



**PATHWAYS TO CAREER  
READINESS:**

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*AN EDUCATION AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
SYMPOSIUM*

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February 8 & 9, 2024

***Hershey Lodge and Convention Center***

*ORGANIZED BY*

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **REFRESHMENT BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA**

**Red Room**

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **EXHIBIT AREA OPEN**

**Red Room**

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

**Registration Desk**

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

**White Room**

**WELCOME**

John Pulver – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators

**REMARKS**

Judd Pittman – Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**AI IS A PARADIGM SHIFT ON PAR WITH THE PRINTING PRESS OR PHOTOGRAPHY**

Rachael Mann – Speaker, Author, and Consultant

1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **REFRESHMENT BREAK IN EXHIBIT AREA**

**Red Room**

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SETTINGS**

Jill Hackman – Career Pathways Coordinator, Eastern Lancaster County School District  
John Robbins – Transition Coordinator, Eastern Lancaster County School District

*Learn about the career development programs at Garden Spot High School, a traditional school, including internship, cooperative education, and career coaching. Attendees will learn about program supports and activities that enable students to make wise career choices and graduate with a realistic career plan. Attendees will also learn how to develop a cost-effective career pathways program within existing school structures.*

**Magnolia B**

**AI AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: HARNESSING DIGITAL TOOLS FOR TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE**

Rachael Mann – Speaker, Author, and Consultant

*In this dynamic session, we delve into the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in reshaping education and workforce development. As educators and workforce leaders, understanding and utilizing AI is pivotal in preparing students for the rapidly evolving job market. This presentation will introduce a curated selection of both free and paid AI tools designed to enhance efficiency, creativity, and decision-making in educational settings. Attendees will gain insights into practical applications of AI tools across various domains, including personalized learning, data analysis, and career guidance. Participants will receive an invaluable toolkit containing links, resources, and step-by-step guides to explore these tools at their own pace.*

**Magnolia C****PENNSYLVANIA CAREER PATHWAYS NETWORK: A COMMUNITY MODEL FOR PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS (PANEL PRESENTATION BY NEWER AND ESTABLISHED SITES)**

James Kraft – CTE Consultant, YouScience  
Joann Hudak – PA Lead, YouScience

*The Pennsylvania Career Pathways Network was established in 2016 with two initial county-wide sites and has grown to include nine sites encompassing the geographic regions of Pennsylvania including rural, suburban, and urban schools. Two additional sites will be added this school year. The Career Pathways model includes career and technical schools and sending districts working closely with their business community to provide students with authentic experiences through K-12 plus career-connected learning, curriculum delivery, professional development, and work-based experiences. Session participants will also hear about the Profile of a Graduate work being implemented by SUN and Erie County as an enhancement to the Career Pathways Model. This session is designed to showcase the Career Pathways continuum from newer to established sites. Hear about the benefits of creating a career pathways system for your community.*

**Magnolia D****CHARTING A COURSE: CIP CODE 13.0101 AND THE TEACHER SHORTAGE SOLUTION**

Alexander Novickoff – Assistant Director of Workforce Education, Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center  
Christopher Clayto – Assistant Director of Education Services, PSEA  
Beth Hutson – Assistant Superintendent, Mt. Pleasant Area School District

*Last year, the launch of the Education, General POS ignited a collaboration between Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center (CTC) and Mt. Pleasant Area School District, establishing a satellite program that merges the benefits of career and technical education (CTE) with the traditional school environment. This presentation will underscore the collective impact of initiating a satellite program to combat Pennsylvania's teacher shortage. This collaboration not only aligns with CIP Code 13.0101 but also pioneers innovative solutions, showcasing a model for collaboration for addressing the teacher shortage crisis and setting the stage for expansion in the years ahead.*

**Wild Rose A****IMPLEMENTING ACCREDITATION IN EDUCATION AND THE TRANSFER OF VALUE TO INDUSTRY**

George Arrants – Vice President, ASE Education Foundation  
Kenneth Benson – ASE Education Field Manager, ASE Education Foundation  
Tom Yoder – ASE Education Manager (Pittsburgh PA), ASE Education Foundation

*The presenters will present the best practices of implementing accreditation and maximizing the value to the stakeholders.*

**Wild Rose B****BRIDGING THE ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVIDE FOR CHILDCARE EMPLOYEES**

Ingrid Everett – Assistant Professor and Higher Education Coordinator for the Central Region ECEPDO Grant, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

