



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT



Informational Update

February 2014

All Informational Updates, and referenced attachments, can be found on our website: www.michigan.gov/octe

Greetings from Patty Cantú:

Hello and happy CTE Month!

Are you doing something special to celebrate CTE month? Have you posted the Proclamation from Governor Snyder that we sent to you? Have you posted the Proclamation for Entrepreneurship Week February 15 – 22? Have you posted the Proclamation for Cooperative Education and Internship month? If not, it is time to get the ball rolling along with celebratory activities in your district.

We are hoping you will share any activities, initiatives, events, fun facts, photos, etc. with NASDCTEc. They are making a big social media push to get the word out about CTE, as well as working with ACTE on a school tour and potentially a Congressional briefing. They would love to be able to share what is happening in your school and I would love to have lots of Michigan representation. Please feel free to share any CTE month features with Evan Williamson, NASDCTEc's Communications Associate, at ewilliamson@careertech.org.

I would also like to encourage you to consider using the CTE logo that was developed by NASDCTEc as part of a national branding campaign. The use of a national logo helps to bring clarity to CTE, consistency among states and districts and connectivity that resonates with key audiences. In other words, we will all be speaking the same language and using the same logo that is recognizable across the nation. There are papers, powerpoints, video's and posters available through NASDCTEc for your use to help with your communication and marketing campaign to promote CTE in your community. So far, 15 districts and 9 ISDs in Michigan have received permission to use the national logo. By using the CTE brand logo, brand theme, and brand messaging in your communications, you are affirming a commitment to the CTE brand promise and the principles that guide CTE nationally:

- CTE is critical to ensuring that the United States leads in global competitiveness
- CTE actively partners with employers to design and provide high-quality, dynamic programs
- CTE prepares students to succeed in further education and careers
- CTE is delivered through comprehensive programs of study aligned to the National Career Clusters Framework
- CTE is a results-driven system that demonstrated a positive return on investment

You will see the logo on the top left of this update: CTE Learning that works for Michigan.

To receive approval to use the logo, go to: <http://www.careertech.org/resources/workforce-education.html>

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Breaking Traditions Awards Application Deadline Extended to February 14

Please visit our website for the application materials.

Mark Your Calendar

Spring 2014 OCTE Update

The annual Spring 2014 OCTE update is Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at Lansing Community College, West Campus. More information to follow at a later date.

Students and Programs

Jesse Vollmar, 25, a former **Tuscola Technology Center** Computer Technology Management student is featured in the January 20, 2014 edition of Forbes Magazine in the third annual 30 Under 30, a tally of the brightest stars in 15 different fields under the age of 30. "This is the time to be young and ambitious. Never before has youth been such an advantage. These founders and funders, brand builders and do-gooders aren't waiting for a proper bump up the career ladder. Their goals are way bigger -- and perfectly suited to the dynamic, entrepreneurial, and impatient digital world they grew up in." Vollmar, Cofounder, FarmLogs, grew up on his family's farm in Michigan and started an IT consulting business with classmate Brad Koch while in high school. In 2012, they launched FarmLogs. The software helps farmers manage risk while monitoring crops, expenses, profits, weather and prices. The web and mobile apps are used by commercial farms in 50 states and 121 countries."

Here is a link to a nontraditional promotional/testimonial video by Kayla Kennedy, a student in the Digital Media Program at **Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9_IMEJpD74.

Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center was recently featured in a local news article highlighting an innovative collaboration between two program areas and the Uptown Bay City development project. Please follow this link to view the article and some photographs http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2014/02/uptown_bay_city_development_in.html

Innovation and creativity are the key components to **Ewart High School's** relatively new entrepreneurial curriculum, as students continue to open their own businesses with the increasing support of community members and mentors. Please visit our website to read about this endeavor.

Michigan Construction Career Days (MICCD)

MICCD is Michigan's premiere construction career exploration event. Based on the National Career Day model, MICCD provides Michigan's young people a chance to experience construction up-close, getting the chance to use real tools, materials and heavy equipment under the direct guidance of construction professionals from all sectors of the industry. These young people will not only see what construction is, but learn of the training and education paths to secure the good paying jobs a career in construction provides. **MICCD 2014 will be held on May 8 and 9, 2014 at the Sam T. Hart Operating Engineers Training Center in Howell, Michigan.**

For more information contact:

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Resources

- Section 21f of the State School Aid Act expands access to digital learning options for students in Michigan. A FAQ document can be found on our website that offers basic answers to frequently asked questions. The resource for the online courses is <https://micourses.org>. If you need any further assistance or have questions about Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, please contact Barb Fardell at fardellb@michigan.gov.
- An updated list for work-based learning contacts may be found on our website.

