

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



As president of ACTE's board of directors, I'm honored to present our 2025 Annual Report.

This year challenged our community in ways we didn't anticipate, yet it also revealed the strength and resilience that define career and technical education.

The federal policy landscape shifted dramatically with the start of the second Trump Administration, requiring swift advocacy and clear communication about how policy changes would affect CTE programs and the students we serve. Through it all, I'm inspired by how our community responded. When federal agencies restructured Perkins administration, ACTE mobilized to minimize disruptions. When new regulations created uncertainty, we gathered feedback, submitted detailed comments, and worked directly with lawmakers to protect program integrity. This is advocacy in action — not just speaking up for CTE but ensuring practitioners' voices shape the policies that govern our work.

Further, ACTE continued its core mission of supporting professional growth. We achieved record membership, reaching more than **30,000** members for the first time in two decades. We expanded leadership development programs, strengthened resources for rural CTE and justice-involved learners, and deepened our commitment to ensuring all students have access to transformative CTE experiences.

The pages that follow detail the partnerships formed, the resources developed, the events hosted, and the impact measured. What they can't fully capture is the dedication of educators who show up every day to prepare students for meaningful careers and purposeful lives.

As we approach ACTE's centennial in 2026, I'm confident that our association remains vital, relevant, and ready to meet the evolving needs of the CTE community. Thank you for your commitment to this work and to the students whose futures depend on it. The workforce will be stronger because of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Torres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Robert "Bobby" Torres
President
ACTE Board of Directors

FEDERAL POLICY ACTIVITY

The federal education policy environment has seen a whirlwind of activity with the start of the second Trump Administration. After Congress passed a continuing resolution in March to fund the government for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 through September, our focus shifted to the FY 2026 appropriations bills. In May, President Trump released his FY 2026 budget request. While the Administration requested level funding for Perkins State Grants, it proposed cutting \$12 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Education (ED) and significant reductions at the Department of Labor (DOL) as well.

In July, the Senate Committee on Appropriations released and approved its FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The bill provided level funding to Perkins State Grants and did not include the major cuts requested by the Trump Administration; funding was maintained for several programs, such as adult education, that the Administration had sought to cut.

The House Committee on Appropriations presented its funding bill in September, recommending significant cuts to discretionary funding for ED and DOL. In positive news for CTE, the bill proposed a \$25 million increase for the Perkins State Grant. The House and Senate failed to come to a funding agreement for this and other appropriations bills before the beginning of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, which led to the longest federal government shutdown in history. As Congress resumes, ACTE is coordinating and meeting with lawmakers to ensure that Perkins and other critical funding streams remain intact.

In other significant news this year, President Trump signed a budget reconciliation bill on

July 4 after months of negotiation between the House and the Senate. Along with revisions to student loans and other federal student aid, the bill expanded Pell Grant eligibility for short-term training programs — one of ACTE's long-standing priorities. ED has convened two negotiated rulemaking committees to outline how the Department will implement Workforce Pell, student loan changes and other provisions. ACTE, in partnership with Advance CTE, submitted comments to the Department on Aug. 28 with recommendations on the implementation of Workforce Pell, and they nominated a CTE representative to serve on the negotiated rulemaking committee. Draft regulations are likely to be released in the spring of 2026, and we will be following closely to provide additional input.

Over the summer, ED began implementing a plan to outsource Perkins and adult education funds to the DOL through an interagency agreement (IAA) that was signed in May by the two agencies. While ED maintains statutory authority over the programs, the administration of Perkins funds has been shifted to DOL. ACTE and Advance CTE released a statement expressing our concern with the move and will continue working with lawmakers and federal agency staff to reduce administrative issues as the transition continues.

In July, ED announced a new notice of interpretation on using federal funds to serve undocumented immigrants. The notice interprets many postsecondary education programs, including programs and activities funded by Perkins V, as providing federal public benefits under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act and thereby subject to citizenship verification requirements under that law. In response to this notice as well as the IAA and other federal actions, ACTE

released a survey to gauge how these actions are potentially affecting CTE programs, and we conducted direct outreach with lawmakers. We submitted questions to ED, alongside other groups, seeking clarity on how the new guidance would be implemented. At the time of writing, the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island has issued a preliminary injunction, halting the implementation of this notice in some places.

Throughout the year, President Trump signed a series of executive orders related to education and the workforce, including promoting AI education for K–12 students and expanding Registered Apprenticeship programs. Based on these orders, the Administration released its AI Action Plan in July, and the Departments of Education, Labor, and Commerce jointly released their workforce development strategy blueprint in August, involving CTE, workforce development, skills training, and more.

