



***Colorado CTE Strategic Plan:
Solving the Colorado Paradox and Ensuring the Colorado Promise for all Students***

The Carl D. Perkins IV Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act of 2006 ushers in a new era for Colorado CTE and greatly expands the flexibility and adaptability of schools and colleges to meet educational and workforce needs. To those ends and prompted by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, a Colorado CTE Five-Year Plan will be created, offering a vision for the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) to build a “Bridge to Opportunity” for all Colorado students and create a seamless transition from K-20 education to high-wage careers.

Understanding the Colorado Paradox

The widely discussed “Colorado Paradox” sees Colorado positioned among the top states in population percentage with a college degree and yet ranking very low in educating its native population. Importing an educated workforce, while failing to move high school students into college and subsequently high-skill, high-wage careers is a dangerous trend that over the coming years may make Colorado’s economy suffer as the number of native workers with high school diplomas and college degrees declines. With the impetus of the Perkins IV Legislation and in light of the burgeoning global economy, along with new and emerging technologies, the need for current and future workers to pursue postsecondary education and training is critical.

As a major component of Colorado education, CTE offers students a broad spectrum of high school and college opportunities, meaningful work, career advancement, and active citizenship. Blending rigorous academic and CTE standards will strengthen students’ success and future opportunities while improving state and local accountability. Given these implications and requirements, it is vital that educators and leaders statewide join together in discussing and developing the Colorado CTE Plan and Vision.

Beginning the Journey:

In partnership with the Colorado Association of Career and Technical Administrators (CACTA), the Colorado Association of Career and Technical Educators (CACTE), local secondary and postsecondary CTE directors, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), area vocational schools and local community members, CCCS has created the Colorado CTE Strategic Planning Team. Bringing together this inclusive and diverse team will help meet the challenge in developing a State Plan to establish a clear CTE vision, ensure educational opportunities for all Colorado students and meet workforce needs that will increase the state’s economic opportunities.

Additionally, CCCS is forming a high-level task force comprised of legislators, policy makers and other opinion leaders from across the state to help drive new CTE policies and visions.

Components of the Plan:

Colorado's CTE Plan will provide a framework to develop broad strategies built around current strengths and resources. Specifically, the plan will:

- Establish a clear CCCS Career and College Readiness Goal for students.
- Provide students with leadership and innovation through an integrated, seamless learning process.
- Support students in acquiring rigorous core knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in postsecondary education and high-skilled careers.
- Engage students in specific career-related learning to help them make well-informed decisions regarding further education, training and employment.
- Prepare students with the skills and knowledge in specific career areas that will be valued in the workplace.

At a minimum, every Colorado student should have the opportunity to experience academic and career awareness, exploration, and planning. In developing the State CTE Perkins IV Plan, the following goals will be considered:

1. Achieving student success and operational excellence through exemplary leadership.
2. Creating seamless learning opportunities at all educational levels for student success.
3. Building strong partnerships among shareholders at local, state and national levels.
4. Establishing accountability and data systems to maintain quality standards.
5. Supporting high quality teaching through professional development and training.
6. Implementing state-of-the-art workplace readiness and educational best practices.
7. Developing evaluation systems to maintain CTE excellence.
8. Integrating counseling and advising throughout the secondary and postsecondary levels.
9. Ensuring equitable representation among underserved populations.

Developing a Colorado State CTE Plan that meets student needs now and in the future will require honesty, courage, and a willingness to change familiar structures and practices. It does not mean abandoning all current practices or resources, but rather identifying practices that work and restructuring policy and support systems to make opportunities available to every student. Meeting this challenge will enable Colorado to solve the Colorado Paradox and ensure the Colorado Promise: educational success for every student.

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CACTA Mid-Winter Conference for Feb. 14-16

The Colorado Association for Career and Technical Administrators (CACTA) Mid-Winter Conference, "Perkins 4.0: The Colorado Promise," is set for Feb. 14 through 16 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. Member registration fee is \$150 and non-members \$250. Conference highlights will include extensive professional development centered around Perkins IV. For registration information, please contact Glen March at 303-734-3871. Other questions can be directed to Karen Ellis (720-423-4868) or Steve Alkire (970-339-6444). For reservations at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort call 800-428-8886.

###

Colorado DECA Hosts Holiday Concert to Benefit Project Mercy

Colorado DECA hosted a holiday concert to benefit Project Mercy Dec. 3. Featuring young musicians performing both classical and holiday jazz at the Donald R. Sewell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. An accompanying reception was catered by Strings Restaurant with the assistance of other Denver Area restaurants.

