Kentucky ACTE
Inspiring ◆ Advocating ◆ Leading

News & Notes
December 22, 2025

Transitions Highlight KACTE New Year Actions

Transition describes the Kentucky Association for Career ad Technical Education (KACTE) during the first half of the 2025-26 association year. At the July 29 KACTE Annual Meeting, outgoing president Christi Hack, principal, Jessamine Career and Technical Center, presented her report on the 2024-25 association year. Angela Gott, instructor, Western Kentucky University, was installed as the 2025-26 KACTE President. She announced her theme: *Empower, Engage Elevate — CTE for All.*

27-year KACTE Executive Director Mike Stone and 23-year Assistant Executive Director Kris Stone were recognized for their service. They will retire Dec. 31, and Dexter Knight was hired as the new KACTE executive director. (Please see sidebar on next page.)

Knight, who was elected at the KACTE Annual Meeting for a second, two-year term as KACTE treasurer, resigned the office to take over as executive director. The KACTE Board filled the remaining term of treasurer by electing Kiley Whitaker, CTE Specialist, Jefferson County Public Schools, to the position. That created a vacancy as Advocacy Committee chair, which President Gott filled by appointing Leslie Slaughter, Director of Transition, Workforce and Innovation, Spencer County Schools, to chair the committee.

As Gott moved from president-elect to president, the membership assembled at the KACTE Annual Meeting elected Shane Noris, agriculture teacher, Paris Independent High School, as president-elect. Retaining their positions are Sharon Collins, middle school career studies consultant, Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) as secretary, and Kelli Norman, family and consumer science teacher and college and career readiness coach, Glasgow Independent Schools, as KACTE's representative to the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Region 2 Policy Committee. Hack serves as immediate past-president on the 2025-26 KACTE board.

TWO RESOLUTIONS were adopted at the Annual Meeting.

- Resolution One — SUPPORT FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS: KACTE will continue to provide leadership and advocacy for KACTE stakeholders, new teacher support and professional

2025 WINNER

GOLD

Since 2002, the year it was initiated, KACTE received recognition for meeting ACTE's Quality Association Standards. In 2025, the criteria were revised and the award was presented in three categories: gold, silver and bronze. The gold award signifies KACTE maintains the highest standards for operations, management and customer service. KACTE received the award at ACTE's CareerTech Vision conference in Nashville, Dec. 12, 2025.

development will continue to be provided to increase retention and support, and the CTE Summer Program will continue to not only be offered but also adjust to meet the ever-changing needs of KACTE's members

- Resolution Two — POSITIONAL GROUP DUES INVESTIGATION: KACTE board will investigate the implementation of positional group membership dues, will work with OCTE and KCTCS staff regarding

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implementation, and also will ensure that unified organizations are included in the process

Hack's theme was *Advocate — Tell the CTE Story*. She noted the completed update of the KACTE Strategic Plan, the work of the Advocacy Committee to impact legislation, and the association's leadership activities, notably the KACTE Leadership Fellows Program, Student Leadership Day, and participation at ACTE's National Policy Seminar.

In her acceptance remarks, Gott said she was honored, humbled and energized. Citing her theme, she said together the KACTE membership and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) community will pursue advocacy, support professional development, and work to ensure every student has access to quality CTE.

Board Meeting Summaries

The first regular Board Meeting on President Angela Gott's 2025-26 term was held in person at the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg on Aug. 29. The morning session focused on the key theme words Empower, Engage and Elevate. Improving communication, sharing resources, collaboration and advocacy initiatives were stressed.

The Board approved a $5,000 budget for the Advocacy Committee to fund a contest to create a video explaining KACTE and legislative impacts to help members understand the current issues and how advocacy works. Of the budget, $3,000 will be contest awards, administered by the $2,000 will be reserved for production costs. Advocacy Committee Chair Kiley Whitaker indicated the Advocacy Committee would include members of the KACTE Leadership Fellows Program.

