

CTE News and Spotlights

February is CTE Month![®]



What is CTE Month?

Career and Technical Education Month[®], or [CTE Month[®]](#), is an annual public awareness campaign aimed at promoting CTE. It celebrates the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. 2019 marks an exceptionally important year for CTE with the reauthorization of the Perkins Act going into effect July 1st. The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) will be raising awareness of the instrumental role CTE plays in meeting our state's educational goals and business needs. Similar to last year, we will be sharing weekly features highlighting local best practices and events, professional development opportunities, and other resources. These weekly features will center around the following themes:

- 1. Rethinking CTE**
- 2. Equity as a Guiding Principle**
- 3. Advocacy and Engagement**

4. Partnering for Innovation

Each week's feature will be displayed on the [ICCB's website](#).

WEEK 1: Rethinking CTE

Throughout 2018, CTE was a central point of conversation in policy circles around the nation. Spurred by Perkins reauthorization, 2019 will also be a notable year of focus for CTE. As calls for increased funding are echoed, it is important for the public, businesses, education practitioners, and parents alike to *Rethink CTE*. What exactly is meant by this? Over the years, CTE has been riddled with myths and oftentimes disassociated from traditional academic learning. In actuality, CTE equips students with the academic knowledge and technical skills necessary to thrive in tomorrow's workforce. CTE career pathways are expansive, touching thousands of occupations, allowing students to build upon their education including 4-year degree paths and beyond. The [Rethink CTE flyer](#) was created in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and provides a preliminary snapshot of Illinois' future CTE planning.

Local Press Release Template

To assist local areas in promoting CTE within their communities, the ICCB has prepared a press release template that each institution can customize (attached). Please work with your marketing/public relations staff to use this document. For the ICCB's part, we would like to be a statewide clearinghouse for local activities and information. If your college or CTE program is planning any type of commemoration, event, or promotion please share this information with us and we will promote it via the ICCB's website. We will also be featuring CTE on the ICCB Facebook page and welcome any content you have created you wish to share. Please direct questions regarding the media template and the ICCB Facebook page to Matt Berry, Deputy Director for Legislative and External Affairs, at (matt.berry@illinois.gov / 217.785.7411).

CTE Policies: A Year in Review

2018 marked a significant year for Career Technical Education. In 2018, 42 states and Washington, D.C., passed a total of 146 policy actions related to CTE and career readiness, including legislation, executive orders, board of education actions, budget provisions, and ballot initiatives.

- For the sixth year in a row, funding was the top policy area of focus, with thirty states enacting policy in 2018 that impacted CTE funding.
- Twenty-six states passed policies related to industry partnerships and work-based learning. This focus includes business-education partnerships overall, and work-based learning as a primary strategy for connecting students with businesses.
- Twenty states passed policies related to dual/concurrent enrollment, articulation, and early college. Examples include providing free dual enrollment courses and expanding the number of credits for which students can use tuition waivers.

Read more about what state policymakers accomplished in 2018 in Advance CTE and the Association for Career and Technical Education's (ACTE) report, [*2018 Year in Review: State Policies Impacting CTE*](#).

To learn more about CTE or Perkins Reauthorization, visit [ICCB's CTE webpage](#).

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.