From NASDCTEc

Dual/Concurrent Enrollment Policies

The Education Commission of States (ECS) launched a 50-state [database](#) of dual/concurrent enrollment policies, including state reports, comparable data and links to specific legislation and regulations.

http://www.ecs.org/html/educationissues/HighSchool/highschooldb1_intro.asp?topic=de&utm_source=Blog+Roundup%3A+December+16-20%2C+2013&utm_campaign=Blog+Roundup&utm_medium=email

New NASDCTEc Paper & Webinar: CTE Is Your STEM Strategy

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) released a new policy paper entitled *CTE Is Your STEM Strategy*, exploring the inherent relationship between CTE and STEM goals, elements and expectations.

Simply put, STEM must not be viewed as a separate enterprise from CTE. While a state's CTE programs may not encompass everything within a state's STEM strategy, high-quality CTE programs can provide a strong foundation for and serve as a delivery system of STEM competencies and skills for a broader range of students. Too often, STEM strategies are created separately from and without a clear understanding of how CTE can support and strengthen such efforts. **This paper aims to bring this disconnect to the forefront and demonstrate the natural connection for the many stakeholders working to advance CTE and STEM in their communities.**

Looking ahead, state and local leaders should work collaboratively to identify where CTE is delivering high-quality STEM skills and competencies successfully, where efforts need to be shored up, and how to best scale those programs with the greatest value to students, employers and our nation.

The paper was released during a webinar featuring Tina Marcus, Project Manager, STEM Education and Leadership, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; Dr. Tony Baldwin, Superintendent of Buncombe County Schools in North Carolina; Dr. Linda Rosen, CEO of Change the Equation; and Kate Blossveren, NASDCTEc's Associate Executive Director.

Click here to [download](#) *CTE Is Your STEM Strategy* and access the recording and slides from the webinar [here](#).

Track and Explore Recipient of Campus-Community Partnership Award

BROOKLYN, Mich. (Feb. 5, 2014) — Track and Explore – a joint program between Adrian College and Michigan International Speedway (MIS) offering K-12 students a place to learn about science, technology and math at NASCAR's fastest track – has won the Campus-Community Partnership Award by Michigan Campus Compact (MiCC).

The award recognizes an outstanding partnership that produces measurable improvements in the community, while also demonstrating a commitment to higher education. The award is designed to increase the number and effectiveness of other campus-community partnerships and enhance public awareness of and support for campus-community service programs.

As part of the honor, Adrian College and MIS were awarded \$10,000 to continue to develop the Track and Explore program.

"Adrian College is thrilled with the recognition of Track and Explore, a truly unique partnership, and our work with MIS," Adrian College Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Agnes I. Caldwell said. "Our mutual goal

of preparing future scientists and stewards of the Irish Hills makes our work gratifying and exciting. I look forward to the expansion of Track and Explore with MIS' help.”

The Campus-Community Partnership Award is given biennially by MiCC to one exceptional partnership involving a Michigan college or university and a community group; the monetary prize will be divided equally between campus and community partners. In its second year in 2013, 1,300 local students toured MIS as part of Track and Explore to learn about the area’s ecosystem. The feedback has shown that the program has been an overwhelming success. The students are already gearing up for a successful 2014 season. Adrian College has reserved numerous dates in May to introduce more students to the program.

“It is honor to be recognized by Michigan Campus Compact for our work with Adrian College and the Track and Explore program,” MIS President Roger Curtis said. “We have worked hard to utilize our beautiful 1,400 acres and setting in the Irish Hills of Michigan to help the region. We found an outstanding partner in Adrian College that has helped us do just that through Track & Explore. We are proud to showcase both Adrian College and MIS in a way that might surprise a lot of people by providing hands-on, outdoor, STEM educational programs and experiences for all of the children in our area.”

The program offers four educational components:

How’s the Water: Scientific Testing of Water Quality and Why it Matters – Students will test the Graves pond water for chlorine, phosphates and nitrates. Students will compare results with a small group at their table and with the group at large. They will compare the pond water quality with that of distilled and tap water. Students in seventh and eighth grade will also test the pH of the water.

Likely Suspects: Identifying Flora and Fauna of the Irish Hills – A walk through an MIS nature trail and identifying different tree and plant life.

