

2025 NPS AGENDA

Sunday, March 16, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Alexandria Room

State Association Leadership Training
**Separate registration required*

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Arlington Ballroom Foyer

Onsite Registration

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 McLean Room

NEDA Business Meeting

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Salon VI

First Timer's Q and A

If this is your first time at NPS, or you have questions about the conference or Hill visits, stop by this informal question and answer session with ACTE's policy staff. We'll provide you with all the information you need to navigate the new environment on Capitol Hill and make the most of your interactions with policymakers. *Please note: This is a discussion session only, there will be no formal presentation during this time.*

Monday, March 17, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Arlington Ballroom Foyer

Onsite Registration

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
 Arlington Ballroom Foyer

Continental Breakfast and Networking
Generously sponsored by iCEV



Sponsor Highlight: *Dusty Moore, President/CEO, iCEV*

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Salons III and IV



Opening General Session with Keynote Speaker

Generously sponsored by zSpace

The 2025 National Policy Seminar officially kicks off with an update from ACTE Executive Director LeAnn Curry and an overview of the current political climate by keynote speaker Melanie Zanona, Capitol Hill correspondent now with NBC News.

ACTE Update: *LeAnn Curry, Executive Director, ACTE*

Pledge of Allegiance: *Kallie Allen, National President, SkillsUSA*

Keynote Speaker: *Melanie Zanona, Capitol Hill Correspondent, NBC News*

Sponsor Highlight: *Michael Carbenia, Sr. Executive Director of Workforce, zSpace*

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Salons III and IV

General Session: Budgets and More! A Deep Dive Into Federal Funding Policies

Federal funding is likely to dominate policy discussions on Capitol Hill in the first half of the 2025. This session will dive deeper into the complex fiscal environment facing Congress and their work to address FY 2025 and FY 2026 appropriations bills, the budget reconciliation process, the debt limit and more!

Sarah Abernathy, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding

Robyn Hiestand, Vice President, Bose Public Affairs Group

Katie Spiker, Managing Director of Government Relations, National Skills Coalition

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions: Setting the Stage for Perkins Reauthorization

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act was last reauthorized by Congress in 2018 – seven years ago! While Congress has not yet begun any formal efforts to consider changes to Perkins, we are beginning to lay the groundwork in case activity begins. These sessions will provide opportunities for you to share your input into ways to improve the legislation. There will be three separate sessions with similar activities, tailored to the level of focus or involvement you have related to Perkins legislation in your role.

Heavy Perkins Focus – Salon I

Moderate Perkins Focus – Salon II

Light Perkins Focus – Salon V

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Mt. Vernon

Advocacy in Agricultural Education

The session will provide you time to learn and share strategies to advocate for agricultural education in your community, state, and nationally. Come prepared to share some of your successes and challenges!

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Salons III and IV

General Session: The Impact of the Administration’s Activities & Priorities

The beginning of the Trump Administration has been extremely busy with numerous Executive Orders launched and different priorities emphasized. This session will dive deeper into the impacts of these policy changes on educational institutions and provide suggestions for next steps.

Rob Duston, Partner, Saul Ewing LLP

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Salons III and IV

General Session: Using Public Opinion Polling to Advocate for CTE

CTE programs experience significant support from numerous key audiences. This session will focus on how we can leverage recent polling data and develop effective messaging to help make the case for our programs and policy priorities.

Evangel Penumaka, Polling Principal, Data for Progress
Rebeca Shackelford, Director of Government Relations, All4Ed
Stacy Whitehouse, Associate Director of Communications, Advance CTE

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arlington Ballroom Foyer

Drink Break

Generously sponsored by Forrest T. Jones



4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Salons III and IV

ACTE Legislative Agenda/Hill Visit Overview

ACTE policy staff will provide an overview of goals for Hill visits, review key messages and legislative priorities, and relay last minute tips for getting the CTE message heard on Capitol Hill.

ACTE Public Policy Staff
Sponsor Highlight: *Mike Williams, Senior Account Executive, Forrest T. Jones*

4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Salons III and IV

State Planning Roundtables

Work with others from your state to finalize Hill visit logistics and details. Leave-behind folders will be distributed during this time, and ACTE Public Policy staff will be available to answer any remaining questions. Larger state delegations will be dismissed to meet in separate rooms:

Arizona – Alexandria
Georgia – Salon E
Indiana – Salon D
Minnesota – Rosslyn

Missouri - McLean
Ohio – Salon G
Oklahoma – Salon F

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Visits

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Congressional Staff Panel on Capitol Hill (G50 Dirksen Senate Office Building)

Staff working on CTE issues for key committees, Caucuses and Members of Congress will share the latest news from Capitol Hill and their outlook for the rest of this congressional session.

Abbygayle Brewington, Legislative Assistant, Rep. John Carter (R-TX)

*Jake Easter, Education Policy Advisor, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions Majority Staff*

Allie Pearce, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



zSpace

Capitol Hill Reception (G50 Dirksen Senate Office Building)

Generously sponsored by zSpace, NAHB and national CTSOs

The evening reception will feature CTE students as they share the leadership and skill-building opportunities they gain through high-quality CTE and participation in their respective student organizations. The reception is sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders, zSpace and National Coordinating Council of Career and Technical Student Organization (NCC-CTSO) members.

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Arlington Ballroom Foyer

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Salons III and IV

Special Focus Content: Apprenticeships

8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Setting the Stage

What are the national activities, trends and policies related to apprenticeships that CTE leaders need to focus on? We'll begin with a broad overview of the apprenticeship landscape, including defining various apprenticeship terminology to ensure we're all on the same page.

Meghan Wills, Senior TA Consultant, American Institutes for Research

8:50 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Challenges and Opportunities Surrounding Apprenticeship

A series of issues encompass effective apprenticeship implementation and growth. Our panelists will explore best practices related to apprenticeships and the opportunities and

barriers that need to be addressed more globally through policy or other actions to ensure the success of this model.

Zach Boren, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

Lateefah Durant, Vice President of Innovation, CityWorks DC

*Dave Harrison, Executive Director for Work Force Development,
Government Programs and Military Employment Issues,
Fastport, Inc.*

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Spotlight Focus on EV Hub

The American Association of Community College's Registered Apprenticeship Electric Vehicle (EV) HUB, funded through a U.S. Dept. of Labor Apprenticeship Building America grant is creating an EV Hub to support work on EV apprenticeships. Tesla, Panasonic, community colleges and various national organizations are contributing to the Hub. We will discuss their roles and gain insights that could impact your community.

Jennifer Worth, Senior Vice-President, Academic & Workforce

Development, American Association of Community Colleges

*Mala Thakur, Senior Director, Programs and Initiatives, National
Association of Workforce Boards*

10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Break

11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

High School Pathways to Support the Apprenticeship Pipeline

Youth Apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and linkages of pre- and youth apprenticeship to postsecondary and workforce pipelines, including apprenticeships, are important to building the workforce. Panelists will explore the policies and actions needed for a robust system that supports student career aspirations while simultaneously meeting the nation's skills needs.

*Stephen Cousins, Associate Vice President Industry Relations &
Curriculum Advocacy, Home Builders Institute*

Dan Hinderliter, Associate Director, State Policy; Advance CTE

Blaise King, Director of Workforce Innovation, AccelerateMS

*Erica Simon, Deputy Director, Partnership to Advance Youth
Apprenticeship, New America*