###

Dakota Ridge Teacher Named November's "9Teachers Who Care" Awardee

William Schmidt, a technology teacher at **Dakota Ridge High School**, is the November "9Teachers Who Care" award winner. Schmidt brings technology education to life in an unconventional, yet effective way. This year he applied for a grant from NASA on behalf of the school's Robotics Club. One of only six teams nationwide to receive it, the grant enabled his students to enter the prestigious *FIRST Robotics Competition* held at the University of Denver. The competition pairs professional engineers with young people in an effort to solve an engineering design problem using robotics. Schmidt is committed to the club and encourages his students daily to engage their minds and work together. The award is sponsored by 9NEWS and ColleagueInvest.

###

Chaparral's ACE Program Receives National Honor

Chaparral High School's Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) teacher **Kristy Baumgartner** received the National ACE Program of the Year award from the Association for Career and Technical Education. Last year, her program was recognized as the Colorado ACE Program of the Year. Baumgartner will be recognized at a future Douglas County Board of Education meeting.

###

Resources Available to Help Girls Generate Interest in Science and Technology

Girls tend to lose interest in science and technology during middle school. The TECH TEAM web site <http://www.knowitall.org/techtteam/> provides documentation for teachers for getting started with their own TECH TEAM as well year-by-year programming. YEAR ONE: Creating Video Projects. YEAR TWO - Web Design. Also view the archives for their 3-day technology summer camp. The website and project are the result of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. -- *WomenTech Educators Newsletter*

###

Apply Now for the Third Annual "Programs & Practices that Work" Award

The National Alliance for Partnership in Equity, the National Women's Law Center, the Association for Career and Technical Education, and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium are accepting nominations for the Third Annual "Programs and Practices that Work" award. The award recognizes local or state educational agencies across the country that have implemented effective programs and practices for improving access and success of students pursuing careers nontraditional for their gender. Each year the annual award garners attention from advocates, CTE professionals, legislators and the media.

The winners of the 2007 award will be announced and recognized at several conferences in the spring attended by professionals committed to CTE programs. In addition, the NWLC and its partners will release a report and hold a press briefing to educate the public about strategies to increase girls' participation in nontraditional career and technical education courses.

To learn more and for an application, visit http://www.napequity.org/nape_programsthatwork.html

###

Grants 101 Professional Workshop Slated for Dec. 13-15

The Grant Institute's **Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop** will be held at the University of Colorado at Denver, Auraria Higher Education Center, Dec. 13 through 15. Due to high demand, interested development professionals, researchers, faculty, and graduate students should register as soon as possible. Please forward, post, and distribute this e-mail to your colleagues and listservs.

Participants will receive certification in professional grant writing from the Institute. For more information call (888) 824-4424 or visit The Grant Institute website at <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com>.

The Grant Institute's Grants 101 Course is an intensive and detailed introduction to the process, structure, and skill of professional proposal writing. This course is characterized by its ability to act as a thorough overview, introduction, and refresher at the same time. In this course, participants will learn the entire proposal writing process and complete the course with a solid understanding of not only the ideal proposal structure, but a holistic understanding of the essential factors, which determine whether or not a program gets funded. Through the completion of interactive exercises and activities, participants will complement expert lectures by putting proven techniques into practice. This course is designed for both the beginner looking for a thorough introduction and the intermediate looking for a refresher course that will strengthen their grant acquisition skills. This class, simply put, is designed to get results by creating professional grant proposal writers.

Participants will become competent program planning and proposal writing professionals after successful completion of the Grants 101 course. In three active and informative days, students will be exposed to the art of successful grant writing practices, and led on a journey that ends with a masterful grant proposal.

Methods of Registration:

- On-Line -Visit www.thegrantinstitute.com and click on the Registration area. Fill out the online registration form completely. We'll send your confirmation by e-mail.
- By Phone - Call toll free (888) 824-4424 to register by phone. Our friendly Program Coordinators will be happy to assist you and answer your questions.
- By E-mail - Send an e-mail with your name, organization, and basic contact information to info@thegrantinstitute.com and we will reserve your slot and send your Confirmation Packet.

###

Colorado CTE Event Calendar

For upcoming meetings and events related to career and technical education, please see our online Colorado CTE Event Calendar at www.calendarwiz.com/ctecalendar. You will see a drop down calendar category choice, which will let you limit the event types you would like to view to "General CTE" or "Career and Technical Student Organizations" or "All" events. Just click on an event to see a pop up window with event

details such as event contacts, location, maps, websites, etc. You even have the ability to download events directly to your personal Outlook calendar. Contact Julie Eddy at julie.eddy@cccs.edu or 303-595-1527 with any questions, comments, or event additions.

