Fostering partnerships is vital for the growth and success of CTE programs. Strong partnerships can lead to robust business engagement, successful student transitions, and improved student achievement. It is through these partnerships that colleges are able to guide students through their postsecondary pathway and ensure continued success.

**What can you do?**

- Keep local business and industry, secondary, and community partners involved in your CTE programs by reaching out to them to participate on advisory committees.
- Stay engaged with your secondary partners by expanding the breadth of dual credit courses within your district.
- Collaborate with Adult Education partners on campus and utilize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) resources to develop and implement integrated education and training.
- Involve academic advisors and career counselors on advisory committees and with CTE program development to ensure sufficient knowledge of CTE pathways and programs of study.
Advisory Committee Guidebook

The ICCB CTE division, in conjunction with the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS), is pleased to release the Advisory Committee Guidebook. Quality CTE programs have close ties with business and industry; these partnerships are critical to ensuring programs meet current occupational needs. Advisory Committees are one of the most effective ways to establish and strengthen these partnerships. This guidebook details committee functions, projects and initiatives in which committees can provide insight, and offers best practices for conducting an effective meeting.
Triton College Receives National Award

The State of Illinois requires all police academy candidates to complete a physical exam called the “Peace Officer Wellness Evaluation Report” (POWER) test. Through an interdisciplinary partnership of Continuing Education with Criminal Justice and Health, Sports and Exercise Science, the college was able to become a certified testing center complete with remediation services. Since its inception in FY14 the new program has grown to serve 75 local communities - including the City of Chicago - and over 2,800 participants. As a result of its success and design, the National Council for Continuing Education and Training (NCCET) has awarded Triton the “2017 Exemplary Program of the Year”.

Around the State
Joliet Culinary Program Partners with Local Shelters

The Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts department partners with two local area shelters, two times per year, to provide over 500 meals to those in need. This service-learning and benevolent participation teach culinary students the importance and potential impact of working in the service industry. Students learn that in addition to eventually operating a successful and profitable foodservice operation, their underlying purpose is to also provide nourishment and show compassion to others.

Illinois Community Colleges Receive the CTE Improvement Grant

The ICCB recently awarded ten Illinois community colleges with the CTE Improvement Grant. The purpose of this grant is to support the improvement and innovation of CTE programming throughout the Illinois community college system. The selected focus areas align with statewide need and national initiatives in CTE. Grant recipients chose from three improvement project areas—curriculum development, support services for students, and work-based learning. Selected project initiatives include the following: developing partnerships to improve internship and apprenticeship opportunities, utilizing high-touch advising for CTE programs, and expanding curriculum options for students to meet local workforce needs. Recipients will present project outcomes at the 2019 Forum for Excellence.
Resources and Upcoming Professional Development

- Advisory Committee Guidebook
- FY2016 Dual Credit Report
- Building an IET Model
- Developing an ICAPS Program
- ICAPS information
- Strengthening Partnerships by Utilizing the Pathways to Results (PTR) Model
- A Multipronged Approach to Improving Transitions and Outcomes for Nontraditional-Aged Students in Select Pathways at Oakton CC
- Upcoming Professional Development

Career and Technical Education Month® is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. Learn more at ACTE Online.

We celebrate CTE every month! Don’t forget to send us news, initiatives, or achievements so that we can highlight CTE at your college. Submit an article and photo to Melissa.Andrews@Illinois.gov