

**PATHWAYS TO CAREER  
READINESS:**

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*AN EDUCATION AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
SYMPOSIUM*

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**February 13 & 14, 2025**

**Hershey Lodge and Convention Center**

ORGANIZED BY



7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IN EXHIBIT AREA**

**White Room**

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

**Registration Desk**

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **EXHIBIT AREA OPEN**

**White Room**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **WELCOME WITH EXHIBITORS**

**White Room**

11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. **CTE CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

**Red Room**

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

**PACK YOUR BAGS FOR AN AI DRIVEN WORKFORCE**

Rachael Mann – Speaker, Author, and Consultant

*What does it mean to plan for a nebulous and unknown future and what gets packed to ensure that students are equipped for an AI-driven workforce? Which universal concepts and skills transcend specific trades, forming the backbone of our educational focus? This session will address these questions and examine the vital importance of 2-year degrees and certificate programs, not just as paths to high-skill, high-wage employment but as crucial pivots in a world where career trajectories are increasingly non-linear. Reflecting on the World Economic Forum's insights, we'll discuss the accelerated pace of job changes among Gen-Z and millennials versus baby boomers and the surge in job-hopping, underscoring the growing imperative for adaptability and continuous learning. The session will highlight the projections for a dramatic shift in core skills within the next five years and why these should be our educational system's strategic priorities. Pack your bags, the future is here!*

**Magnolia B**

**USING DATA TO SUPPORT HANDS-ON ASSESSMENT**

Jen Spangler – Curriculum Coordinator, Dauphin County Technical School

Marty Sugerik – School Improvement Consultant, Southern Regional Education Board

*Learn how Dauphin County Technical School incorporates a data calendar and data meetings as strategies to support meaningful hands-on assessment aimed at improving student's program competencies. Participants will gain insight into how SREB through the Technical Assistance Program align and differentiate support to meet the need of the site. Hands-on assessments are designed to include 5 Keys of Formative Assessment, Rubrics, and Highly Effective Questioning but simulate processes and protocols in the workplace. These assessments provide the opportunity to overtly teach and assess employability skills that cross any program of study.*

**Magnolia C**

**BEST PRACTICES IN ENGAGING K-12 STUDENTS IN CTE CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING**

Dr. Joann Hudak – Education Consultant, YouScience

Dr. James Kraft – Education Consultant, YouScience

Pantea Shademani – Educational Director, Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance

David Heckman – Engineering Instructor, Wallenpaupack Area High School

*This session will focus on how career and technical education entities are collaborating with K-12 school systems to introduce students early in their career exploration journey. By engaging students in career-connected learning activities from elementary through middle school, CTE programs can spark interest in various pathways and create a pipeline of future students. This session will highlight successful collaboration models between K-12 and CTE institutions. Join this session to understand the importance of early career exploration and career-connected learning for K-12 students, learn how CTE entities collaborate with K-12 systems to create career awareness and exploration opportunities, and discover strategies for using career exploration as a recruitment tool to attract students to CTE programs. This interactive session will showcase case studies from successful K-12 and CTE collaboration efforts.*

**Magnolia D****THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION COMMISSION: THE CURRENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA AND HOW THE COMMISSION CAN BENEFIT YOUR AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS**

Christopher Davis – Executive Director of the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

*In the diverse world of agriculture, there are many different resources, organizations, and diverse industries that are wanting and willing to lend a hand to ensure opportunities for students. The Commission for Agriculture Education was formed to build a bridge between education and agriculture and help develop those pathways from exposure to career. This session will dive deep into the current make up of agriculture education by reviewing the Agriculture Education report and looking at the current CIP offerings, where agriculture programs are in the state, agriculture CTSO data and program development barriers. Dive into the emerging industries that focus on agriculture and how agricultural programing can help provide the knowledge and skills of these new industries. Lastly, learn how the commission can help your programs grow and better prepare students for agriculture careers.*

**Wild Rose A****INTEGRATION OF EXERCISE SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Marie Malandro – Teacher, York County School of Technology  
Kyle Smink – Exercise and Sports Science Teacher, York County School of Technology