Other key activities over the year included introducing the CTE Month congressional resolutions, endorsing several CTE-related bills such as the College Transparency Act and the JOBS Act, and attending hearings on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act reauthorization, career readiness, AI in K–12 education, and more.

ACTE also submitted comments to ED about gainful employment regulations, research needs and Department of Education Sec. McMahon's supplemental grant priorities. In addition, we sent letters opposing the inclusion of federal vouchers in the budget reconciliation bill and expressing concern over the mass firings and contract cancellations at the Institute of Education Sciences.

MEMBERSHIP

ACTE introduced a rebranding of its “organization membership” structure to better meet the needs of the time. The new “positional group membership” category offers a dynamic and inclusive membership model that assigns benefits to job roles rather than individuals. This approach offers institutions continuity, scalability, and simplified renewals and has driven significant membership growth in states like Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

ACTE achieved a record-setting membership milestone in September 2025: 30,496 members, the highest in the past 20 years.

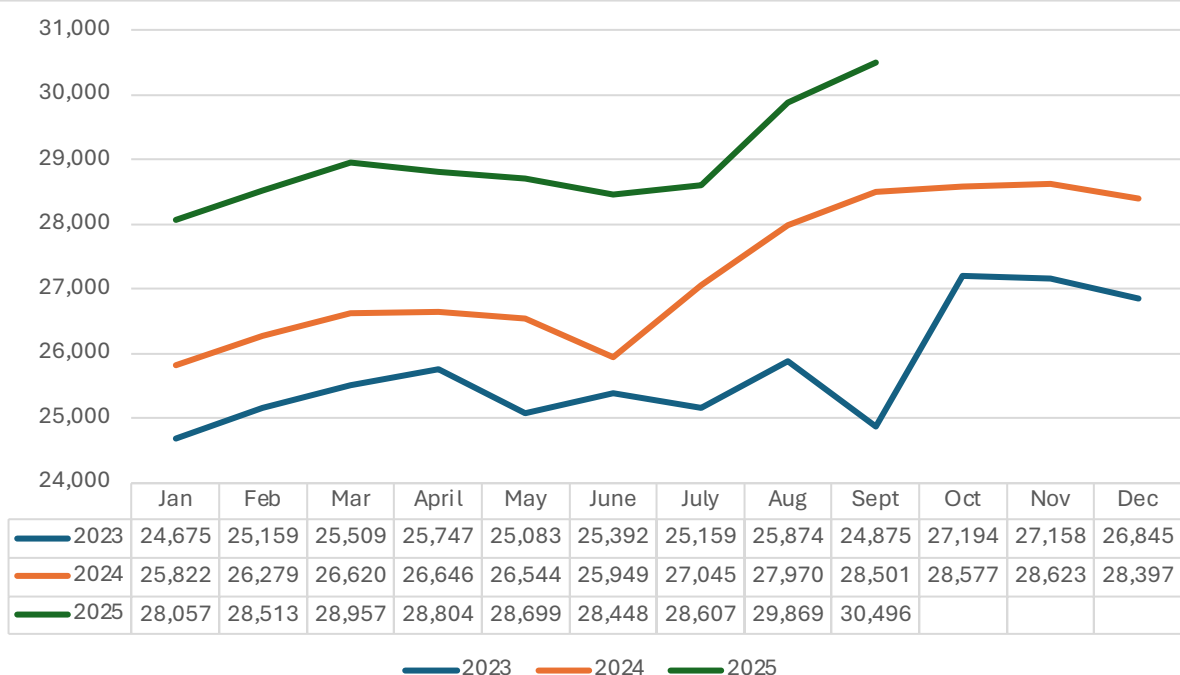
This year ACTE celebrated the elevation of CTE for All to full division status, following a surge in membership in just one year. This milestone highlights ACTE’s dedication to supporting all learners through inclusive programming and leadership development.

A standout new benefit is ACTE’s partnership with MemberDeals, which offers exclusive discounts on entertainment, travel and lifestyle services. This program adds everyday value to ACTE membership and has become a favorite among educators.

The updated New State Leader Guide, along with the ongoing New State Association Leaders Webinar Series, provides valuable support to state associations amid an increase in new state leaders. Enhancements have also been made to the State Association Annual Report application,

improving its user-friendliness. In addition, the Quality Association Standards now offer three tiers of recognition — Gold, Silver and Bronze — which were created in collaboration with a National Executive Directors Association committee. These improvements underscore ACTE’s dedication to fostering strong leadership and promoting ongoing progress in state associations.