Critter Encounter – The students will study the animals encountered at MIS. The purpose of this activity is to use an inquiry process to encourage students to think about the characteristics of the animals and the environment in which they live.

Track Tour – A tour of NASCAR’s fastest racetrack and the science behind its speed.

The goal of these lessons is to connect the experiences and environment of MIS with the Michigan Benchmarks for grades 4-8. The program will supplement and enrich the objectives that the classroom teachers are teaching. This opportunity will be used to further develop the scientific processes and inquiry processes that the students are learning in their classes.

The Adrian College Teacher Education students who developed these lessons also prepared pre- and post-field trip activities for the teachers to continue to relate the MIS experience to the lessons in the classroom.

Track and Explore also provides Adrian College biology students with opportunities to research and study animal and plant life on 900 acres of the 1,400-acre, environmentally rich Michigan International Speedway.

For Michigan International Speedway, the partnership has created a wonderful avenue for its brand promise to support environmental initiatives, community endeavors, education initiatives and worthwhile activities for kids, all in the backdrop of the fastest racetrack in NASCAR. It also exposes the racetrack to a new demographic in young children.

Nestled in the lush Irish Hills of Southeastern Michigan, Michigan International Speedway is a great escape and a venerable NASCAR national park where fans can get away and enjoy the very best in racing and camaraderie. It’s the love of racing and the thrill of a great time for race fans and drivers alike.

CTE Caucus Comes to the Senate, White House Releases Additional Information on SOTU

On January 30, Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) announced the creation of the Senate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Caucus, a bipartisan endeavor focused on promoting CTE inside the Chamber and throughout the country. The Senate CTE Caucus, much like its [counterpart](#) in the House of Representatives, seeks to “support efforts to ensure all students have access to high-quality, rigorous career and technical education to prepare them for college and for their future careers.”

Senator Kaine explained that his interest in CTE stemmed from one of his defining achievements as Governor of Virginia through the creation of CTE Academies in his home state. Expressing his passion for CTE, Senator Kaine described how CTE programs “strengthen the links between the classroom and the workplace, helping students acquire the education and skills that will help them find employment and enjoy productive, successful lives after graduation.”

Senator Portman tied his interest in the creation of the caucus to some of the priorities highlighted in President Obama’s State of the Union address earlier this week. “We must close this skills gap to get Americans working again,” he said. “One way we can do that is by focusing on Career and Technical Education that equips workers with credentials, certificates, and other training that will match them with open jobs.”

The caucus’s formation coincides with the arrival of CTE month in February and Congress’s consideration of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act— the sole piece of federal legislation which supports CTE programs throughout the country and represents the largest investment in America’s high schools. The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium welcomes the strengthened interest in CTE within the Senate and looks forward to working with the newly formed caucus as they begin a drive for membership within the Chamber.

Senators Kaine and Portman have created a great new opportunity for CTE advocates to have their voices represented in Congress. You can help by contacting your Senator or Representative and urging them to join either of these CTE Caucuses. Remember, the CTE community— that is YOU— are the experts, so please share your knowledge and passion for CTE with Congress as these initiatives and much more get underway.

The GREEN Act

Last week, Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) introduced the Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation (GREEN) Act. The legislation would provide \$100 million for a competitive grant program for the development of CTE programs of study which focus on the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. The bill would also promote increased energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy practices in CTE facilities and buildings. The press release and full text of the law can be found [here](#).

From USDOL

2014-2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook

In addition to calculating critical economic data such as the monthly unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains and updates a career guide with detailed information for more than 300 occupations. The most recent edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook was published on Jan. 8, and features information on general job descriptions of occupations, the typical work environment, training and credentials necessary to enter a field, as well as average earnings. The catalog is widely used by students, job seekers and career guidance professionals.

- [Read the Handbook](#)
- [Read the Blog Post](#)

Roadmap to Success for High School Students

The Office of Disability Employment Policy has released a toolkit and checklist to help high school students make the most of their Individualized Learning Plans. ILPS are used to personalize learning, engage students and prepare them for life beyond high school. Through student-directed college and career exploration activities, students can take charge of their futures. ILPs also allow students with disabilities and their families to engage in comparatively early and in-depth transition planning, because they generally start while a student is in middle school and are updated frequently. The ODEP material, which provides practical guidance and real-life examples, can help young people plan for success.

- [Read the Blog Post](#)
- [View the Guide](#)