*Students in the Exercise and Sports Science program at York Tech spend the first three years in the program covering the task list, preparing for NOCTI, and earning industry credentials. Through this the students learn the requisite skills necessary to work with patients and clients. During their fourth-year students are assigned to sections of Personal Fitness PE classes. The students are responsible for baseline testing, building fitness programs to allow the enrolled students to meet their goals, and end of course testing to measure progress during the course. Presenters will describe the background content taught in the program, the collaboration between the teachers in the CTE and academic setting, the growth of the program and lessons learned through implementation, and the benefits of the collaborative relationship between the students and student achievement in the Personal Fitness course.*

**Wild Rose B****REMAKE LEARNING DAYS – DRIVING INNOVATION, SUPPORTING LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS, AND ENGAGING FAMILIES**

Cari Kozicki – Project Manager, Remake Learning Days Across PA  
Cindi Moses – Project Manager, Remake Learning Days Across PA

*Join this insightful session to see how Remake Learning Days (RLD) is driving innovation in education! RLD offers hundreds of hands-on activities across schools, tech centers, libraries, museums, parks and more, engaging students, families, and communities. Through partnerships with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, RLD also enhances special initiatives including career*

*readiness, STEM design challenges and promotes youth, teacher and parent voice through Ambassadors. Hear from one of the festival organizers about RLD' goals of cross-sector partnerships, transforming education and celebrating the joy in learning across PA!*

**Empire A****CONSORTIUM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Jackie Foor – Executive Director, Consortium for Public Education

Briana Mihok – Executive Director, Education Resource Center, Penn State Greater Allegheny

*CTC Directors are faced with a variety of challenges every day. In this session, learn how design thinking can be applied to identify opportunities, design solutions, engage staff and stakeholders, and equip you to more effectively meet those challenges.*

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS****Magnolia A****ONLINE INDUCTION PLAN**

Tiffany Cover – Assistant Director/Principal, Clearfield County Career and Technology Center

*This session will showcase a new teacher induction plan using the Canvas Learning Management platform for more accountability, stability, and support.*

**Magnolia B****SHARING NOCTI BEST PRACTICES – WITH THE EXPERTS!**

Heidi Speese – Director of Education, NOCTI/Nocti Business Solutions

Dr. Kathleen McNally – CEO, NOCTI/Nocti Business Solutions

Dr. Mike Herrera – Executive Director, Upper Bucks County Technical School

*Join a panel of administrators to hear and share best practices. Get ready to engage in a discussion of test administration logistics, performance testing, industry engagement and awareness, and resources to support all stakeholders. We'd love for you to join us!*

**Magnolia C****PANEL DISCUSSION ON ACCESS TO CTE PROGRAMS**

Hank DeGeorge – Administrative Director, Bucks County Technical High School

Wesley Kuchta – Administrative Director, Lenape Technical School

Angela Mike – Executive Director for CTE, Pittsburgh Public Schools

Mike Moeller – Supervisor of Curriculum, Lancaster County Career and Technology Center

Dr. Mike Stauffer – Executive Director, Berks County Career and Technology Center

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski – Executive Director, Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

*With increasing popularity of career and technical education, most of our schools are experiencing capacity issues, where students are not able to access CTE programs and are being placed on a wait list. How do we make decisions on which students are prioritized in entering programs or schools that are oversubscribed? In this session, leaders from across the state will engage in a panel discussion to share their enrollment process and how they make enrollment decisions when applications exceed the number of seats.*

**Magnolia D****TAKING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS: IMPLEMENTING ACT 13 IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

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

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

Laurie Kolka – PVAAS Statewide Team for PDE, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Sabrina Lindsay – Director of the Bureau of School Support, Pennsylvania Department of Education

