



A CTE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Building The Future
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Summer Skill-Building

We mark the beginning of summer with a special combined newsletter. CTE students are entering the workforce, preparing to further their education, embarking on apprenticeships, or looking for their next opportunity. Administrators, directors, and instructors are preparing for new students and refining their teaching skills.

As we look forward to a new school year, we continue to highlight opportunities to streamline processes and connect us all across organizations and schools to improve and increase students' successes.

New Faces around the Office



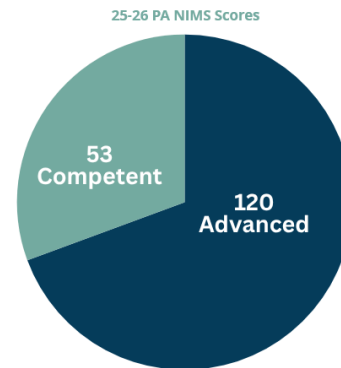
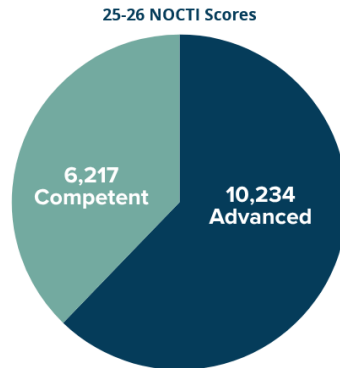
Welcome to the Team, Brigit Stack!

Brigit joins as Communications and Case Management Specialist with a background in research, advertising, event planning, arts management, higher education, and more.

A native of Ohio, she earned her degree at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, and has made Western Pennsylvania her home since graduating. She is excited to bring her creative skills and professional experience to ERC to help support and advance career technical education in Pennsylvania.

Outside of work, Brigit crafts, continues to play the flute (and piccolo), and enjoys spending time with her boyfriend and their two cats, Diana and Coffee Bean.

25-26 NOCTI & NIMS by the Numbers



Please note: these are unofficial numbers not yet certified by BCTE.

This school year, 10,234 Pennsylvania students earned **Advanced** on their NOCTI tests, with 6,217 earning **Competent**. For NIMS testing, 120 earned **Advanced**, with 53 earning **Competent**.

Impact Spotlight

IMPACTS OF THE STATEWIDE PAsmart INITIATIVE (2024–26)

Results From PAsmart Grantee Midyear Project Reports



The PAsmart program awarded **55 grants** in **2024**, representing **\$11 million** in state investments.

Grantees included partnerships between local education agencies, intermediate units, postsecondary institutions, nonprofits, and industry.



Grants fund high-quality career and technical education (CTE);

science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and computer science (CS) programs. Programs take place in K-12 schools, CTE centers, libraries, community centers, and postsecondary institutions.

PAsmart grant programs engaged over **22,700** students and educators.



87% of grantees expect to show impacts on students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes about CS and STEM.

PAsmart grants have five goals:



- GOAL 1** Expand student access to high-quality CTE programs for CS and STEM. (**95% of grantees**)
- GOAL 2** Increase the number of certified educators in CTE who are ready to teach CS and STEM for CTE programs. (**35% of grantees**)
- GOAL 3** Boost inclusion in CS and STEM CTE for (1) those who have been historically underserved and underrepresented; and (2) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) priority populations. (**51% of grantees**)
- GOAL 4** Improve the coordination and alignment of education and workforce development programs, services, and funding. (**36% of grantees**)
- GOAL 5** Transform interagency, cross-sector collaboration on education, the workforce, and economic development at the state, regional, and local levels. (**47% of grantees**)



worked with industry, workforce development boards, and community-based organizations.

The two most common activities for grantees were:



Delivering school courses and extracurricular programs in STEM and CS.



Curriculum development.

“Our grant was to expand our mobile Fab Lab in our county and neighboring counties to get elementary students interested in pursuing STEM and CTE in middle school, high school, and beyond. Local businesses guide lesson content and make sure it's relevant to workforce needs.”



