



A CTE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Building The Future
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Happy CTE Celebration Month!



February is CTE Celebration Month, and we're proud to join educators, leaders, and partners across the state in recognizing the importance of hands-on, career-connected learning. This month highlights the crucial role CTE plays in helping students discover their strengths and build meaningful pathways forward.

We also take this time to acknowledge the dedication of the professionals who make high-quality CTE possible—from instructors and administrators to support staff and industry partners who help connect learning to real-world expectations.

CTE Celebration Month reminds us why this work matters. By providing students with engaging, relevant experiences, CTE strengthens Pennsylvania's schools, communities, and workforce. We're grateful for everyone contributing to this mission and look forward to continuing this shared work in the months ahead.

New Faces in the New Year



Welcome to the Team, Karlie Haywood!

Karlie Haywood joins the team as Project Director with a wide array of experiences forming her approach. Karlie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and a Paralegal Certificate from the Community College of Allegheny County.

She has supported local politicians and leaders as they sought solutions to our region's most pressing concerns, cared for families and children through the programs of the local church and the legal support of the Allegheny County's Office of Children Youth and Families, and brought order and insight to leadership in Corporate America. Karlie is passionate about leveraging her cross-sector experience to meet people where they are, regardless of their past experiences or current influence, and facilitate honest conversations about what they need to succeed. She is encouraged by the work of the Education Resource Center and excited to bring her experience and expertise to further its mission.

When she's not building bridges of understanding between people who make decisions and those affected by the decisions, she can often be found baking sourdough loaves for her neighbors, reading in a hammock, learning a new board game, and embracing the chaos with her 8 (soon to be 10, aged 7 and under!) nieces and nephews in western Michigan.

NOCTI Updates

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.

An Important Ordering Reminder:

It can take NOCTI up to 4-6 weeks to get you your post-tests once the order has been accepted. Place your orders sooner rather than later to ensure all goes smoothly.

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](#)**

New from NOCTI

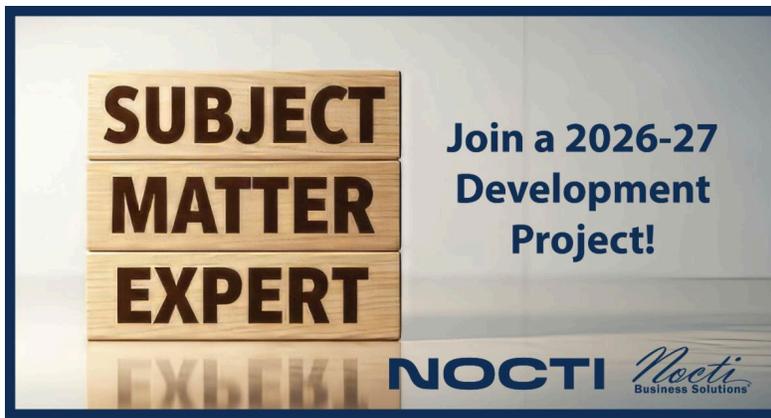
Your Expertise Matters - SMEs Needed for New NOCTI Projects!

NOCTI is seeking SMEs for the upcoming Production Agriculture test to begin this spring! Led by a trained NOCTI facilitator, SME teams develop standards and content to ensure NOCTI assessments reflect the latest tools, techniques, and skills needed for success. This work typically involves a series of web meetings and independent assignments, and involvement opportunities are flexible.

Ready to make a difference? Learn more and **[apply here](#)**.

We encourage you to share this exciting opportunity with other qualified professionals in your network. Secondary educators, post-secondary educators, and business and industry experts are welcome!

If you have any questions about timelines, compensation, and joining our national SME network, please email **sme@nocti.org**.



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!](#)

PAsmart Grant

Looking Ahead to a New Round of Funding

A new round of funding will be made available later this year in addition to a new website meant to aid applicants and grantees navigate the process from start to finish. Keep an eye out and the ERC will provide an update once further information is available.

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/JTIFMMBBVK](https://forms.office.com/R/JTIFMMBBVK)

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

Apply Today!

Pre-Apprenticeship Webinars

CTE Pre-apprenticeship community of practice – inaugural meeting!

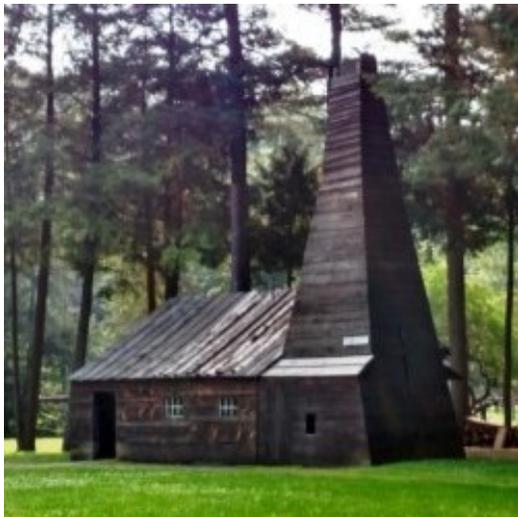
Join us on **Thursday, February 26, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. on Zoom** for the first session in our new statewide series supporting the development of high-quality pre-apprenticeships within Pennsylvania's career and technical education programs. This virtual meeting is designed both for schools that already offer pre-apprenticeships and are looking to strengthen or expand their programs, and for those who are just looking to learn more.

Danielle Demirovic from the Apprenticeship and Training Office within the PA Department of Labor & Industry and **Dr. Kathryn Strouse**, former director and current CTDSL through the BCTE TAP program, will join us to guide the conversation and answer questions.

We invite you to register in advance and take part in this inaugural gathering as we explore the benefits of pre-apprenticeship for students and outline our goals for the series moving forward. Your participation will help ensure that we meet your needs and advance opportunities for learners across the Commonwealth.

[Register here](#)

This Month's Trivia



Did you know...

The first commercial oil well (Drake Well) was established in Titusville, PA, by Colonel Edwin Drake, launching the modern industry we know today.

Source: [Drake Well Museum](#)



Did you know...

Pennsylvania played a crucial role in the Underground Railroad. From the Lemoyne House in Washington, PA, to the Across the Way Bed and Breakfast in White Horse, every county in the state has at least one stopover.

Source: [Visit PA](#)

Learning Opportunity Spotlight

ADVANCE CTE
State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work

2026 Spring Meeting

APRIL 29 - MAY 1 // MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

members.careertech.org

[Registration is now open!](#)

This year's theme, **Connecting Vision to Impact**, is all about bringing leaders together to unpack Advance CTE's new shared vision for the field and to explore how its principles will strengthen Career Technical Education (CTE) experiences and systems and empower learners at every level.

Visit our website:

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

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