Membership Committee Chair Cody Mooneyhan, family and consumer sciences teacher, Grayson County

KACTE Action Schedule
2025-26
All times listed are Eastern

➡ Jan. 6 — 2026 Kentucky General Assembly Session convenes, 60-day session adjourns by April 15.
➡ Jan. 15 — 2026 CTSO Student Leadership Day registration deadline.
➡ Jan. 22 — KACTE Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., virtual.
➡ Feb. 2 — 2026 CTE Summer Program Call for Presentation proposals submittal deadline.
➡ Feb. 2 — 2026 CTE Summer Program Registration Form released.
➡ Feb. 9 — CTSO State Officer Legislative Leadership Training, Frankfort, Best Western, 5-8 p.m.
➡ Feb 10 — CTSO Student Leadership Day, Frankfort, Frankfort High Schools and State Capitol.
➡ Feb. 12-13 — KACTE Leadership Fellows Program, Frankfort, State Capitol.
➡ March 9 — 2026 CTE Summer Program presentation titles posted to www.kyacte.org.
➡ March 22-25 — ACTE National Policy Seminar, Crystal City, VA, and Washington, DC.
➡ April 23 — KACTE Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., site TBD.
➡ May 18 — All-Member *News&Notes* e-mailed.
➡ June 1 — Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Awards deadline.
➡ July 20-23 — 2026 CTE Summer Program, Louisville, Galt House Hotel.
➡ July 20 — 2026-27 KACTE Board Orientation, Galt House Hotel, 4 p.m.
➡ July 20 — 2026 Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Awards Dinner, Galt House Hotel, 6 p.m.
➡ July 21 — KACTE Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Galt House Hotel.

Dexter Knight is KACTE's New Executive Director

Dexter Knight, who has served in several KACTE leadership positions, was nominated to succeed Mike Stone as KACTE Executive Director by the association's officers and ratified by the KACTE Board at its Nov. 20 meeting. Knight began his academic career as an agriculture teacher, and subsequently served as state FFA advisor, principal of the Jessamine Career Technology Center, and instructor at the University of Kentucky. He is a past KACTE president, treasurer, representative to ACTE Region 2, and Advocacy Committee chair.

"Dexter's proven leadership, strategic vision, and passion for career and technical education make him the ideal person to guide KACTE into its next chapter," Angela Gott, KACTE President, said. "We are confident that under his direction, our organization will continue to grow its impact and elevate the value of CTE across the Commonwealth."

Stone served as KACTE's executive director for 27 years, and Kris Stone served as assistant executive director for 23 years. Both retired Dec. 31, 2025. "We are grateful for the opportunity to serve Kentucky's CTE community," Mike Stone said. "Kris and I were overwhelmed and touched with the recognition we received at the CTE Summer Program. We are grateful for your kindness and support. We wish Dexter the success we know he will achieve. No one has his breadth of knowledge of KACTE's operations, partnerships, advocacy and history. KACTE will thrive under Dexter's service."

High School, was gathering feedback to develop a membership recruitment plan, and the Membership Committee will address positional group membership that was added to the committee agenda after passage of Resolution Two at the KACTE Annual Meeting.

At the request of Ryan Deal, Jefferson County Public Schools and KACTE Scholarship Committee chair, the Board approved increasing the Carl Perkins student assistanceship grants from two to four with the necessary additional funding.

THE SECOND KACTE Board Meeting was held virtually on Nov. 20. The meeting began with Past-President Christi Hack's report on the executive director selection process and recommendation to hire current Treasurer Dexter Knight as KACTE's next executive director. The recommendation was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Knight's hiring forced his resignation as treasurer. Whitaker voiced his interest in serving out the unexpired treasurer's term. He was elected unanimously. That created a vacancy in Advocacy Committee chair, which President Gott filled by appointing Leslie Slaughter, Director of Transition, Workforce and Innovation, Spencer County Schools, as committee chair.

A lengthy discussion concerned preparation of KACTE's advocacy initiatives with the Kentucky General Assembly, which will start its 60-day budget session on Jan. 6, 2026. KACTE's primary goal will be to maintain CTE funding amid a challenging state revenue forecast.