This year, ACTE continued to grow membership in its online community groups. These communities allow members to network with peers, share best practices and find resources. Members can collaborate and connect at any time and in any place. In addition to the online presence, they are invited to attend in-person networking events at ACTE’s CareerTech VISION.



MEDIA

Throughout the year, ACTE worked to increase awareness and promote the benefits of high-quality CTE by engaging with social media and traditional media outlets. This outreach included press releases, feature articles, interviews, and contributed quotes on federal policy, CTE research, college and career pathways, apprenticeships, and member advocacy.

With the onset of the second Trump Administration and a flurry of federal policy changes, ACTE collaborated extensively with members and high-profile news outlets to ensure that accurate information on CTE policy was distributed in a timely manner. This year, ACTE staff were quoted in the Associated Press, *The Hill*, *US News & World Report*, *Forbes*, *Education Week* and *Fortune*, among other outlets.

In late September, ACTE conducted a media tour in Alabama, visiting CTE programs across the state along with local policymakers, school board members and representatives from Alabama ACTE. We engaged with students, educators and leaders at eight locations, highlighting a wide variety of high-quality CTE programs. The tour was featured in several local news outlets.

ACTE collaborated with congressional offices to promote CTE at the federal level and was asked to provide public endorsements for critical pieces of legislation. For example, Executive Director LeAnn Curry was quoted in statements calling for increases in federal funding for CTE, supporting legislation that would strengthen career counseling in middle and high schools, and sharing the House and Senate CTE Month resolutions.

New Professional Learning Opportunities

ACTE has identified rural CTE and support for justice-involved learners as two specific areas of need, and we are making a concerted effort to engage and provide dynamic and relevant professional learning.

- A rural CTE community of practice was launched in early 2025, and they have held several successful online meetings and webinars. Rural CTE will enjoy a full track of focused sessions at VISION as well as a best-practices roundtable session and a networking opportunity.
- ACTE is developing a partnership with the Correctional Education Association to increase the content offered to educators of justice-involved learners. In addition to a limited session track at VISION, they will be given an opportunity to share feedback on professional learning to be offered by ACTE in the future.

There are other areas of focus on the horizon. We are evaluating the landscape of middle grades CTE and identifying content needs for that group, and we are discussing ways to provide more and improved resources to those who work as teacher educators, instructional coaches and resource specialists.

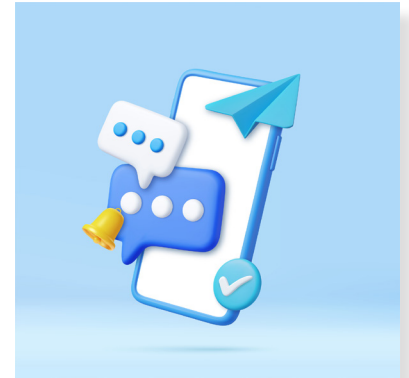


SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the past year, ACTE has continued to strengthen its online presence and foster meaningful engagement across all platforms. Through ongoing campaigns, timely updates, and resource sharing, our social channels remain an active space for members and nonmembers to stay connected to ACTE's mission and initiatives.

This year's efforts included promoting key events, publications and professional

development opportunities, as well as celebrating CTE Month with engaging community-driven content. By continuing to highlight educator voices, member success stories and opportunities across the CTE landscape, ACTE's social media platforms serve as a hub for awareness, collaboration and connection within the CTE community.



@actecareertech

Facebook

Total Followers: **11,111**

Engagements: **8,808**

Clicks: **1,064**

Organic Impressions: **216,100**



@actecareertech1

Instagram

Total Followers: **2,221**

Likes: **1,402**

Comments: **336**

Views: **33,053**



@actecareertech

@ACTEpolicy

X

Total Followers: **19,217**

Total Clicks: **748**

Retweets: **385**

Impressions: **61,612**



Search "ACTE"

LinkedIn

Total Followers: **11,935**

Impressions: **216,456**

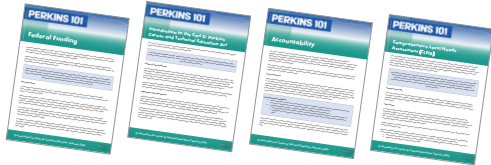
Clicks: **8,194**

Engagements: **14,066**



PUBLICATIONS

ACTE continues to develop resources to support CTE. This year we focused our attention on publications that help people new to the CTE system to better understand, collaborate with and leverage CTE for the benefit of all.

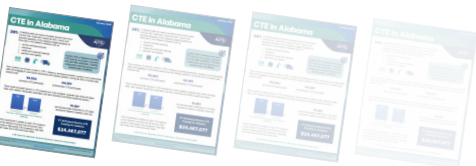


In February, we published the [Perkins 101](#) series that describes, in an easy-to-understand manner, the components of Perkins V legislation for anyone new to the purpose, importance and impact of this federal law. This set of four briefs introduces the law and explains provisions related to funding, accountability and the comprehensive local needs assessment.