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Pennsylvania
Department of Education

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Legislation Updates

Apprenticeship Hearing

On June 24, the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing titled **“Workforce Rewired: Modern Apprenticeships for a Modern Economy.”** Lawmakers and witnesses discussed the importance of apprenticeship programs in preparing workers for high-wage, in-demand careers.

You can watch the full recordings for the June 24 hearing online [here](#).

This Month's Trivia



Did you know...

This year, 222 schools administered NOCTI tests and 55 administered NIMS tests. 20,917 NOCTI post tests and 8,948 NIMS tests were ordered. For NOCTI, the largest amount of tests completed was for Health Assisting, followed closely by Cosmetology/Cosmetologist and Automotive Mechanics Technology.

Source: ERC internal test data

Please note: these are unofficial numbers not yet certified by BCTE.



Did you know...

July 20 is **National Pennsylvania Day!** On July 19 and 20, volunteers across the Commonwealth will be working in support of Feeding Pennsylvania and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Last year, volunteers helped pack over 4,800 boxes (over 22,800 pounds of goods), built flower beds, preserved historical headstones, collected trash, refurbished park structures, and much more.

Source: [America250PA](https://www.america250pa.com/)

Learning Opportunity Spotlight

STS for CTE - Powered by NIMS



Learn more about how STS for CTE can help you streamline the credentialing process while making training effective and precise.

These one-hour webinars will run every Tuesday at 4pm EST or Thursday at 11am EST from **July 14th** through **October 1**. Register or learn more at the button below.

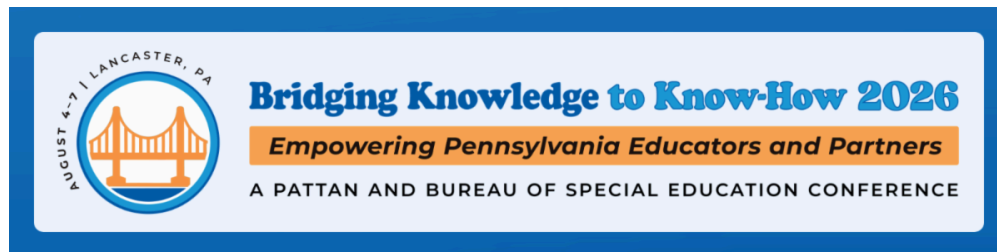
With STS for CTE you can:

- Automatically generate affidavits
- Track hands-on competence in real time to help you stay on pace
- Customize projects with confidence in your alignment with industry standards
- Train with clear transparency of standards between instructors, students, and industry partners throughout the training process
- Dynamically update projects and instructional strategies as industry standards and needs evolve

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events

Bridging Knowledge to Know-How 2026



Registration is now open for Bridging Knowledge to Know-How: Empowering Pennsylvania Educators and Partners. Gain tangible strategies to enhance your teaching practices, drive student success, and adapt to the evolving demands of today's classrooms. Presented by PATTAN and the Bureau of Special Education.

August 4 - 7, 2026

Lancaster County Convention Center
Lancaster, PA

Credits offered: Act 48, ACVREP, ASHA, BACB, CRC, Infant/Toddler and CAT training hours, OT, PT, PSYCH.

[Learn More](#)

Call for CTE Proposals: SAS Institute 2026



The 2026 SAS Institute brings Pennsylvania's educational leaders together for four days of purposeful learning designed to strengthen the systems and relationships that help people and organizations flourish.

The Bureau of Career and Technical Education invites career and technical education educators and leaders to share their expertise with a statewide audience of K–12 teachers, administrators, and school staff during four days of dynamic professional learning focused on strengthening systems, advancing instructional leadership, and improving school culture at the 2026 PDE SAS

Institute. **Proposal Submission closes on August 19, 2026.** You will be notified of proposal status before registration opens September 16, 2026.

December 6 - 9, 2026

Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
Hershey, PA

[View Request for Proposals](#)

[Learn More](#)

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Visit our website:
www.careertechpa.org

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

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