*In this interactive session, the presenters will explore Act 13's comprehensive framework for educator evaluation. Through a holistic lens, this session will consider how various elements of educator effectiveness are interconnected, working together to support both teacher growth and student success. Participants will engage in collaborative discussions on the following key areas: the art of teaching, personal growth through goal setting, the role of environment, and student success as the ultimate measure. Throughout the session, administrators will engage in meaningful collaboration, sharing best practices and perspectives. Together, we will highlight how Act 13's holistic approach to educator evaluation not only assesses individual components but also strengthens the interconnected whole, promoting continuous improvement and excellence in teaching.*

**Wild Rose A****EMPOWERING CTE PROGRAMS: LEVERAGING PATTAN RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

Christine Moon – APR State Lead, Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

Jeff Mathieson – State Lead Inclusive Practices, Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

Bob Shields – Educational Consultant, PaTTAN

*Join this focused conversation on how to access the robust resources available through the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), the training arm of the Pennsylvania's Bureau of Special Education. This presentation will guide you through PaTTAN's suite of evidence-based practices, professional development opportunities, and strategic initiatives – all designed to foster inclusive, high-achievement learning environments for every student, including those in CTE programs. Participants will learn about customized professional development options and efforts to address educator shortages through the Attract-Prepare-Retain (APR) targeted projects and leave with actionable strategies to maximize PaTTAN's resources and supports for CTE success, ensuring every learner thrives in a supportive, engaging environment that meets today's diverse educational demands.*

**Wild Rose B****PARTNERS IN PROGRESS: MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Debra Cullen – Instructional Coach, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

Lesla Scalise – Special Education Supervisor and Section 504 Coordinator, Erie County Technical School

*In CTE, the role of instructional aides goes beyond basic classroom support – they are essential partners in fostering student achievement and engagement. SREB and Erie County Technical School are partnering to develop a seamless, innovative approach to utilizing instructional aides to their fullest potential. This collaborative effort focuses on equipping aides with the skills and strategies necessary to support student success in hands-on technical education settings. During this session, participants will learn about the comprehensive plan created through this partnership, including professional development initiatives, strategies for effective collaboration between teachers and aides, and tailored approaches to meet diverse student needs. Join us to discover how this partnership sets the standard for instructional aide utilization, ensuring every Erie County Technical School student benefits from a well-supported, engaging learning environment.*

**Empire A****LEADING AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE CULTURE AND CLIMATE DEDICATED TO TEAMWORK**

Dr. Scott Rogers – Administrative Director, York County School of Technology

John Stearns – Director of Curriculum and Instruction, York County School of Technology

Andrew Loehwing – Academy Principal, York County School of Technology

*What activities and strategic initiatives can educational leaders implement to bring faculty and staff together to foster a positive culture and climate dedicated to teamwork and carrying out an organization's mission, values, and comprehensive plan goals? York County School of Technology will share several activities it has implemented over the years to foster*

*a culture of teamwork. Activities such as "Walk and Talk" and "Table Discussion Questions" will be shared regarding ways to get your faculty and staff to connect and get to know and support one another as everyone works together in carrying out the school's larger mission.*

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS**

**White Room**

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

**EXPLORING AI/AR/VR'S ROLE IN CAREER EXPLORATION: ENERGIZING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**

Stefan Singer – Customer Success Manager, Case Readiness, zSpace

Dr. Mike Herrera – Executive Director, Upper Bucks County Technical School

*Get ready for an exciting and interactive session where educational leaders from across the northeast will share how they're using tools like AI, AR, and VR to inspire and engage students in new ways. This is your chance to dive into creative strategies and be part of the conversation as we gather insights from Pennsylvania's CTE leaders about the current challenges in career exploration. Experience ways that innovative technologies can be leveraged as students learn, research, and experience career concepts in a variety of subjects and career pathways, from STEM and Health Science to Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Science, and Transportation. Students can build personalized plans for post-secondary education and even earn valuable certifications along the way.*

**Magnolia B**

**TODAY'S WORKFORCE: WHAT DOES IT NEED AND HOW CAN WE HELP THE ROLE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL IN PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE – IT KEEPS CHANGING**

