



A CTE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Building The Future
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Welcome to the new year!

Happy New Year! As we turn the page to 2026, we're reminded that career and technical education is more than programs and pathways—it's a community built on collaboration, creativity, and care for our students' futures. January is a time to come together, share ideas, and set the tone for a year filled with growth and opportunity. Every lesson taught, every partnership formed, and every moment of guidance helps shape the next generation of skilled professionals who will strengthen Pennsylvania's workforce and communities.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on NOCTI testing and task list revision, along with opportunities to participate in test development for NOCTI and a new quarterly virtual clinic for schools that have or are interested in offering pre-apprenticeship programs for their students. Here's to a year of working side by side to make a lasting impact—because when we succeed together, our students succeed too.

We look forward to partnering with you throughout 2026!

NOCTI Updates

Test Site Coordinator Training: Important Materials

Thank you to all who attended the mandatory Test Site Coordinator training in December. Below are important documents that came from the meeting.

- [Presentation](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Post-testing

Schools can now order post-tests, provided their Test Site Coordinator has completed the mandatory training. The testing window is **March 1** through **April 30, 2026**.

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.

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](#)

Drop-in Office Hours

Starting in February, the ERC, in coordination with NOCTI and the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, will offer Zoom drop-in office hours for schools to ask questions at their convenience. More information is forthcoming.

New from NOCTI



Your Expertise Matters - SMEs Needed for New NOCTI Projects!

We're excited to announce NOCTI's 2026–27 development projects—and we're looking for passionate Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to help bring them to life!

This year's lineup includes:

- Building Trades Maintenance

- Computer Programming
- Criminal Justice
- Employability Skills
- Health Assisting
- Horticulture-Landscaping
- Production Agriculture
- Television Production

As an SME, you'll help ensure each credential is accurate, industry-aligned, and truly reflective of real-world skills. It's a great way to give back, influence national standards, and help shape the future workforce.

If you have expertise in any of these areas—or know someone who does—we'd love to have you on board. Thanks for helping build the next generation of high-quality NOCTI credentials!

[Learn More and Apply!](#)

Task List Revision Update

The Results Are In

Thank you to all who participated in the Task List Revision process; the conversations surrounding the identified CIPs were productive, enlightening, and transformative. We are finalizing the new lists and will post them on the PDE website by the end of the month.

Now Recruiting: Cut Score Development

25-26 PA CUT SCORE DEVELOPMENT

26.1201 BIOTECHNOLOGY

Help Career and Technical students with NOCTI testing!



IT'S EASY!

- Work at your convenience
- Complete online training
- Review the NOCTI test

IF ACCEPTED

You will receive an email with login information to access the online training. You will have one week to complete the training and a second week to review the NOCTI test.

\$200.00

STIPENDS FOR QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS!

ARE YOU...

- ✓ An active Occupational Advisory Committee member?
- ✓ An employer who hires Co-Op students?
- ✓ An employer who hires career and technical education graduates?
- ✓ A Co-Op supervisor?

IF YOU SAID YES, YOU CAN APPLY!



[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/JTIFMBBVK](https://forms.office.com/R/JTIFMBBVK)

[CAREERTECHPA.ORG](https://forms.office.com/R/JTIFMBBVK)

Apply Today!

Pre-Apprenticeship Webinars

Want to know more about pre-apprenticeships?

Are you interested in learning more about how to start a pre-apprenticeship program at your school? If your school already offers a pre-apprenticeship, would you like to share your experience with others?

If so, sign up to receive updates about the ERC's upcoming pre-apprenticeship clinics. Beginning in February, these virtual sessions will bring together schools with CTE programs and experts in pre-apprenticeship development to discuss best practices, common challenges, and practical tips for building and sustaining strong programs.

The date, time, and first guest speaker will be announced later this month. **Sign up today** to be notified when registration opens.

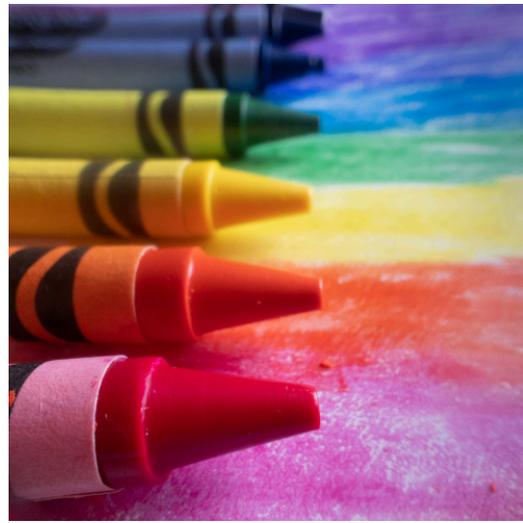
This Month's Fun Facts



Did you know...

In 1943, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to form the Steagles, due to World War II. The team had a winning season of 5-4-1.

Source: [Philadelphia Eagles](#)



Did you know...

Crayola produces around 3 billion crayons each year, with nearly 2/3 of their total products being manufactured in the Lehigh Valley, home to their headquarters.

Source: [Crayola](#)

Learning Opportunity Spotlight

Pennsylvania Department of Education
2026 PDE CONFERENCE
 MAKING A DIFFERENCE: EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES THAT WORK!
 FEBRUARY 25 - 27, 2026 | HERSHEY, PA

LEARN MORE
tinyurl.com/PaEdConf

Visit our website:
www.careertechpa.org

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

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