTE: Train Today . . . Own Tomorrow.

Policy Adviser Regan Satterwhite updated the committee on the status of a legislative proposal to codify a secondary CTE funding formula. She said the increased CTE funding in the 2022-24 biennial budget addressed adequacy of funding. The proposal will address equity. The proposed funding model will equalize Area Technology Center/Local Career Technology Center funding per student and emphasize high-quality instructional resources.

She said there is progress with the General Assembly. There are committed sponsors in both the House and Senate. OCTE is working to build support among education associations.

Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis said OCTE is moving away from the Local Area Vocational Education Center label. The Department of Education budget request includes funding of four regional CTE consultants and for Junior ROTC. There will be support for viable teacher recruitment and retention alternatives.