Mark Miller – Career Coordinator, Cedar Cliff High School

*We will look at the data of a typical PA High school, Cedar Cliff HS, what do are graduates do after they leave us and are they successful. With our CTC (CPACTC) at capacity and declining numbers for our students going to college what can be done to prepare students for success entering the workforce. We will share some of the things we are doing and then foster a discussion for others to share what is happening in their districts.*

**Magnolia C**

**WORKED BASED LEARNING: GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND BEST PRACTICES**

Nanette Anslinger – CTE Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and Technical Education,  
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Walt Hansell – School-to-Career Coordinator, Bucks County Technical High School

Ron Martino – School-to-Career Coordinator, Bucks County Technical High School

*This presentation will address multiple topics for running a successful Work Based Learning Program. The presenters will provide best practice resources for: PA School Code, 339 APTE review, Child Labor laws, Hazardous Occupations, and bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. By incorporating best practices, we can better prepare students for successful careers and help meet the evolving needs of the workforce.*

**Magnolia D**

**MAXIMIZING IMPACT: LEVERAGING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR STUDENT AND FAMILY SUCCESS**

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

Laura Mikowychok – Project Manager, PA Evidence Resource Center, Central IU

*Evidence-based practices offer a powerful opportunity to maximize resources and drive improvement. Join us as we use PA's Evidence Resource Center (ERC) to find actionable strategies with demonstrated success! We'll begin with a primer on evidence, including*

*ESSA's definition of research quality; we'll search the ERC using specific student and family outcome goals; and we'll discuss how strategies can be evaluated for goodness of fit to your local context. Join us to level-up your use of evidence!*

**Wild Rose A****MAKE EDUCATION RELEVANT WITH CATAPULT MASTERCLASS**

Dr. Kevin Fleming – Founder and CEO, Catapult

*The heart of any educational transformation lies not with programs or policy alone, but with educators themselves. We must empower and equip educators to lead change locally to Make Education Relevant so that all students graduate world-ready with a competitive advantage. This will require a new hybrid-flexible approach to our K-16 professional development to evolve both mindsets and metrics. Leveraging Dr. Fleming's research and experience, participants will gain a fresh perspective on enhancing professional learning – at scale. Gain insight into how Catapult Masterclass drives institutional change, foster continuous improvement, and galvanizes support for career-connected learning. Join your fellow Education Disruptors as we challenge the conventional and pave the way for a more personalized approach to professional growth.*

**Wild Rose B****FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: TOOLS FOR GUIDING STUDENT SUCCESS IN A CHANGING WORKFORCE**

Debra Cullen – Instructional Coach, Southern Regional Education Board

*Equipping students with the tools they need to navigate their career paths is essential for success in today's dynamic workforce. This session focuses on practical strategies that help students gain career knowledge and actively engage in education and career planning. Participants will explore methods for effective career counseling, incorporating career assessments, and delivering impactful curricula that connect students to educational opportunities and workforce trends. Additionally, the session will highlight approaches to providing job search information and placement services, ensuring students are prepared to transition smoothly from school to career. Join us to discover how to empower students to make informed decisions and take ownership of their futures. Participants will leave with a ready-made lesson they can use in the classroom!*

**Empire A****GJCTC AVIATION MICRO-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

John Augustine – Administrative Director, Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center  
Glenn Ponas – Executive Director, Aerium

*Aerium and the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center (GJCTC) are united in their mission to empower students with cutting-edge education and hands-on experience in aviation. By combining Aerium's innovative approach to micro-certifications with GJCTC's commitment to career-focused technical training, students gain industry-relevant skills that align with workforce demands. This partnership prepares students for successful careers in aviation, fostering innovation, safety, and technical expertise while supporting pathways to immediate employment or further education in this dynamic, high-growth industry.*

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR**

**Lobby Bar**

Sponsored by: Smart Futures

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**EVENING RECEPTION/ACTIVITY**