The Board approved a request from Membership Committee Chair Mooneyhan for $750 for various membership recruitment initiatives.

Assistant Executive Director Kris Stone reported the annual financial review was completed by the auditing firm, and all tax forms were filed timely.

The 2026 CTE Summer Program net totaled $39,525.37. The Board voted to replenish the KACTE Reserve Funds for the Entrepreneurial Contest, McMillen Scholarship, Stratton Stipend, and ACTE Initiatives. Membership Initiatives received $22,525.36, and Professional Development received $7,000. The McCarthy Strategic Solutions advocacy contract ($15,000) and CTE Learn Stipends ($3,000) are paid from the PD account.

THE FIRST SESSION of the KACTE Leadership Fellows Program was held in Bowling Green, Sept. 12-13. The cohort consists of 11 CTE secondary and postsecondary teachers who are learning the KACTE organizational structure. The second session, to be held in Frankfort Feb. 12-13, 2026, will address advocacy.

The 24th annual Student Leadership Day presented by KACTE as a civics education opportunity for Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs) will be held in Frankfort on Feb. 11, 2026. Email kentuckyacte@gmail.com for registration information.

Gerry Brooks will keynote the 2026 Kentucky Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program, to be held at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, July 20-23.

The well-known Kentucky educator is in demand as a keynote speaker who is passionate in encouraging and helping teachers improve their instructional abilities. He uses humor that derives from real-world experiences.
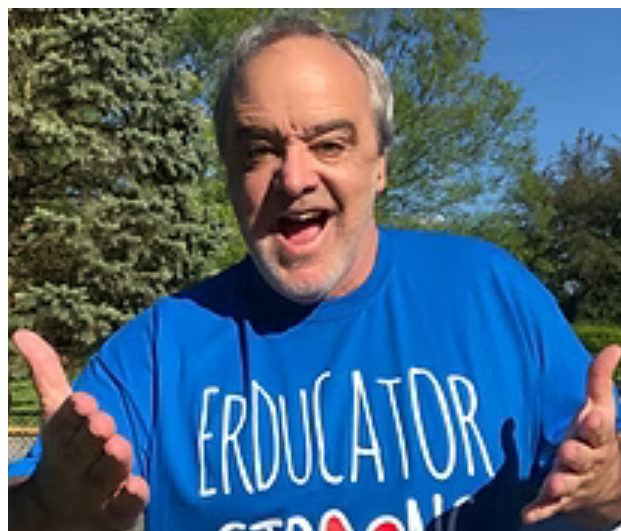
Brooks, from Lexington, was a classroom teacher for six years, an intervention specialist for two years, and an administrators for 12 years before turning his attention to presenting full time.

The Kentucky CTE Summer Program is the most comprehensive professional development opportunity for Kentucky CTE educators. The 2025 CTE Summer Program was attended by more than 1,950 CTE teachers and administrators. They rated the Summer Program 4.4 (out of 5) as a professional development experience.

Presentation proposals for 2026 program are being accepted through Feb. 2, 2026. To submit, please use the form available on the KACTE website, www.kyacte.org. Proposals are accepted for all pathways, as well as general topics such as classroom management and educational initiatives.

KY General Assembly Budget Session Starts Jan. 6

The Kentucky Genera Assembly will begin its 60-day session on Jan. 6, 2026. The primary goal of the session will be to pass a biennial budget for the two fiscal years comprising 2026-2028. Based on multiple sources, do not expect any significant increases in appropriations for education or any other government-funded programs.

The Consensus Forecasting Group, which predicts the amount of money available for the state budget, met in mid-December 2025 and estimated a $156 million shortfall for the current year. It suggests the revenue will increase in Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028, but not by signifiant amounts.

Jeff Busick, writing for McCarthy Strategic Solutions, which is the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) contract lobbyist, indicated, "The General Assembly . . . will be facing continued budgetary pressures in Medicaid, pension contributions, inflationary increases, etc., so we still anticipate this budget will be extremely tight and little to no new recurring spending."