Later in the year, ACTE launched CTE 101, a microsite aimed at helping staff and partners new to CTE to

better understand and collaborate with CTE programs. The first section of the microsite, [CTE 101 for Counselors](#), is sponsored by Xello and includes information about CTE, Perkins and career exploration that school counselors need in order to help students and families make informed choices to meet their goals. We're working on another section for education administrators, set to launch in 2026.



ACTE continued to publish annual updates to our What is CTE? and CTE Works! fact sheets and the [State Fact Sheets](#) that highlight the CTE system in each state. We also published our



annual [State Policies Impacting CTE: Year in Review](#) report and tracker, in collaboration with Advance CTE.



TEACH CTE

We created a new resource, [Strategies to Support Special Populations in CTE](#), to provide CTE practitioners with access to strategies, tips and examples to support students in special population groups as designated by Perkins V, and we continued to add resources to our [High-Quality CTE Library](#) and [Teach CTE repository](#). Meanwhile, the CTE Policy Watch blog remains an important source for advocates on the latest news about federal CTE and education policy as well as CTE data and research. The blog averaged around 11,000 page views per month in 2025.

As we seek to better serve the CTE community, **Techniques** magazine has introduced fresh content formats and expanded coverage to showcase the vibrant work happening in classrooms across the nation.

What's new in Techniques?

1. From practice to print

Our new case study format brings real-world CTE stories and industry events to life, offering key takeaways you can apply in your programs right away.



2. Through the Lens of CTE

This vibrant addition to Techniques showcases the dynamic, hands-on nature of CTE classrooms across the country through compelling imagery.



3. Submitting content with ease

SUBMIT

We streamlined the proposal process with a digital submission form. This makes it easier for educators and industry experts to share their success stories and innovative practices.



RESEARCH

ACTE continued to conduct and support research and evaluation for CTE throughout 2025.

This year, as part of our [ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework](#) initiative, we established criteria for the System Supports element. This is a companion element to our scoreable framework and self-assessment that describes systemwide policies that create a foundation enabling individual programs of study to achieve quality. In addition, we fielded a survey to assess interest from users about other supports around the Framework and to gauge how proposed plans to update the Framework could impact users.

ACTE also conducted a series of focus groups in partnership with UMass Chan Medical School about supports and resources for CTE instructors teaching students with behavioral health challenges. We also worked with CAST and the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation to field a survey and host a listening session

around developing a CTE Accessibility Hub that will offer free, high-quality supports to help educators increase access to learning environments across all CTE pathways.

ACTE continued to contribute technical assistance and subject matter expertise to a variety of projects, including one with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, investigating the role of AI in CTE programs and related careers; a project evaluating the Virtual Enterprises International program; and a project with Manhattan Strategy Group supporting the recipients of Perkins Innovation and Modernization grants. ACTE staff also served on advisory committees for the College Board and NOCTI.

Last but not least, ACTE deployed surveys, focus groups and listening sessions at CareerTech VISION to seek feedback from event attendees and different segments of our membership about how we could better meet their needs.

ACTE contracted with the nationally recognized research firm Education Northwest to research and evaluate how ACTE's NextLevel Postsecondary CTE Fellowship has significantly impacted the leadership, management skills and professional networks of emerging postsecondary CTE administrators since its launch in 2019. The evaluation showed that fellows reported increased confidence, career advancement and institutional impact. The evaluation recommended that the program would benefit from intensified marketing efforts, diversifying funding sources — including institutional and third-party sponsorships — and clearly communicating the program's unique benefits to fellows, institutions and sponsors to ensure long-term viability. Sustaining NextLevel is seen as vital not only for professional development but also for expanding ACTE's reach into higher education and fostering a more connected postsecondary CTE community.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2025, ACTE continued to strengthen engagement with members and the broader CTE community through a dynamic mix of digital marketing and strategic communications.

Digital Outreach and Platform Utilization

- From Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025, ACTE distributed emails and newsletters via Constant Contact to more than 5 million contacts, achieving an average open rate of 44% — 8% above the industry benchmark.
- ACTE expanded its reach through the Feathr marketing platform, growing its audience from 600,000+ in 2024 to more than 800,000 individuals in 2025; this was made possible through the implementation of Super Pixel code via Google Tag Manager.
- We hosted several ad retargeting campaigns to promote attendance at ACTE events including CareerTech VISION, the National Policy Seminar, the Work-Based Learning Conference and the Postsecondary CTE Summit.
- We also conducted membership and sponsorship campaigns for ACTE's Administration and Engineering & Technology Education Divisions, CompTIA, Express, ImBlaze of Big Picture Learning, and NCCER.