**Cocoa Suites**

Sponsored by: zSpace

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **BUFFET BREAKFAST**

**Red Room**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER**

**Red Room**

**TURNING INSIGHT INTO ACTION**

Dr. Kevin Fleming – Founder and CEO, Catapult

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Magnolia A**

**ENHANCE CLASSROOM TEACHING AND PREPARATION WITH CUSTOM AI**

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

*This workshop offers interactive experiences with AI tools, showing how it enhances learning by enabling interactive, student-centered conversations with "Voice" enhanced experiences with personalized feedback with real world simulations. We'll also discuss how AI streamlines custom student-centered curriculum development, freeing time for impactful teaching.*

**Magnolia B**

**DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS – JUST SAY "YES"**

Eric Kahler – Administrative Director, Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center

Dan Marks – Assistant Administrative Director, Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center

*Developing community partnerships is essential to providing Live Work opportunities that create practical, hands-on experience for students to showcase their skills. Refine your approach to community requests so that you are looking for all the ways that you can make them work instead of focusing on all the ways that doing so is difficult and challenging.*

**Magnolia C**

**BRINGING GERMAN APPRENTICESHIP INSIGHTS TO U.S. CTE: APPLICATIONS FOR LEHIGH VALLEY**

Dipal Kapadia – Information and Educational Technology Director, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute

Matthew Allen – Careers and Education Director, German American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Kevin Hughes – Training Services Manager, German American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Andy Robins – HR Manager, OldcastleAPG – APG Metro

*Industry, educational and collaborating partners from Industrial Training and Education Consortium (iTEC) of the Lehigh Valley will share insights from their study tour in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. This session will explore Germany's renowned dual apprenticeship model, highlighting the seamless collaboration between industry and education. The presenters will discuss how these principles can be tailored to enhance CTE in the U.S., with an emphasis on initiatives in the Lehigh Valley. Attendees will gain practical strategies for building stronger education-industry partnerships that prepare students for today's evolving workforce. By leveraging these global best practices, participants can help drive innovation and skill development in their own educational communities.*

**Magnolia D**

**SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SCHOOLS-TO-WORK GRANTS**

Jennifer Reams – Grant Services, Supervisor, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Administration

Kathleen Benyak – Grant Services, Workforce Development Analyst 2, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Administration



*This session will provide a brief history of the Schools-to-Work Grant, along with the legislation that led to its development. The presenters will demonstrate the process of requesting to be notified of upcoming grant opportunities and will discuss how to review these notifications, including identifying eligibility requirements. Attendees will also learn about the grants process, beginning with general steps to apply for a grant, as well as tips to improve an application for the review process, techniques to strengthen an application for consideration, and common application mistakes to avoid. Examples of successful projects funded by a Schools-to-Work Grant will be shared, along with a brief overview of the grant opportunities offered by other Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry divisions. The session will provide updates on grants developments and forecasts.*

**Wild Rose A****BUILDING FUTURE EDUCATORS: A JOURNEY FROM VISION TO PRACTICUM**

Donna Rain-O'Dell – Supervisor of Workforce Education, Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center

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

*Step into the inspiring journey of Central Westmoreland CTC's groundbreaking Aspiring Educators program, where passion meets purpose in building the next generation of impactful educators. Discover how an ambitious idea was transformed into a transformative program – one that guides students from classroom foundations to real-world teaching. The presenters will take you behind the scenes of phase one, year one, sharing how a cutting-edge curriculum was crafted with essential support and expertise from the 13.0101 CIP code task list. Experience how strategic partnerships with local universities unlocked dual-credit and articulation pathways, propelling students toward their teaching dreams. Finally, immerse yourself in the practicum experience developed, where aspiring educators engage in authentic, hands-on teaching opportunities. Join this session for an inspiring exploration of how we're not just preparing students for careers – we're cultivating future leaders in education.*

**Wild Rose B****FREE PATHWAYS TO IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS**

Justin Starr – Free Pathways to Implementing Industry Recognized Credentials, Community College of Allegheny County

Francis Cartieri – Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurial Manufacturing, Community College of Allegheny County