*Funded by OCDEL, the Early Childhood Education Professional Development Organization at PASSHE funds professional development (PD) for the early childcare workforce toward the Child Development Credential (CDA) and beyond. A review of expanding online PD support over the four years of the grant to date will be provided. Feedback from grant participants will highlight what worked best and lessons learned. As this initiative continues to grow and change in response to meeting the needs of the mostly non-traditional student population, groups will identify strategies that may be immediately applicable across professions.*

**Empire A****PRE-APPRENTICESHIP DISCUSSION WITH BUCKS COUNTY**

Danielle Demirovic – Pre-Apprenticeship Supervisor, Apprenticeship and Training Office,  
 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry  
 Kathryn Strouse – Educational Consultant, Career Connections

*The Apprenticeship and Training Office is accompanied by various stakeholders in the Bucks County apprenticeship ecosystem. The County of Bucks Economic and Workforce Development Board will share the efforts the organization has made in developing their community with apprenticeship. The presenters and colleagues at the career and technical centers of Bucks County will discuss the decision to register their programs in a consortium model. Participants will learn about one of the numerous possibilities in implementing this program structure. Join this session in discussing the pre-apprenticeship structure within CTE and bring lots of questions.*

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS****Magnolia A****HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE EMPLOYERS AND CLOSE THE CAREER READINESS GAP WITH LEARNERS**

Loretta Lininger, Workforce Development Specialist, Penn State University  
 Chrissie Klinger, Workforce Development Director, Penn State University

*This interactive session will provide participants with an opportunity to explore effective ways to engage employers as a workforce partner. Participants will explore how career pathway mapping supports employers with pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and Integrated Education and Training (IET) development, and provides learners with career exploration and planning tools. Tools and resources will be provided during this session to support implementation of career pathway mapping at a local level.*

**Magnolia B****COOPERATIVE EDUCATION – GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND BEST PRACTICES**

Ron Martino – School to Career Coordinator, Bucks County Technical High School/PCEA  
 Walt Hansell – School to Career Coordinator, Bucks County Technical High School/PCEA  
 RC Youse – Internship Coordinator, Wyomissing Area School District/PCEA  
 Nannette Anslinger – Career and Technical Education Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and  
 Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

*This session will offer an overview of the Guidelines for Administration for Cooperative Education. Participants will receive updates from PDE with Cooperative Education resource materials and information on PA School Code, Chapter 339, Child Clearances, and Child Labor Laws will be shared. With over 35 years of combined experience in Cooperative Education, the presenters will share best practices from the field and answer frequently asked questions related to Cooperative Education.*

**Magnolia C****A FREE PATHWAY TO IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS**

Justin Starr – Endowed Professor of Advanced Technologies, Community College of  
 Allegheny County  
 Lisa Marshall – Festo Program Manager, National Coalition of Certification Centers

*Discover how easy it can be to establish collaborations between secondary schools and community colleges – including free equipment, training, and certification for students of all ages. This presentation showcases Community College of Allegheny County's (CCAC) pivotal role in seamlessly introducing the transformative National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) Festo Industry Recognized Credentials program to Pennsylvania secondary schools. Specifically, CCAC will discuss a number of programs that enable the college to provide Mechatronics Labs, Electrical Trainers, and other resources to partner high schools*

*and CTCs. The presenters will discuss free training programs for faculty members and no-cost certifications that students can tie into apprenticeship programs and other career pathways. Developed in partnership with global automation leader Festo, this initiative focuses on reducing the barriers to entry for partner schools and developing a community of practice, including funding that is available right now for immediate usage.*

**Magnolia D****VOICES FROM THE FIELD: CIP 13.0101 EDUCATION, GENERAL**

Lisa Golding – Career and Technical Advisor for Family and Consumer Sciences, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Melissa-Ann Pero – Instructor, York County School of Technology

Kurt Lynch – Director, Keystone Central Career and Technical Center

Chris Snyder – Assistant Principal, Central Columbia High School

Debra Tomaschik – Instructor, Central Columbia High School

Drew Little – Assistant Principal, New Oxford High School

Kim Johnston Smith – Family and Consumer Science Teacher/Curriculum Leader, New Oxford High School

*Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, CIP code 13.0101 Education, General became available for approval in the FRCPP Career and Technical Information System (CATS). Over a dozen Pennsylvania LEAs applied and gained PDE approval for this high school program that introduces students to the education profession. This session will include a panel discussion of administrators and program instructors from a sampling of schools offering this program of study. Steps taken to get the program off the ground, reflections from this first year, ideas for improvements, and even more great information will be shared. This is a must-see session for schools interested in starting the CIP 13.0101 Education, General program at their school.*

**Wild Rose A****RE-ENERGIZING GREATER JOHNSTOWN CTC'S CAMPUS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

John Augustine – Administrative Director, Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center

Shannon Crooker – Pennsylvania Director, Generation180

Joe Richards – Principal Project Manager, TEN

*The Greater Johnstown CTC, a regional hub for workforce development, proudly claims the title of the first CTC in Pennsylvania to offset 100 percent of its electricity consumption with solar power. The CTC was looking for ways to reduce the operational costs of the aging buildings and create a more comfortable learning environment for students. Coupled with energy efficiency upgrades, the school anticipates saving \$19 million on energy expenses over the next 25 years. Learn how the savings and state-sponsored construction programs can be utilized toward further enriching educational programs and expanding clean energy job training programs offered at Greater Johnstown CTC.*

**Wild Rose B****BUILDING CREDIT PATHWAYS FOR POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS!**

Alexander Gibson – Director of Secondary Services and Partnerships, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

Aaron Spina – Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

*Over the last few decades, colleges have found the importance of outreach into the community and surrounding areas. Many have created agreements with high schools and CTCs to offer College in the High School (CiHS) credit and build an academic bridge. Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HU) has designed a CiHS program that is equitable and accessible for all. With the model that has been shown successful, HU can*

*partner with CTCs to help administer cutting edge STEM learning in the classroom. The robust CiHS program that HU oversees allows for access and opportunity to college level content and credit, while building a student's passion for STEM and Computer Science career pathways. This presentation will also give a full overview of the Undergraduate Programs the HU offers in the South-Central Region of Pennsylvania.*

### **Empire A**

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION**

Vance Miller – Director of Adult Education, York County School of Technology

Tiffany Graham – Assistant Director of Adult Education, York County School of Technology

*Join this session to learn how adult education creates working relationships with business and industry through workforce development from a business perspective. The presenters will discuss growing, developing, and fostering programs to meet the needs of local businesses and creating procedures to make sure they stay up to date and operate optimally.*

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Magnolia A**

#### **WEATHERIZATION CAREER READINESS INITIATIVE**

Stefanie Shipe – Grant Manager, Clean Energy Center at Penn College

Diana McCarthy-Bercury – Principal, Earth Forward Group

*In fall 2023 the Clean Energy Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology and Earth Forward Group facilitated stakeholder input sessions about the framework for a weatherization workforce development initiative. Stakeholders included representatives from the weatherization agencies, industry experts, technical school educators and administrators. Stakeholders were invited to (1) discuss the current needs of the weatherization industry in PA; (2) provide input on the desired skills, experience, and certifications for the workforce; and (3) consider how to leverage partnerships between employers and educators. The results are in, and the information collected has been used to design a pilot program. At this presentation participants will learn about the ongoing weatherization workforce pilot, hear perspectives from CTE partners about their experience and expectations, learn how their school and students can participate in the future phases, and describe the next phase of this work in 2024.*

### **Magnolia B**

#### **GOAL SETTING AND THE ACT 13 LEA-SELECTED MEASURE**

Amy Lena – Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Pennsylvania Department of Education

Amanda Lerew – Act 13 and FRCPP Content Support Specialist, Planning and Professional Development, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Laurie Kolka – PVAAS Statewide Team for PDE, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

*Self-reflection is integral for personal growth. Goal setting (as part of the LEA-selected Measure) is a critical component of Act 13 evaluation. Self-reflection, when paired with goal setting, has the power to create meaningful connections between past practices and future actions. This session will explore the importance of self-reflection, coaching, and feedback using the Teacher Self-Reflection resource to guide educators through the process of using available data to reflect on their past practices. The presenters will discuss how each of the steps in the process can be used to complete the LEA-selected Measure for use in Act 13's Educator Effectiveness evaluations.*

**Magnolia C****ENGAGING INDUSTRY IN CREDENTIALING: A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Kathleen McNally – CEO, NOCTI

