



A CTE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Building The Future
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



March is Women's History Month

A time to honor the trailblazers who challenged expectations, opened doors, and reshaped the world as we know it. In Career and Technical Education, we see that same spirit every day.

CTE empowers all students to break barriers, explore their passions, and step confidently into fields where their talents and voices are needed. Whether they're preparing for careers in advanced manufacturing, health sciences, information technology, construction, or the creative industries, our learners are building the future—and rewriting the narratives of who belongs in every pathway.

From the Desks of...

Pennsylvania's Future Needs Skilled Workers, CTE Can Teach Them

In an Allies for Children blog post from February 27, Judd Pittman, Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Career and Technical Education, and Briana Mihok, Executive Director of the Education Resource Center at Penn State Greater Allegheny, looked to the future of CTE in Pennsylvania.

As Pennsylvania joins the nation in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, we are reminded of the critical role that the Commonwealth played in forming and sustaining the United States of America.

Session link - no registration required: [CLICK HERE](#)

This session is designed to perk up your network—a relaxed hour to exchange ideas, talk through challenges, and learn from colleagues who are preparing for the upcoming post-testing season.

Representatives from the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, NOCTI, and the Education Resource Center at PSGA will be on hand to answer questions, including:

Brenda Gomez-Perez, BCTE
Bryanna Comunale, ERC at PSGA
Nel Schaefer, ERC at PSGA
Randi VanHemert, NOCTI

Want to brew up a question ahead of time, or can't attend? Fill out the form found [HERE](#).

We look forward to coffee-necting with you!

NOCTI Accommodations Reminders

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](#)

*Please get your forms in as soon as possible. Now that the post-testing window has opened, we are currently experiencing an influx of submissions. We ask for your patience as requests often require further research and approval.

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.

Come See Us!



Future Ready Partnerships Conference

Who: Briana Mihok

When: March 31, 2026

Where: TBD

Presentation: Aligning Registered Pre-apprenticeships to CTE Programs of Study

Event information can be found [HERE](#).

PDE Data Summit

Who: Nel Schaefer

When: March 31, 2026; 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Where: Magnolia C/D

Presentation: What Is Occupational Competency Testing in PA and How Does It Relate to PIMS Reporting?

Event Information can be found [HERE](#).



This Month's Trivia



Did you know...

Hilde Lysiak of Selinsgrove, PA, started her career in investigative journalism at the age of nine. She is the youngest person to give a college commencement speech and the youngest member of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Source: [Orange Street News](#)



Did you know...

Born in Easton, PA, Florence B. Seibert was a biochemist known for developing a method to eliminate bacterial contamination of vaccines and IVs. She also invented the skin Tuberculosis test that is still used today.

Source: [Her Stem Space](#)

Learning Opportunity Spotlight

Shaping AI in Education: A Pennsylvania Learning and Listening Tour

K12 educators and administrators from across the Commonwealth are invited to join a dynamic series of AI road shows, designed to foster collaboration by sharing essential knowledge on AI's role in education while actively shaping its integration in Pennsylvania's schools. Through informative presentations, interactive listening sessions, and pre-/post surveys, these events enable attendees to gain practical insights, contribute their valuable perspectives, concerns, and experiences with AI in classrooms and schools, and build a collective understanding of how AI can enhance teaching, learning, and equity across the Commonwealth. In addition, there will be opportunities for networking and access to additional resources for educators' AI journeys.

In-Person:

- March 13: Penn State University Park
- March 20: Penn State Greater Allegheny

Virtual:

- March 23

Click [HERE](#) for additional dates and information.

Visit our website:
www.careertechpa.org

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

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