*Historically, working with community colleges to offer industry certifications and college credit has been a challenging process. College in high school programs often require partner K12 institutions to meet credit hour requirements, collective bargaining criteria and other logistical hurdles that may not be the best fit for a high school schedule. CCAC has created a streamlined process that allows K12 partners to offer industry certification programs in a variety of flexible formats. A streamlined PLA process allows CCAC to articulate industry certifications for college credit. The result is a series of flexible partnerships that have allowed students to enter the advanced manufacturing workforce while still in high school. Industry sponsors and grant funding enables local educators to take advantage of these resources at no cost.*

**Cocoa 5****CTE: PROVIDING A COMPETENT AND CAPABLE EDUCATION**

Todd Luke – President, MAX Teaching

*Participants will discuss competence and capability within programs of study and determine what that might look like in any program of study. Participants will take away tools they can automatically utilize in the programs or schools upon return that help demonstrate these traits within a quality program.*

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**REFRESHMENT BREAK****Confection Lobby**

Door prize winners will be posted on conference monitor displays.

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS****Magnolia A****INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: CREATING AFFORDABLE PATHWAYS FROM CTE TO COLLEGE DEGREES**

Philip Campbell – Director of College Partnerships, Lackawanna College

*This presentation will examine how Lackawanna College is establishing cost-effective pathways for CTE students to transition seamlessly into college degree programs. With a focus on dual enrollment, articulation agreements, and efficient credit transfer processes, the presenter will demonstrate practical strategies that save students both time and money while preparing them for successful careers. Attendees will learn how to implement these strategies in their own institutions to enhance student success and strengthen partnerships. Creating affordable pathways for CTE students is essential for promoting higher education access and workforce readiness. This presentation will showcase how innovative partnerships with CTE programs are designed to ensure a smooth transition into college degree programs. The presentation will also feature success stories of CTE students who have successfully navigated these pathways, illustrating the tangible benefits of these collaborative efforts. Attendees will gain actionable insights and tools to foster stronger collaborations between CTE institutions and higher education.*

**Magnolia B****ENGAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Eddie Mikesic – Business Education Instructor, Greater Johnstown High School

Jason Corte – Cooperative Education Coordinator, Greater Johnstown High School

*This session will explore strategies for bridging the gap between employers and students, helping to eliminate barriers to meaningful employment. Presenters will share best practices for fostering strong community partnerships, creating work-based learning opportunities, and equipping students with the skills and connections needed for career success.*

**Magnolia C****THE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP-TO-APPRENTICESHIP CAREER PATH: QUESTIONS PERSIST!**

Ross Berger – MIDAS+ Grant Manager, Pennsylvania College of Technology

*Pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship are the latest workforce training catchphrases to suggest a successful career path for students and the future workforce. As a career readiness educator, you may still be asking why, when, where, what, and how of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship. During this session we'll discuss a bit of the "what" about the pre-apprenticeship-to-apprenticeship pathway but then focus on what's missing. The presenter will explore the gaps between pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship and discuss best practices to get students to their goals. Join the conversation about the questions that persist when guiding a student through what appears to be an ideal path to a good job and lifelong career.*

**Magnolia D****CLUSTER REIMAGINED: MODERNIZING CAREER PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE**

Jeremy Miller – CTE Advisor 2, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

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

*Join the Bureau of Career and Technical Education for collaborative conversation on "Career Clusters Reimagined: Modernizing Career Pathways for the Future". The presenters will provide an overview of the new National Career Cluster Framework and explore how the*

*modernization of career clusters can better align with the rapidly changing job market. The Career Cluster Framework is changing, and this is your chance as experts in CTE to provide your feedback that will assist and guide the state in updating our current model. The session will finish with a collaborative conversation on the potential opportunities and risks with implementing a new Career Clusters Framework. Come join the conversation!*

**Wild Rose A****BEST PRACTICES IN SUPPORTING SPECIAL POPULATIONS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Dr. Joann Hudak – Education Consultant, YouScience

Dr. James Kraft – Education Consultant, YouScience

Eric Kahler – Administrative Director, Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center

