



# Issues Update

February 13, 2015

*Issues Update* is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and presented on its website, [www.kacteonline.org](http://www.kacteonline.org). As needed, *Issues Update* will report on state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy and legislative developments. KACTE and Stone can be reached at [kmstone@mis.net](mailto:kmstone@mis.net) or 502-223-1823.

## Kentucky Legislators at Midpoint; CTE Prominent in DC

The 2015 Kentucky General Assembly session is at the midpoint of its "short" session. There is little legislative activity on items that may impact CTE. Proposed legislation to designate military enlistees as career ready and on dual credit have not moved. Senator David Givens bill (*SB16*) to designate computer programming as a foreign language was amended to eliminate the requirement but to allow computer programming to count as a science credit. It passed the Senate Education Committee on Feb. 12 and is before the full Senate. Senator Givens also proposed a concurrent resolution (*SRC103*) to authorize a study to develop recommendations on the benefits, investments and funding for workforce education.

**THE INACTION** on CTE-related legislation does not mean CTE has not been visible or heard in Frankfort. February is Career and Technical Education Month, and Tuesday, Feb. 10 was Career and Technical Education Student Leadership Day at the Capitol. More than 400 CTSO members and advisers from 25 high schools participated, including the state officers of seven CTSOs: DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA and TSA. Governor Steve Beshear issued a proclamation declaring February Career and Technical and Entrepreneurial Education Month in Kentucky.

TSA President Steven Cheppo, a student at Martha Layne Collins High School in Shelby County, spoke before both the House and Senate Education Committees representing CTSOs. Resolutions designating Feb. 10 as CTE Student Organization Leadership Day were passed in both houses. Students met with more than 50 legislators to discuss CTE and their career paths. Feedback on those meetings has been universally positive. Kentucky's legislators know of and support CTE.

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**NEW DATA** show Kentucky CTE is continuing to improve its achievement numbers. For the 2013-14 school year, enrollment in secondary CTE was 129,794, an increase of about 1.5 percent over the 2012-13 school year. An additional 57,026 students were enrolled in postsecondary CTE. The secondary graduation rate of those in recognized CTE pathways was 98.5 percent, up from 95 percent the previous year. Of the students who tested for industry certification or Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessments (KOSSA), 70.3 percent passed.

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**FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS** regarding CTE are gaining momentum. The Obama Administration budget proposal holds the formula distribution portion of federal appropriations for the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* at the same post-sequestration level. For Kentucky, that would mean more than \$17.9 million.

However, the proposal adds \$200 million for a CTE Innovation Fund. Grants would support development and operation of innovative, evidence-based job training programs in high-demand fields. Other impacts on CTE could come from \$100 million targeting apprenticeship grants, \$500 million for competitive industry credentialing and career pathways grants, and \$125 million toward competitive grants to promote high school redesign focusing on STEM.

The Administration's proposal would increase appropriations and replace sequestration. It was not received favorably by the Congressional Republicans, who now hold the majority in both houses of Congress. Specifically being criticized was the proposal to provide tuition and fees making community college education free for attendees.

**APART FROM THE BUDGET**, U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) announced plans to develop and introduce an amendment to the Perkins Act to focus on and improve CTE. *Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act* addresses curriculum, skill assessments, training tools, and teacher retention plans.

CTE's prominence showed in a hearing before the House Education and the Workforce Committee. Presenters clearly stressed the need for high-quality CTE in the U.S., and those sentiments were echoed by numerous committee members.

The House is nearing passage of its version of No Child Left Behind, the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* reauthorization. Titled the *Student Success Act*, it seeks to reduce the role of the federal government in education. It would consolidate or eliminate 65 federal educational programs. It passed the Committee on Feb. 11 and awaits action before the full House.

**KACTE OFFICERS** and members will be in Washington for the ACTE National Policy Seminar March 2-4. They will visit the offices of the entire Kentucky delegation advocating for support of CTE in Kentucky. Members may suggest items to address by e-mailing [kmstone@mis.net](mailto:kmstone@mis.net).