Speaker of the House David Osborne, addressing the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Legislative Preview Conference on Nov. 10, said the House will budget "conservatively." That sentiment was shared by Sen. Chris McDaniel, Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chair. Rep. Jason Nemes said the priority is continuing to lower the state income tax, which is triggered by increased revenue and budget surpluses. Neither appear likely in 2026.

THAT DOES NOT MEAN there will be no funding initiatives in the 2026-2028 biennium. Some may be forced on Kentucky due to federal mandates for Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The state does have more than $3 billion in the Budget Reserve Trust Fund, and that may allow one-time spending for infrastructure, such as new or replacement buildings.

The Education panel at the Chamber Conference repeatedly tied recommendations for education to workforce development, citing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs such as the Work-Ready program, using KEES funding for proprietary and technical education, dual credit, and credentialing. They discussed the need to treat teachers as professionals and provide adequate professional development, as well as teacher retention. Rep. James Tipton, who chairs the Postsecondary Education Committee,

New Advocacy Chair Seeks Member Ideas on Budget, Policy

A change in the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) leadership brought with it an opportunity for any KACTE member to suggest budget or policy priorities the association may pursue with the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly.

Long-time KACTE executive director Mike Stone will retire on Dec. 31. The KACTE Board ratified Dexter Knight, KACTE's treasurer, as the new executive director. The Board voted to fill his unexpired term as treasurer with Kiley Whitaker, Jefferson County Public Schools, who was KACTE's Advocacy Committee chair. KACTE President Angela Gott named Leslie Slaughter, Spencer County Schools, to replace Whitaker as Advocacy Committee chair.

Her initial action, in coordination with Whitaker, was to send an e-blast to all KACTE members asking for their input on 2026 budget and policy issues. Please provide your input to six questions by clicking on this link: **https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a680920b76bc4a11aef6c81a6e2262f7**.

said thee must be targeted investments. He anticipated a tight budget.

The Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) wants to maintain existing funding, and add two increases: $15 million to include Area Technology Centers in the CTE supplemental funding formula that exists for locally operated programs. The funding request would hold CTCs harmless which benefitting ATCs. It also wants to add $175,000 each year of the biennium to support Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) advisers.

The Kentucky Board of Education adopted seven priorities, including the ATC supplemental funding: continue the work of the United We Learn Council,

support the educator workforce, secure additional funding for key initiatives (numeracy, literacy, universal preschool, high-quality resources, Kentucky Educational Technology System, full-day kindergarten, school safety), facilities, substitute teaching standards, and address statutory updates and clean-up.

The OCTE CTE State Advisory Committee, of which KACTE is a permanent member, met Nov. 13. Officials reviewed the legislative priorities. They also mentioned including the FFA Leadership Training Center as part of OCTE oversight and adjusting policy to allow maternity leave for all employees. Kentucky is part of a national pilot program to develop middle school career exploration programs. Significant time was devoted to how Artificial Intelligence (AI) will impact education and CTE programs in particular.

INTERIM GENERAL ASSEMBLY committee meetings continued through the fall. No action can be taken at these meetings, but the legislators discuss policy and possible legislation introduced during the 2026 session.

The Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue at its Oct. 15 meeting held an in-depth review of the basic public education funding program, SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky). They noted funding shifts. On-behalf payments (teachers retirement, health insurance, school construction commission) totaled more than $1.5 billion. If added to the SEEK base of $4,586, the state contribution is more tan $7,000 per pupil. The information likely will be used in determine the 2026-2028 biennium SEEK appropriation.

The budget Review Subcommittee on Education addressed teacher compensation at its Oct. 15 meeting. Two researchers with the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions added fringe benefits to salary to suggest average teacher compensation in Kentucky can exceed $100,000 per year. Kentucky teacher salaries are among the lowest in the nation, averaging less than $60,000 per year. At its Nov. 6 meeting, the Subcommittee heard from the Council on Postsecondary Education, which requested funding increases in the biennium to $1.49 billion in the first year and $1.208 billion in the second year.