Engagement Campaigns and Contests

- ACTE hosted its Centennial Merch Design Contest and the CTE Month and NASA HUNCH Student Video Challenge. The contests attracted 50 merchandise design submissions and 35 student video entries.
 - CTE Month–NASA HUNCH 2024–25 Student Video Challenge winners:
 - Middle School: Dade Middle School, Georgia
 - High School: Columbia Area Career Center, Missouri
 - Postsecondary: Porterville College, California
 - Centennial Merchandise Contest Winner: Lyla Pennington, Tennessee High School, Tennessee



Centennial Celebration Planning

- ACTE laid the groundwork for its 2026 centennial celebration by developing a suite of design assets, launching a dedicated microsite, curating archival materials, initiating a microdocumentary project and crafting a comprehensive marketing strategy.

Comprehensive Communications Strategy

- ACTE promoted conferences, leadership and award programs, membership benefits, and public policy resources through a robust array of channels, including ACTE News, Techniques magazine, SmartBrief publications, social media, ad retargeting, direct mail, print and digital advertising, email marketing, monthly membership reports, quarterly division and region newsletters, presentations, and more.

EVENTS

ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2025

VISION 2025, held in Nashville, Tennessee, brought together thousands of career and technical education professionals, business leaders and industry experts for the nation's largest annual CTE conference. This premier event offered an energizing mix of learning, networking and celebration.

- Meaningful opportunities to connect with peers and expand one's professional network
- Inspiring keynote presentations from Amanda Brinkman and Chris Gardner
- More than 400 concurrent sessions covering teaching and classroom strategies, curriculum design, methods for improving student success, and more
- A bustling expo hall with more than 300 exhibitors showcasing the latest CTE products and services
- Preconference workshops on focused CTE topics and local tours spotlighting model CTE programs and high-demand career pathways
- The ACTE Awards Gala, honoring outstanding educators, programs and organizations
- Companion events including:
 - Coalition for Workforce Development Through CTE Summit
 - Law and Public Safety Education Network National Conference
 - National Association of Agricultural Educators Convention

Join us **Dec. 2–5** in New Orleans for ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2026, a historic celebration marking 100 years of connecting education and careers.

National Policy Seminar 2025

ACTE's National Policy Seminar 2025, in Arlington, Virginia, brought together CTE professionals and advocates to engage in key federal CTE policy priorities. Attendees gained valuable insights into effective advocacy strategies and explored ways to strengthen CTE programs nationwide.

- In-depth sessions on key federal CTE policy issues and advocacy strategies
- Engaging programming on Capitol Hill, including meetings with legislators and a special evening event spotlighting career and technical student organizations
- A closing-day forum featuring national CTE leaders discussing policies, challenges and opportunities surrounding apprenticeships

Join us **March 22–25** back in Arlington, Virginia, for NPS 2026 — a milestone gathering as we celebrate ACTE's 100th birthday.

Work-Based Learning Conference 2025

ACTE's Work-Based Learning Conference took place on Seattle's Eastside in Bellevue, Washington. As ACTE's fastest-growing event, the WBL Conference delivered focused professional development tailored for WBL professionals and featured Christopher R. Nesmith, superintendent of Elma School District, as the keynote speaker. Featured topics included:

- Building and sustaining strong partnerships
- Navigating insurance and workers' compensation regulations
- Designing impactful internships, job shadows and apprenticeship programs
- Launching innovative WBL initiatives
- Advocating for WBL and strategies to market and expand your program

Join us **April 29–May 1** in Providence, Rhode Island, for WBL Conference 2026.

Best Practices 2025

The Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference, with content tailored for CTE administrators, took place in St. Louis, Missouri. It was co-hosted by ACTE and the National Council of Local Administrators. Participants attended a variety of specialized workshops and tours, keynote presentations, and breakout and roundtable sessions. Topics included:

- Instructional leadership
- Mentoring CTE teachers
- Marketing your district
- Tech skills and CTE
- Business and industry partnerships

Join us **Oct. 6–8** in Denver, Colorado, for a signature event for CTE administrators.

Postsecondary CTE Summit 2025

ACTE's Postsecondary CTE Summit continues to be the premier event dedicated to postsecondary CTE. The fourth annual summit was held in Austin, Texas, and brought together educators, administrators and workforce partners from across the country for an energizing exchange of ideas and innovation. Summit highlights included:

- Emerging technologies shaping postsecondary CTE
- Strategies for building future-ready programs and partnerships
- Insightful sessions led by national thought leaders and practitioners
- Networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration and growth

Join us **Sept. 16–18** in Arlington, Virginia, for Postsecondary CTE Summit 2026.