###

Regional CTE Workshops Slated

Once again, the Colorado Community College System will be in your vicinity with several day-long and half-day "condensed" Career and Technical Education workshops that provide CTE educators an opportunity to meet with the state CTE (Career and Technical Education) staff. The workshops will cover a range of topics including the impact of Education Reform on CTE, the development of the new Perkins State Plan, how to measure program effectiveness, and how to develop a five-year plan.

Graduate continuing education credit through Colorado State University will be available for full-day workshops. All attendees will be reimbursed for their mileage to and from workshop locations. Those attending the Denver workshop at the Community College of Denver will also be reimbursed for their parking at Auraria. Districts may apply for substitute pay reimbursement.

Full-day workshops will be from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and half-day workshops will be held from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Participants at the half-day workshops will have the opportunity to network or take a campus tour following the workshop.

Dates and locations for the full-day workshops are:

Jan. 26 Aims Community College, Greeley

Dates and locations for the half-day workshops are:

- 1) Jan 19 Community College of Denver
- 2) Feb.2 Red Rocks Community College
- 3) Feb. 23 San Juan Basin Technical College, Cortez

Please note that the Cortez and Denver dates have changed since our original workshop announcement was distributed.

To find out more about the workshops, download an agenda or an application for substitute pay reimbursement, or to register online, go to <http://www.cccs.edu/CTE/Workshops.html>.

For more information, contact Gail Anderson (303-595-1616), Darrell Green (303-595-1580), Patsy Krechel (720-858-2746), Cindy Le Coq (303-595-1590), Scott Stump (303-595-1578) or Pat Sagrillo (303-595-1568).

###

VE-135 Website Reopens for the 2007 Reporting Year

The VE-135 website <https://ve135.cccs.edu> (new URL) is back online for schools to enter their 2006-2007 VE-130 Teacher Updates and VE-135 Follow-up and Enrollment data. Website logins remain the same as last year. March 1, 2007 is the deadline for the VE-135 Follow-up. The VE-135 Enrollment deadline will be June 30, 2007. It's extremely important that all schools meet these deadlines. ALL institutions with active CTE programs are required to report this data even if you do not receive CVA or Perkins funding. If you have any questions about the VE-135 website or other options available to report your data, please contact Julie Eddy at julie.eddy@cccs.edu or 303-595-1527.

###

CTE Leadership

Leadership	Contact	Phone
Vice President, Academic & Student Affairs	Linda Bowman	303-595-1549
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CTE Data & Research Manager, Julie Eddy julie.eddy@cccs.edu 303-595-1527

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Electronic Revisions for Program Approvals

All revisions to existing CTE programs must be entered in the electronic Program Approval system at www.cccs.edu. Click on Career and Technical Education and follow the Program Approval prompts. If you need assistance, contact Victoria Ekelund at (303) 595-1613.

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Valuable CTE Websites

CTE Directory: http://www.cccs.edu/Docs/CTE/Voc_Director_Directory.pdf

Secondary CTE Job Board: <http://www.cccs.edu/HR/CTE-JobBoard.html>

Colorado Community College System: <http://www.cccs.edu/>

Credentialing Office: <http://www.coloradocredentialing.org/>

CTE Forms and Reports from CCCS: <http://www.cccs.edu/CTE/FormsReports.html>

FCCLA: www.fccla.cccs.edu

Colorado DECA: www.deca.cccs.edu

Colorado DECA Newsletter: <http://www.deca.cccs.edu/NEWSLETTER.HTM>

SkillsUSA: www.skillsusa.cccs.edu

FBLA-PBL: <http://www.fbla-pbl.cccs.edu/>

FBLA Newsletter: <http://www.fbla-pbl.cccs.edu/newsletters.htm>

FFA: <http://www.njc.edu/ffa/>

HOSA: <http://www.hosa.cccs.edu>

CACTE: www.cacte.org

TSA Colorado: <http://www.cotsa.cccs.edu/>

ACTE: www.acteonline.org

E-Colorado: <http://www.e-colorado.org>

Colorado Technology Education Association: www.cteaonline.org

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Please submit stories, tips, best practices and comments to doug.hawk@cccs.edu
Submit *CTE Trends* technical questions to kristy.hoover@cccs.edu

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