Dr. Mike Herrera – Executive Director, Upper Bucks County Technical School

*Through the requirements of Perkins V, every Pennsylvania CTC and CTE program provider must complete a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment, which uses data and program analysis to identify specific needs for program improvement. Common practice, unfortunately, is to spend a great deal of time on data analysis, and less time focusing on specific program and system improvement action steps. Thus, there is a specific opportunity to utilize the wealth of promising practices information to help CTE leaders apply promising practices to their program and system needs. The presenters will share actionable strategies and real-life examples of how CTE programs can support special populations and promote inclusivity. Participants will explore the challenges special populations encounter in accessing CTE programs and discover best practices to address these barriers. They will also learn how to adapt and implement these strategies within their own CTE programs.*

**Wild Rose B****PANEL DISCUSSION ON ACCESS TO CTE PROGRAMS – FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Wesley Kuchta – Administrative Director, Lenape Technical School

Angela Mike – Executive Director for CTE, Pittsburgh Public Schools

Mike Moeller – Supervisor of Curriculum, Lancaster County Career and Technology Center

Dr. Mike Stauffer – Executive Director, Berks County Career and Technology Center

*With increasing popularity of career and technical education, most of our schools are experiencing capacity issues, where students are not able to access CTE programs and are being placed on a wait list. In the first session, leaders from across the state engaged in a panel discussion to share their enrollment process and how they make enrollment decisions when applications exceed the number of seats. In this session, we will open a more informal dialogue for anyone who wants to share, ask questions, or learn more.*

**Cocoa 5****THE APPRENTICESHIP ECOSYSTEM IN PENNSYLVANIA: BUILDING STRONGER PATHWAYS TO CAREERS**

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

Teila Allmond – Pre-Apprenticeship Recruiter, Apprenticeships Training for the Electrical  
Industry/IBEW Local 98

*Join this session for an insightful session exploring the dynamic apprenticeship ecosystem in Pennsylvania. This session will highlight key initiatives and resources provided by the state to support apprenticeship programs, focusing on workforce development, training opportunities, and the state's efforts to connect individuals with meaningful, long-term career paths. The presenters will share the vital role of unions, like IBEW Local 98, in the apprenticeship process, offering a firsthand look at how these partnerships help shape skilled trades and elevate the standards of training in high-demand industries. Discuss the critical importance of mentorship, hands-on experience, and collaboration in developing the next generation of skilled workers. Together, the presenters will provide a comprehensive overview of Pennsylvania's apprenticeship landscape, offering valuable insights for*

*employers, workers, and educators looking to enhance workforce development and apprenticeship opportunities in the state. This session is perfect for anyone interested in understanding how apprenticeships are transforming careers and driving economic growth in Pennsylvania.*

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Magnolia A**

#### **EMPOWERING PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS: STREAMLINING ACT 158 AND FUTURE READY PA WITH SCHOOLINKS**

Mike McInerney – Senior Account Executive, SchoolLinks

*Join us to explore how SchoolLinks simplifies Pennsylvania's college and career readiness (CCR) requirements, such as Act 158, Chapter 339, and the Future Ready PA Index, while supporting districts in building a student-centered college and career ready culture. Designed for school administrators, CTE leaders, and CCR coordinators, this session dives into practical ways to use SchoolLinks' tools to meet compliance, track student readiness, and offer alternative graduation pathways like pre-apprenticeships. Attendees will gain insights into implementing a college and career readiness platform and hear from panelists who successfully launched this program. If your district aims to simplify compliance while creating impactful career pathways, this session will provide an actionable roadmap and the tools to drive future-ready success.*

#### **Magnolia B**

#### **PCD AND CAP – SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE WORKFORCE**

Lynda Morris – President and CEO, Partnership for Career Development

Anne Lauritzen – Director of Programs and Operations, Partnership for Career Development