SUPPORTING OUR VALUED REGION AND STATE PARTNERS IN CTE

ACTE supports our regions and key partners by actively participating in and providing support for the region events across the country. Additionally, ACTE is honored to participate in state and partner events, where we learn about the most pressing issues that CTE educators face, share timely legislative updates, and highlight the latest information about professional development and member benefits. These are vital touchpoints that strengthen our collective mission and foster collaboration across the CTE community. Included is a sampling of where we went in 2025.

- 2025 ACTE of Arizona and Arizona CTE Administrators Midwinter Leadership Conference
- 2025 All Ohio Conference
- 2025 Colorado ACTE CareerTech Summit
- 2025 Hawaii ACTE Conference
- 2025 Indiana ACTE State Conference
- 2025 Making Schools Work Conference
- 2025 Minnesota ACTE for All Conference
- 2025 Texas Industrial Vocational Association Summer Professional Development Conference
- 2025 West Virginia ACTE Conference
- Advance CTE 2025 Spring and Fall Meetings
- Alabama ACTE Summer Conference
- Alaska ACTE Professional Development Conference 2025
- Arkansas CTE Summer Conference 2025
- American Association of Community Colleges Workforce Development Institute
- Arizona CTE Summer Conference
- Arkansas ACTE Summer Conference

- Automate 2025
- Career & Technical Association of Texas Summer Conference 2025
- Career and Technical Education Consortium of States COP 2025
- Career Technical Educators of Idaho Summer Conference 2025
- Coalition on Adult Basic Education 2025 National Conference
- Educating for Careers Conference
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference
- Florida ACTE Summer Conference
- FYI 2025 — Find Your Inspiration, sponsored by South Carolina ACTE
- Georgia ACTE 78th Annual Summer Conference
- Illinois ACTE Annual Conference
- Iowa ACTE Transforming Opportunities in CTE
- Institute for CTE Educators
- International Builders' Show

- International Technology and Engineering Educators Association Annual Conference
- Kansas ACTE Summer Conference 2025
- Kentucky CTE Summer Program
- Maine CTE State Conference
- Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators Connecting for Success Conference
- Maryland Career and Technical Administrators Annual Professional Development Institute
- Michigan Career Education Conference
- Mississippi ACTE Summer Conference 2025
- Missouri ACTE Summer Conference 2025
- Montana ACTE Fall Institute 2025
- National Coordinating Council — Career and Technical Student Organizations meetings
- National Academies Foundation Annual Conference
- National FFA Convention & Expo
- Nebraska ACTE Conference 2025
- Nevada ACTE Summer Conference 2025

- New Mexico ACTE Conference
- North Dakota CTE Professional Development Conference 2025
- North Carolina CTE Summer Conference
- Ohio ACTE Legislative Seminar
- Oklahoma Summit
- Oregon ACTE Conference 2025
- Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators Pathways to Career Readiness Symposium
- Rhode Island State Conference
- SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference
- South Carolina Education and Business Summit
- South Dakota ACTE Summer Conference
- Utah ACTE Annual Conference 2025
- Virginia ACTE Professional Development and Leadership Seminar 2025
- Washington ACTE Summer Conference 2025
- Wyoming ACTE Conference 2025

AWARDS

Excellence



Teacher of the Year

Nickolas Lebo – Austin, Texas



Administrator of the Year

Rhonda Samples – Gainesville, Georgia



Teacher Educator of the Year

April Blackwell – Pryor, Oklahoma



Postsecondary Professional of the Year

Jennifer Kline – Erie, Pennsylvania



New Teacher of the Year

Wyatt Gerth – Bartlesville, Oklahoma



Counseling and Career Development Professional Award

Shelley Kaler – Pell City, Alabama



Lifetime Achievement Award

Cindy Stover – Lincoln, Illinois



Carl Perkins Community Service Award

Troy Reichart – Guernsey, Wyoming

Impact



Business-Education Partnership Awards

Fullerton Tool Company



Hillwood, A Perot Company



Champion for CTE

Bryan Fix
Klamath Falls, Oregon



CTE STUDENTS STAND OUT

ACTE is proud to announce that Alex Tang from Westview High School in San Diego, California, was the winner of our 10th annual student trophy design contest. Tang is taught by Xin Mathers. The contest is sponsored by ACTE and Stratasys Ltd., a manufacturer of 3D printers and production systems.