Heidi Speese – Customer Care and Outreach Manager, NOCTI

*We all know that earning a credential provides learners validation of the skills learned in their CTE program. But what about business and industry? With a focus on engaging industry partners and expanding recognition of the Pennsylvania Skills Certificate and NOCTI certification, NOCTI invites you to this round table session. Let's discuss how we can leverage the power of collaboration to benefit student, teacher, and program outcomes of credentials? Discuss strategies, share best practices, and create opportunities for NOCTI to partner and support schools, PACTA, BCTE, and industry to get the word out!*

**Magnolia D****POS/SOAR – UNDERSTANDING STATEWIDE ARTICULATION**

Ashley Hoke – Career and Technical Education Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Tracey Readinger – Career and Technical Education Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

*Whether you are new or seasoned to CTE, this session will provide insight into Programs of Study (POS) and Students Occupationally and Academically Ready (SOAR). Join this session to review the framework of PA POS and take a peek at secondary partners. The presenters will explore secondary and postsecondary requirements for statewide articulation including secondary student documentation, PDE verification of postsecondary websites, postsecondary SOAR reporting to PIMS, and how to navigate [www.collegetransfer.net](http://www.collegetransfer.net).*

**Wild Rose A****BUILDING FUTURES: THE TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE HOME BUILDER'S ASSOCIATION**

Randy McDowell – Electrical Technology Instructor, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Carla Zapotec – Executive Vice President, Home Builders Association of Bucks and Montgomery Counties

*Hear about the success story of Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (MBIT) Construction Cluster and the Home Builders Association (HBA) partnership in organizing a transformative career fair to address the growing workforce needs in the construction industry. As a Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) member, our collaboration with HBA of Bucks and Montgomery Counties has yielded meaningful outcomes. Learn firsthand about strategies for cultivating industry relationships, leveraging those relationships to provide opportunities to students, and broadening engagement among programs in your schools. The presenters will discuss successes which can serve as a blueprint and can be replicated across various industries, fostering meaningful connections and experiences for students and professionals.*

**Wild Rose B****LEVERAGING OVR FOR BEST PRACTICES IN TRANSITION**

Alexander Novickoff – Assistant Director of Workforce Education, Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center

Jason Lucia – Administrative Director, Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center

*The Central Westmoreland CTC is committed to providing bridges to support students with barriers to employment who are transitioning from high school to the workforce. To achieve this goal the Central Westmoreland CTC has modeled its student service offerings to parallel supports provided by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. As an approved service provider, the center delivers instruction, provides job development, and supported*

*employment services to its students and county as a whole. This has not only improved student outcomes but established a model of reimbursement for services that sustain and grow our offerings. Attendees will learn about the best practices being implemented and the positive outcomes that are being realized for students.*

**Empire A****ORGANIZING REGIONAL CAREER SIGNING DAYS: PARTNERSHIPS THAT CELEBRATE STUDENT SUCCESS**

Kevin Rice – Executive Director, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Stacey Caudill – Work Based Learning Coordinator, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education

Kristen Milanovich – Workforce Development Coordinator, Parkway West Career and Technology Center

*Learn how Southwestern Pennsylvania schools work together to celebrate students and shine a spotlight on partnerships with employers, postsecondary schools, the military, and organized labor. Presenters will share stories and strategies of a collaborative effort that began with five schools in Allegheny County, grew to ten schools from four counties to an even larger event being planned for 2024 with fourteen schools from seven counties. The session offers proven strategies that can be used to create similar partnerships. Attendees will receive a Career Signing Day toolkit to collaborate with other CTE schools and plan their own regional event.*

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**RECEPTION IN EXHIBIT AREA****Red Room**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**CTE CELEBRATION DINNER****Nigerian/Trinidad**

Carrie Rowe – Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education



7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**

**Nigerian Room**

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

**THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL CULTURE ON CAREER READINESS**

Dan Perna – Owner/President, James Daniel and Associates, LLC  
Del Hart – Team Member, James Daniel and Associates, LLC

*Career Readiness isn't solely about preparing students for their first job. "Career" Readiness involves acquiring the habits and skills crucial for sustained success. The presenters contend that a school's overall culture significantly contributes to students developing the abilities necessary to develop a "Career". This session will lay out their view that leadership, teamwork, organization, lifelong learning, and goal setting, evident through the school's culture, demonstrate to students the foundations of a career. Using examples seen in their experiences, the presenters will spotlight instances where educator leadership has cultivated a culture emphasizing the characteristics necessary for long-term success beyond first employment.*