*As the Partnership for Career Development (PCD) marks 30 years of dedicated service in Career Awareness and Preparation (CAP), it has transformed CAP initiatives across the South-Central region of Pennsylvania. From its modest beginnings with a few stapled sheets offering limited resources, PCD now presents a comprehensive, 100-page guide encompassing nearly every nationally recognized career cluster, alongside specific pathways identified locally through the Cradle to Career (C2C) Alliance. The C2C Alliance, led by PCD in partnership with the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, and the York County Alliance for Learning, has grown to over 200 members, establishing itself as a powerful, collective-impact model solely focused on CAP. This session shows PCD's extensive expertise in business-education partnerships and cross-sector collaborations, offering a rich toolkit for CAP impact that effectively bridges school-to-career pathways, aligns with state requirements, and fosters a future-ready workforce.*

#### **Magnolia C**

#### **MINDFULNESS IN CTE? YES WE CAN!**

Sarah Blaum – School Counselor, Chester County Intermediate Unit/Technical College High School - Brandywine Campus

Suzie Hutchinson – Early Childhood and Care Education Teacher, Chester County Intermediate Unit/Technical College High School - Brandywine Campus

*Join this session to explore the benefits of mindfulness as a social-emotional learning strategy and how to incorporate in the CTE classroom. Practicing mindfulness techniques have been shown to help students regulate their emotions and manage stress which can lead to increased learning and improved overall well-being. During this session the importance of staff wellness in promoting a positive learning environment will be addressed. Join this hands-on presentation as the presenters demonstrate examples of combining mindfulness with movement. You will leave with strategies to implement as well as feeling ready and rejuvenated!*

- Magnolia D**      **PRODUCING CAREER READY STUDENTS BY IMPLEMENTING PRACTICAL PROGRAM PROCEDURES**
- Adrienne Jones – Administrative Director, Career Institute of Technology  
Dan Perna – President, James Daniel Associates, LLC  
Del Hart – Faculty, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation
- This session will focus on teacher management techniques, specific to CTE program areas. Participants will be provided with an introduction to the skills of basic organization and shop/classroom procedures that are necessary to manage a group of students, and to enable them to be career ready. During this session, the presenters will outline and focus on the need for practical habits and program procedures to be established with all students in all aspects of the technical school environment. Topics include the difference between rules and expectations, how to develop and implement practical program procedures, how to develop relationships with students, how to use authority without being authoritarian, and how to create efficiency within the program area. These procedures, if performed correctly, will positively impact student engagement and student achievement; and will empower the students to be career ready.*
- Wild Rose A**      **CULTURE SHOCK: CREATING A POSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE**
- Adam Lazarchak – Executive Director, Bethlehem AVTS  
Susan Fahrenkopf – Assistant to the Executive Director, Bethlehem AVTS
- In this session, Bethlehem AVTS will share how they developed a positive school culture and how this transformation has benefited the students and staff while at the same time fostering an increased awareness and respect in the community. From internal events to off-campus activities, this once best-kept secret in the Lehigh Valley is now the first thought for business and industry to develop a pipeline of talent during a shortage of skilled/prepared labor and a resource sought out by its stakeholders.*
- Wild Rose B**      **FUTURE-READY: EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH CUTTING-EDGE CTE PATHWAYS!**
- Dr. Linda Floyd – Director, State and District Partnerships and Technical Centers That Work, SREB  
Dr. Beth Green – Director of Advanced Career, SREB
- Are you ready to revolutionize your CTE programs? Join this session for an inspiring presentation where you'll discover how the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) Advanced Career (AC) curricula can empower Pennsylvania students to succeed beyond high school. The presenters will reveal the benefits of our collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, where schools enjoy free teacher training tuition and complimentary access to AC's top-tier curricula. Imagine the possibilities with powerful CTE programs such as Aerospace Engineering, Clean Energy Technology, Energy & Power, Oil & Gas, and Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management. With flexible project-based learning units, schools and teachers can seamlessly integrate them into existing courses or embark on entirely new courses and pathways. The presenters will share inspiring stories of teachers who have reinvigorated their CTE programs. Witness how these educators sparked excitement among students and built strong connections with local workforce representatives. This session promises to be a game-changer for anyone eager to elevate their CTE programs!*

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*Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education  
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