Building The Future AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2025
Issue 4

Sending warm wishes of joy and celebration this holiday season!

December marks both an ending and a beginning—a time to celebrate progress and prepare for what's ahead. Across Pennsylvania, Career and Technical Education continues to open doors for students, strengthen communities, and build pathways to success. This season reminds us that diversity of traditions and perspectives is one of our greatest strengths. Whether you're reflecting on accomplishments, planning for the new year, or simply enjoying time with family and friends, we thank you for the commitment and collaboration that make CTE thrive. Here's to closing the year with pride and stepping into 2026 with purpose and possibility!

Our office will be closed from December 24, 2025, through January 4, 2026.

ILC - That's a Wrap!

Session Presentations

Click the link below to learn more. This information can also be found on the ERC website.

- **Presentations**

Special Shout-Out: PAsmart

This year, we were lucky enough to welcome Dr. Nancy Peter and the PAsmart grantees from across Pennsylvania. To learn more about the projects, you can go to the Google Drive linked below to view informational posters created by the organizations.

- **Poster Google Drive**

NOCTI Updates

Mandatory Training for Test Site Coordinators

Join PDE, NOCTI, and ERC representatives as they cover what you need to know before post-testing and answer your burning questions. Topics will include what you are responsible for during testing, how to determine if a student should be tested, how to add accommodations for a student, how to protect yourself and your school in the event of a security violation, and more.

If you do not attend the session and participate actively in the discussion/quiz modules, you will be required to complete another training at a later date before your school will be permitted to order tests.

December 5, 2025, on Zoom from noon to 1 pm.

- **Registration**

Special Accommodations

If you have a special accommodation request for a student, please fill out the form linked below as soon as possible.

All requests must be approved by the Bureau of Career and Technical Education and may take a few days to be processed.

- **Student Occupational Testing Special Accommodations Request Form**

Need your certificates for your May ceremony?
Consider testing early in March.

Once you have tested, upload your scores to the NOCTI Client Center and send your test materials and disposal form as soon as possible; likewise for NIMs.

Task List Revision

Thank you to all who participated in the Delphi surveys.
We are analyzing the data and will reach out to select CIPs for further discussion, if needed.

Pre-Apprenticeship Webinars

The Education Resource Center is partnering with the Bureau of Career and Technical Education and the PA Department of Labor and Industry's Apprenticeship and Training Office to provide more support to schools who wish to offer pre-apprenticeship opportunities for their students. As part of this multi-faceted project, we will be convening a community of practice group virtually in 2026 so that schools can learn more from one another about how to operationalize successful pre-apprenticeship models that lead to careers and postsecondary success for their students. Convenings are expected to occur quarterly throughout the year over Zoom.

If you would be interested in learning more, **please use this form**. We will reach out with additional information in January 2026.

PRLAEF Scholarship Opportunity

College is expensive. The PRLAEF can help.

The Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association Educational Foundation Scholarship Program is accepting applications from students who are pursuing post-secondary opportunities in culinary arts and hospitality management programs until April 1, 2026. This year, the PRLAEF will award multiple scholarships equaling $2,000 each.

Visit **PRLA.org** for eligibility criteria and application requirements. While the scholarship is not recurring, previous PRLAEF scholarship recipients are eligible to re-apply.

If you have already started your application, please be sure to log in and check your status. Ensure all fields are complete and supporting materials have been properly uploaded. Only completed applications will be considered by the review committee.

Since 2004, the PRLAEF has awarded nearly $550,000 in scholarships to students like you.

Be sure to submit your complete application by April 1!

This Month's Fun Facts

Did you know...
There are going to be some new faces in the ERC! We are excited to announce that we are currently in the process of hiring a Project Director as well as adding an additional role come spring.
Source: ERC

Did you know...
The first ambulance service in the United States was created in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1967. The Freedom House Ambulance Service was comprised of black men and women supervised by Dr. Nancy Caroline and Dr. Peter Safar.
Source: **National EMS Museum**

Congrats to the Pumpkin Challenge Winners

2025 PUMPKIN CONTEST — PENNSYLVANIA ProStart / Sysco / WINGSTOP CHARITIES

SOCIAL MEDIA PICK: — FORBES ROAD CTC (G)
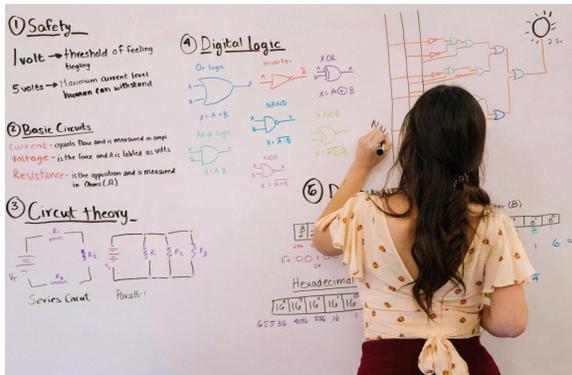
PRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PICK: — DAUPHIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL (A)

PRLA STAFF PICK: — MON VALLEY CTC (I)

Teachers That Do It All

We want to hear from YOU!

Do you know a teacher who is incorporating literacy and mathematics into their lessons? Each month, we would like to highlight educators who excel at best practices in the classroom.

If you know a teacher or are interested, please complete the Microsoft form found **HERE**.

Learning Opportunity Spotlight

Visit our website:
www.careertechpa.org

For questions or additional information contact ERC9065@psu.edu or 412-675-9065.