**Magnolia B**

**AI AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Michael Stein – CTE Innovation Systems Coordinator, Berks Career and Technology Center

*The goal for this presentation is to introduce the role of AI in education and career readiness. It covers AI's evolution, its impact on personalized learning, and its utility in enhancing teaching methods and efficiency. This presentation emphasizes the significance of AI in reshaping career skills and the importance of ethical AI policies in education. The presenter aims to inspire and inform attendees about the transformative impact of AI in educational settings aiming to equip participants with practical knowledge and a roadmap for implementing AI solutions effectively in their professional environments.*

**Magnolia C**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION – ACHIEVING SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Christopher Fake – School Counselor, Spring Grove Area High School  
Cory Mengel – Special Education Teacher, Spring Grove Area High School

*Assessment, development, and implementation; this presentation looks at how Spring Grove Area High School's career services department has accessed student needs and developed multiple pathways for students in the special education program to achieve success after high school. Hear how the school surveys student needs, connect students to community partnerships and support students to post high school success. There will be a strong focus on needs assessment, how community partnerships were built with businesses/higher education partnerships, and how it increased communication with families. Hear about trials, failures, and successes as they work to connect all students to positive postsecondary pathways.*

**Magnolia D**

**PDE PROGRAM APPROVAL**

Jean Kelleher – Program Standards and Quality Assurance Manager, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Tammy Keisling – Business Analyst, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

*PDE Career and Technical Education Program (RE) Approval Process. Come learn the process and how to apply for a PDE approved CTE program. Learn what processes and*

*documentation will be needed for program approval and annual updates. Finally, learn what is expected when the reapproval and onsite visits occur, which are now being synchronized.*

### Wild Rose A

#### **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND CUTTING-EDGE CURRICULUM: LEHIGH CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S APPROACH TO HEALTHCARE EDUCATION**

Lisa Greenawalt – Executive Director, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute  
Darin Van Norman – Director of Career and Technical Education, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

*In 2018, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI) seized an opportunity to refine its Health Occupations Program. Through strategic collaboration with industry partners, LCTI successfully developed a sophisticated health preparation initiative, cultivating a group of professionals poised to effect substantial change in the healthcare sector. LCTI's program, enriched by dual enrollment opportunities, state-of-the-art equipment, and an industry-aligned curriculum, establishes an environment conducive to student achievement, service, innovation, inquiry, and leadership within the dynamic healthcare landscape.*

### Wild Rose B

#### **CAREER CONNECTED SERVICE LEARNING**

Keisha Wilkins – High School Principal, School District of Philadelphia

*This session will focus on strategies for engaging youth in career connected service-learning by exposing middle school and ninth grade students to CTE programs and/or career pathways.*

### Empire A

#### **THE PRE-APPRENTICE-TO-APPRENTICE PATH FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

Ross Berger – Pre-Apprenticeship Coordinator, Pennsylvania College of Technology

*During this energized period of employers seeking to recruit and retain skilled workers to fill vacant positions, pre-apprenticeship-to-apprenticeship pathways have never been more important. This presentation will focus on the sometimes-mysterious path between pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships. The presenters will discuss the parameters of linking a pre-apprenticeship with a registered apprenticeship and the questions that follow, such as: Does completion of a pre-apprenticeship guarantee a spot in apprenticeship? How do pre-apprentices earn advanced standing as they enter an apprenticeship? What role should an employer play in the pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship pathway? Finally, learn how high school and CTE pre-apprenticeships can be linked with Penn College's nationally registered advanced manufacturing apprenticeships to enhance the career path options for students.*

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

#### **COFFEE BREAK**

**Chocolate Lobby**

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

#### **EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN CAREER READINESS INITIATIVES BENEFITTING STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, AND EMPLOYERS**

Susan Bogert – Supervisor of Vocational Education, Corry Area School District  
Antonella Spinelli – Diversified Occupations Coordinator, Girard School District  
Mary Bula – Facilitator, Erie County Career Pathways Alliance

*The Erie County Career Pathways Alliance consists of all three local CTCs, most Erie County school districts, the Intermediate Unit, workforce development system, and scores of local*

*employers. With the input of strategic industry advisory groups, the active engagement of employers, data and funding from the workforce development system, and leadership of educators, we are developing and executing effective resources and career readiness programming better preparing students for their future and helping employers shape the coming workforce. This presentation will highlight the Multi-District Industry Club, Skilled Trades Initiative, and Profile of a Graduate.*