Alex Tang will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and his school will receive a free one-year lease of a 3D printer, courtesy of Stratasys Ltd. Tang, a sophomore and member of the Engineering Club, is a passionate STEM student whose journey began with LEGO and grew into a love for robotics. Inspired by this competition, he is more motivated than ever to pursue a future in mechanical engineering.

LEADERSHIP

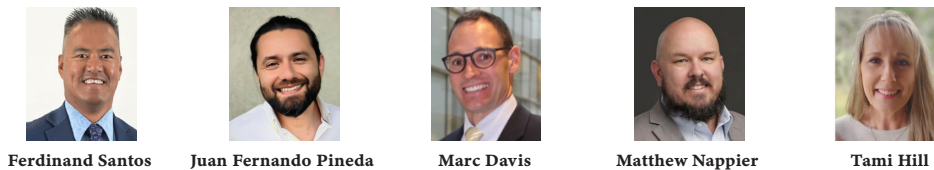
ACTE National Leadership Fellowship Program

The [ACTE National Leadership Fellowship Program](#) is a yearlong leadership development opportunity designed to cultivate leadership skills among CTE professionals. The program supports both seasoned educators and emerging professionals, equipping fellows with the leadership, advocacy, and policy competencies necessary to advance CTE and actively engage with ACTE initiatives. Representation in the program spans all five ACTE regions, along with select divisions. The program coordinators are Doug Major, Ed.D., and Dawn Lindsley, Ed.D.



NextLevel Postsecondary CTE Leadership Program

The NextLevel Postsecondary CTE Leadership Program remains a key initiative in developing leadership capacity within postsecondary career and technical education. The program offers a structured yet personal experience that helps fellows strengthen interpersonal communication, collaboration, problem-solving and resource management skills. In 2025, ACTE supported five fellows as they worked on institutional improvement plans. The eighth cohort is scheduled to be announced in January 2026.



CTE for All Mentorship Program

The [CTE for All Mentorship Program](#) is a yearlong program designed to foster a learning environment wherein all participants feel welcomed, valued and supported in their CTE journey. The program supports personal career development, encourages collaboration, and promotes lifelong learning among mentors and mentees. Proudly sponsored by IMAGO, ACTE values their continued partnership, contributions, and support of this program. This year, the program engaged nine mentees and 17 mentors.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ACTE launched a major gifts campaign in 2025 to cultivate high-impact philanthropic support for national initiatives in CTE. The campaign aims to secure investments from corporations, foundations and individual donors to advance ACTE's mission, including workforce development, programming and educator support. Throughout the year, ACTE developed concept papers, outreach strategies and tracking systems to coordinate efforts. Several campaign concepts were finalized for funder engagement, and staff collaborated on proposal letters, budget alignment and strategic messaging. The campaign also informed ACTE's broader sponsorship and partnership planning, including coordination of a convening of national private foundations at VISION and outreach to philanthropic organizations.

From January through October, the Strategic Partnerships team participated in more than 120 meetings with current and potential partners, including corporations, foundations, associations and education institutions. These engagements supported a wide variety of initiatives, including sponsorships, collaborative programming, grant-funded projects, and strategic alignment with ACTE's professional development and membership services.

Key partnership activities included:

- **Postsecondary CTE support:** ACTE continued its work with the ECMC Foundation to evaluate the impact of the NextLevel Fellowship program, now in its seventh year. Staff coordinated onboarding for new fellows, supported alumni engagement and developed programming for the Postsecondary CTE Summit. Sponsorships were secured for a podcast series and preconference events, and ACTE worked with consultants and vendors to refine content and logistics.
- **School study visits:** ACTE hosted two national school study tours in partnership with West-MEC and Kirkwood Community College. These visits engaged educators and sponsors in immersive learning experiences and were supported by logistics planning, catering coordination and promotional outreach. Planning is underway for future visits.
- **Coalition engagement:** The Coalition for Workforce Development Through CTE expanded its membership and programming,

hosting monthly professional development webinars, operations workgroup calls, and committee meetings. ACTE supported the coalition's summit planning with site visits, sponsorship outreach and agenda development.

