

Legislative Update: House Holds Perkins Hearing

This last November, I presented testimony to the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee on the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins). The hearing titled, "Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: Improving the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act," provided committee members the opportunity to discuss and consider a wide range of proposals to improve and strengthen the main piece of federal legislation that supports Career Technical Education (CTE) throughout the United States.

The hearing provided a great opportunity to highlight Kansas' ongoing efforts to support and grow CTE programs and emphasized areas in which those successes could be replicated on a national scale. A main theme focused on the need for CTE students to finish programs with industry recognized, nationally portable credentials or certificates. To assist institutions with student follow-up, my recommendations included a centralized clearinghouse for credential data which could be accessed by states. I also supported increasing the

allowable amount for a state reserve fund from 10 percent to 50 percent of a state's local fund allocation to reward high performing technical education through a competitive funding process. Other recommendations included:

1. Encouraging regional industry advisory committees supported by workforce investment act funded staff, where possible;
2. Funding consortia consisting of secondary and postsecondary institutions;
3. Retaining only the core indicators of performance measuring program completion, student retention, technical skill attainment, and employment.

Chairman Kline concluded the hearing by saying the committee intends to continue its work on reauthorizing the Perkins Act and that he looks forward to, "working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in hopes we can craft smart, bipartisan proposals to strengthen career and technical education in America."

Blake Flanders, Ph.D.
Vice President for Workforce Development



Dates To Remember:

Kansas Workforce Summit

January 22 - 23, 2014
The Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, KS

Perkins Progress Reports

Due March 1, 2014

Brustein Spring Forum

May 7 - 9, 2014
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Registration opens in January

KBOR Conference

June 25 - 26, 2014
The Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, KS

Technical Education Authority Meetings

January 22
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 29



Neosho Community College hosts lifelike Surgical Simulation with SynDaver by Barbara Stapleton

Ottawa, KS – In the Fall of 2013, Neosho Community College hosted their first simulation surgery with SynDaver Labs' Sally the [SynDaver™ Synthetic Human](#). The SynDaver “bleeds, breathes, and employs hundreds of replaceable muscles, bones, organs, and vessels... This technology is used to replace live animals, cadavers, and human patients in medical device studies, clinical training, and surgical simulation,” according to SynDaver Lab’s website. The “Sally” SynDaver provides a realistic surgical environment for students to experience. Dr. Brian Inbody, Neosho Community College President, introduced the simulation event as well as key members of team.

Dr. Rodney McCalla, Director of Surgery at Ransom Memorial Hospital and Medical Director for Neosho Community College led the procedure; Sally had swallowed a toothpick left in her steak. Not only could the surgical team conduct the surgery and in this procedure, remove a portion of her small intestine, but there is ample additional ‘material’ to perform many more procedures. When Sally needs repair, she can be sent back to SynDaver Labs for all new ‘parts’. Complementary of Neosho’s commitment to providing the “absolute technical edge in technical education,” Dr. McCalla stressed that surgery simulation “revolutionizes the ability to train technicians, nurses and surgeons,” particularly when Sally is the only SynDaver within a 1,000 mile radius.

After the surgical simulation, Dr. McCalla commended the realistic nature of Sally, stating the labs had done a “wonderful job with the feel of the tissue, they’ve really gotten it right. I’m impressed with how realistic they made her.” Kelly Warren, Director of the Surgical Technician program agreed, “Sally was very lifelike;” and one student declared “I feel like I’m at the Harvard of Surgical Technology.”

WATC Hosts National Manufacturing Day Event by Lisa Beck

Wichita, KS — Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) hosted National Manufacturing Day on October 4, 2013. The event brought more than 200 students and educators from Wichita Public Schools for a day of hands-on participation and exploration at [the National Center for Aviation Training \(NCAT\)](#), WATC’s main campus.

Students experienced eight different Career and Technical Education (CTE) exploration stations including welding, machining, robotics, aviation manufacturing and more. The hope is that students will catch a glimpse of what a manufacturing career is all about – and what it isn’t. National Manufacturing Day seeks to address common misperceptions about manufacturing in a coordinated effort. Watch event [video](#).

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Manhattan Area Technical College designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education (CAE2Y)

Press Release

The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have designated Manhattan Area Technical College a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education (CAE2Y). This designation covers 2013 through 2015.

As stated in the notification letter, “[MATC’s] ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. The President’s National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace and the International Strategy for Cyberspace address the critical shortage of professionals with these skills and highlights the importance of higher education as a solution to defending America’s cyberspace. Like all nations, the United States has a compelling interest in defending its vital national assets, as well as our core principles and values, and we are committed to defending against those who would attempt to impede our ability to do so. Education is the key to promoting these ideals.”

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Program was launched in 2009 as a means of providing recognition to institutions that serve as models for two-year schools by providing innovative, comprehensive, multidisciplinary education and training in the Information Assurance/Cybersecurity field. Recognition of these efforts will help expand cyber education by encouraging additional two-year institutions to enter the IA education and training arena, supporting the intent of the federal government to expand cyber education throughout the nation.

Manhattan Area Technical College works to foster and create opportunities for interdisciplinary activities, continues to develop and support both credit and continuing education academic programs, and serves as a link between the academic and professional communities. MATC’s team of educators in this field is extraordinarily innovative and dedicated to providing the best learning experience possible for students. Ben Eckart, instructor in MATC’s Information & Network Technology program remarks, “MATC’s being awarded CAE2Y is proof positive that the team in INT has been working hard to create a program that is nationally recognized for its quality of education and content. This is a true honor for us.”

The National Center of Academic Excellence designation attests to the quality of IA programs, and MATC is the only two year College in Kansas that has been awarded this honor. Certificates of recognitions for this honor will be presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education in Mobile, Alabama, on 10 June 2013. For more information on the award and MATC’s cyber programs, contact Ben Eckart at beneckart@manhattantech.edu.

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