**Magnolia B****PRACTICAL AI APPLICATIONS IN EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Michael Stein – CTE Innovation Systems Coordinator, Berks Career and Technology Center

*This workshop offers interactive experiences with AI tools, focusing on their application in education and workforce training. Participants engage in hands-on demonstrations using AI, gaining insights into real-world AI implementation in the classroom. The workshop guides attendees in developing personalized AI integration strategies for their students. It concludes with actionable steps for employing AI in educational and career contexts.*

**Magnolia C****CAREER RECOGNITION WEEKS: WHY AND HOW**

Lynda Morris – President and CEO, Partnership for Career Development

*The adoption and celebration of Career Recognition Weeks can bring equity and wider representation to a spectrum of careers, while supporting Career Pathways programs more comprehensively. This session will provide information about how the Cradle to Career Alliance, a collective impact model for Career Awareness and Preparation in South Central PA, developed and supported a school year of Career Recognition weeks, aligned with the 16 Career Clusters and more.*

**Magnolia D****POWERFUL PATHWAYS AND TOOLS FOR SUCCESS – ACT 158, PRE-APPRENTICESHIP, AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

Laura Fridirici – Career Readiness Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Karen Rubican – School Counselor Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Danielle Demirovic – Pre-Apprenticeship Supervisor, Apprenticeship and Training Office,  
Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

*Today's learners must be equipped with employability skills and innovative pathways to graduation to be well prepared for tomorrow's workforce. Pennsylvania's pathways to graduation are supported by pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning experiences through Act 158, and employability skills in the newly proposed Career Education and Work standards. Join this session as the presenters provide a unique lens to how the integration of graduation requirements, employability skills, and apprenticeship pathways equips learners with the necessary competencies and abilities to thrive in the future workforce.*

**Wild Rose A****BRIDGING THE TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE**

Michael Rebert – Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Daryl St. Clair – Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

*The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission are engaged in a comprehensive effort to enhance the readiness of workforce candidates through partnerships with educators at the secondary level. This presentation will highlight the details of the initiative, the funding available through the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation program, and a wide range of other workforce development efforts underway. A key component to make the initiative a success will be to build*

*partnerships to expand highway construction curriculum in schools and create avenues for employment opportunities for students with PennDOT, the Turnpike Commission and their partners in the transportation consulting and construction communities.*

**Wild Rose B****TEACHING WORKPLACE EMPLOYABILITY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Samantha Pittman – Diversified Occupations CTE Teacher, Octorara High School  
 Tabitha Wallace – Middle School Career Planning Teacher, Octorara High School

*As a junior career teacher and a senior high Diversified Occupations CTE teacher, the presenters found that there was a lack in employability skills being taught to students at both the junior and senior high levels. The presenters teamed up to teach employability skills to include communication, direction following, professionalism, teamwork, and more through presentation and hands on activities. The 12th grade Diversified Occupations CTE students plan and teach the lessons to the 8th grade students. Having 12th grade students work with the 8th graders brings more relevance to the students and a greater level of buy-in and attention from the 8th graders.*

**Empire A****THE FUTURE READY PA INDEX AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY**

Brian Campbell – Director, Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction,  
 Pennsylvania Department of Education  
 Abigail Rose – Director, School Improvement Office, Pennsylvania Department of  
 Education  
 Amy Lena – Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary  
 Education (OESE), Pennsylvania Department of Education

*This session will explore the data that make up your Future Ready PA Index display, how that data impacts school improvement calculations, and the effect of post-COVID trends and waivers on your school's programming.*

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**GENERAL SESSION****Nigerian Room****WHY APPRENTICESHIPS: CRAFTING OPPORTUNITIES, DELIVERING SOLUTIONS**

Carrie Amann – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Workforce Development  
 Association (PWDA)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**GENERAL SESSION****Nigerian Room****CONNECTING CTE TO WORK: EMPLOYER INSIGHTS PANEL**

Mike Rebert – Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)  
 Mike Coley – President, ASE Education Foundation  
 Nicole Stallings – President and CEO, Hospital and Healthsystem Association (HAP)  
 Ted Harris – Executive Vice President, PA Petroleum Association (PPATEC)  
 Facilitator: Carrie Amann – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Workforce Development  
 Association (PWDA)

**CLOSING REMARKS**

John Pulver – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical  
 Administrators