- **Corporate sponsorships:** ACTE renewed and expanded sponsorship agreements with several corporate members, including Xello, Pearson, McGraw Hill and others. Staff developed customized sponsorship flyers for ACTE divisions and regions, coordinated exhibit sales, and supported promotional campaigns for VISION 2025. Outreach also included new partners in manufacturing, technology and education services.
- **Strategic collaborations:** ACTE explored and advanced partnerships with organizations such as Ford Next Generation Learning, Riipen, Rhodes Branding, IMAGO, Make It Movement, Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, and the Home Builders Institute. These collaborations supported initiatives in AI leadership, advisory board development, externship programming and national campaigns to promote CTE. ACTE also participated in joint meetings with associations such as the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, NOCTI, and Advance CTE to align efforts and share resources.
- **Grant and Proposal Development:** ACTE contributed to multiple grant proposals and reporting efforts, including the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education grant with Northern Virginia Community College, accessibility services with the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, and the Strategic Data Project supported by the ECMC Foundation. Staff also responded to requests for proposals from the U.S. Army and other entities seeking strategic engagement partners.

ACTE's strategic partnerships work in 2025 reflects a dynamic and collaborative approach to expanding the organization's reach, impact and sustainability. Through innovative programming and cross-sector engagement, ACTE continues to position itself as a national leader in CTE as it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2026.

2025 Organizational Members

ACTE thanks the organizations below for their membership in the 2025 calendar year.

NATIONAL AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION MEMBERS



CORPORATE MEMBERS





INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**Board of Directors
Association for Career and Technical Education
Alexandria, Virginia**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Association for Career and Technical Education (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Association for Career and Technical Education as of June 30, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Association for Career and Technical Education and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Association for Career and Technical Education's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

**Association for Career and Technical Education
Independent Auditors' Report
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Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Association for Career and Technical Education's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Association for Career and Technical Education's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audits.

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Report on Supplementary Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules of net assets without donor restrictions, board designated - regions and divisions and the schedules of net assets with donor restrictions, shown on pages 21-24, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

DeLeon & Stang

**DeLeon & Stang, CPAs and Advisors
Frederick, Maryland
September 10, 2025**

ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Assets:</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 879,242	\$ 19,188
Restricted cash	10,907	11,551
Investments in marketable securities	11,884,773	10,023,861
Accounts receivable	53,980	137,101
Inventory	24,305	27,429
Prepaid expenses and other assets	361,904	385,042
Finance lease - right of use assets	14,758	23,890
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	1,542,968	1,745,326
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 14,772,837	\$ 12,373,388
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>Liabilities:</u>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 548,274	\$ 530,286
Deferred revenue	2,750,808	2,297,807
Finance lease liabilities	15,047	24,104
Rental deposits	2,750	2,750
Total liabilities	3,316,879	2,854,947
<u>Net Assets:</u>		
Without donor restrictions	5,262,586	4,100,465
Without donor restrictions, Board-Designated Regions and Divisions	1,102,332	769,862
Without donor restrictions, Board-Designated Capital Improvements/Reserves	4,891,773	4,458,528
Total net assets without donor restrictions	11,256,691	9,328,855
Net assets with donor restrictions	199,267	189,586
Total net assets	11,455,958	9,518,441
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 14,772,837	\$ 12,373,388

ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Statements of Activities
For the Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024

	2025			2024		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<u>Revenue and Support:</u>						
Membership dues	\$ 2,194,767	\$ -	\$ 2,194,767	\$ 2,076,456	\$ -	\$ 2,076,456
Contributions	509,760	1,555	511,315	868,410	1,332	869,742
Sponsorship	741,280	-	741,280	576,479	-	576,479
Program service revenue:						
Convention, conferences and workshops	5,073,405	-	5,073,405	4,304,709	-	4,304,709
Publications	281,449	-	281,449	212,313	-	212,313
Advertising	241,716	-	241,716	176,914	-	176,914
Rental income	102,757	-	102,757	123,276	-	123,276
Royalties and service fees	94,190	-	94,190	54,715	-	54,715
Other revenue	602,285	-	602,285	378,468	-	378,468
Investment income, net of fees	1,041,786	19,126	1,060,912	729,808	13,975	743,783
Net assets released from restrictions	11,000	(11,000)	-	24,301	(24,301)	-
Total revenue and support	10,894,395	9,681	10,904,076	9,525,849	(8,994)	9,516,855
<u>Expenses:</u>						
Program services	5,723,692	-	5,723,692	5,678,539	-	5,678,539
Supporting services	3,242,867	-	3,242,867	3,063,802	-	3,063,802
Total expenses	8,966,559	-	8,966,559	8,742,341	-	8,742,341
Change in net assets	1,927,836	9,681	1,937,517	783,508	(8,994)	774,514
Net assets at beginning of year	9,328,855	189,586	9,518,441	8,545,347	198,580	8,743,927
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 11,256,691</u>	<u>\$ 199,267</u>	<u>\$ 11,455,958</u>	<u>\$ 9,328,855</u>	<u>\$ 189,586</u>	<u>\$ 9,518,441</u>