

Legislative Update: House Holds Perkins Hearing

Late in 2013, 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



TEA Mission:

Drive the advancement of a robust technical education system to meet the needs of Kansas business and industry



Employer Engagement Initiative: Successful Education/Business Partnerships

Connecting business and education through consistent and early communication is what Kansas’ Employer Engagement Initiative is all about. Effective career technical education programs include robust partnerships, curriculum aligned to business needs, highly qualified faculty, state of the art equipment, and strong administrative leadership.

As a first step, employers sign the Kansas Department of Commerce’s Skills Pledge which validates that the employer recognizes the importance of industry credentials. Then, as Kansas’ career tech programs continue to offer impactful educational value, employers recognize that importance to their workforce by assuring successful program graduates an interview with their company. They can also assist and inform program faculty of new innovations in the industry, and can even offer externships to instructors so program faculty are able to stay current with business.

Sign the [Skills Pledge](#) and contact your local community or technical college to kick off your participation as part of our statewide Employer Engagement Initiative!

TEA—Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Kathy Howell, Chair
Eddie Estes, Vice Chair
Bruce Akin
Thomas Burke
David Coleal
Diane DeBacker
Jackie Vietti
Pat George
Joe Glassman
Lana Gordon
Connie Hubbell
Steve Kearney



Technical Education Authority Meetings

April 24
May 29



Employer Engagement Initiative: Successful Partnerships (continued)



Presentation by Seward County Community College to Mike O’Kane, Kansas Small Business Development Center. Mike is an advisory committee member for the auto business management program at SCCC/ATS. The Kansas Small Business Development Center is currently at the Supporter level, but looks forward to further engaging with the faculty and students.

Photo Left to right. Dr. Duane Dunn- President SCCC/ATS, Larry McLemore -Chair of Industrial Technology SCCC/ATS, Mike O’Kane-Kansas Small Business Development Center, Dr. Janese Thatcher- Dean of CTE SCCC/ATS. (Photo courtesy of SCCC/ATS)

Recognized Employer Partnerships

Cowley Community College

Champion Level

Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Services

Butler County Emergency Medical Services

Partner Level

Arkansas City Fire/EMS

Supporter Level

Mulvane Emergency Medical Services

Wellington Fire/EMS

Fort Scott Community College

Champion Level

Harley-Davidson University

Seward County Community College/ATS

Champion Level

Seaboard Foods

Partner Level

JC Penney

AutoZone Commercial

Keystone Automotive

Freightliner

Kenworth

Hess Services

Supporter Level

Central Power

Keating Tractor

Ghunn’s Auto Center

NAPA

Billy’s Restaurant

Shironaka Enterprises

Dan’s Body Shop

KSBDC



Keating Tractor provides input and support for the Diesel program and is also an advisory committee member. Since first viewing the Employer Engagement Initiative opportunities, Keating Tractor has begun to look at ways to soon move from Supporter to Champion Level providing trainings for students, intern opportunities, and multi program relationships with SCCC/ATS that allow students from various departments to gain real world experience while still in school.

L-R Back –Front, Roberto Becerril- student, Luis Vasquez- student, Dakin Baier- student, Jordon Penner-student, Jose Pando-student, Thomas Cuhha-student, Lane Mussman-student, Dr. Janese Thatcher- Dean of CTE SCCC/ATS, Greg Unger – Instructor SCCC/ATS, Jerry Bremenkamp- Keating Tractor Master Technician, Julie Parsons- Keating Tractor Office Manager, Larry McLemore- Chair of Industrial Technology SCCC/ATS. (Photo courtesy of SCCC/ATS)



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