The Public Pension Oversight Board met to review Kentucky's public pension accounts. The Kentucky Teachers Retirement System continues to show progress in meeting unfunded liabilities and maintaining balances to pay obligations.

At the Federal Level

Dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) is the big educational policy story. President Donald Trump has a goal for states to determine educational policy. Part of the plan is eliminating DOE. There is debate whether the President can accomplish the goal through executive orders. DOE was established by the U.S. Congress, and it may take congressional action to eliminate it. Nonetheless, the President appointed Linda McMahon as DOE secretary and assigned her the dismantling job, which she willingly pursues.

In early 2025, an executive order laid off thousands of DOE employees, an action eventually upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. In September, the Trump administration announced changes in program administration, shifting them to other departments:

- Elementary and secondary programs, including CTE, to the Department of Labor (DOL);
- Postsecondary education, but not the student loan portfolio, to DOL;
- Native American programs to the Interior Department;
- International education and foreign language programs to the State Department; and
- Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) and foreign medical programs to the Health and Human Services Department.

KACTE communicated with Kentucky's congressional delegation in August concerned the the move of CTE administration and oversight to DOL would cause confusion and be duplicative. The administration rationale for the move of CTE to DOL was CTE is essential to workforce development, which is a DOL priority. KACTE pointed out the existing cooperation between CTE and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program administered by DOL.

MEANWHILE, in spite of the federal government shutdown this summer and fall, the appropriation process continued. CTE remained at level funding in the continuing resolution that led to the reopening of federal programs. In the continuing efforts to pass Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations, the Perkins Act that authorizes the federal commitment to CTE, was proposed to receive an additional $25 million in the House version. The Senate retained level funding. Current federal funding of CTE is $1.440 billion.

KACTE urges its members to contact their senators and representative and ask for support of FY26 funding for education and workforce development. Members can cite CTE as the essential educational foundation for the jobs that fuel economic development through the various CTE pathways.

Discussions on reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act are beginning. The Perkins 5 reauthorization is due to expire. But do not expect quick action on Perkins reauthorization. The last reauthorization effort took 10 years to complete. At the Association for Career and Technical Education Vision Conference in Nashville Dec. 10-12, speakers indicated the process likely will be complicated due to increased competition for federal funding by other organizations. CTE professionals will need to be cognizant to protect the Perkins Act appropriations.

Kentucky ACTE® ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

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December 9, 2025

CTE Learn Course Modules Free for Kentucky CTE Professionals

Go to **https://ky.ctelearn.org** and use the access code: **MK903213** to waive the fee for these courses.

- **EC111 —** Learning Through Student-Based Enterprises
- **EC131 —** How to Develop Virtual Reality Lessons
- **EC132 —** 3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing
- **EC133 —** Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- **ED134 —** Strategies for Teaching Finance to CTE Students
- **EC135 —** Strategies for Building Relationships with Parents or Guardians and the Community
- **ED149 —** Teach Game Design in CTE Classrooms
- **ED150 —** Teaching Creative Computer Programming and Interactive Projects

KCTCS Adding New Course on AI in Spring 2026

Please see more details on this course, ***CIT 299 Special Topics: AI for Everyone***, that will debut in the Spring 2026. The course is open to all, is fully online, provides 3 credit hours, and can count as an elective. **This is not a *CTE Learn* course.** It was developed by KCTCS as beginner-friendly for students of all backgrounds to introduce AI concepts. No coding experience is needed.

Comprehensive Professional Development Opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teachers and Administrators Are Available Through **CTE Learn,** the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Online Learning Center -- https://ky.ctelearn.org.

- ★ **More Than 200 Self-Paced Online Courses**
- ★ **Each Course Provides 4 Hours of Continuing Education**
- ★ **Digital Badge & Certificate of Completion**
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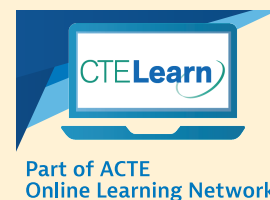
Please visit the KACTE Online Learning Portal -- https://ky.ctelearn.org -- to learn more about the Professional Development opportunities available for all CTE professionals at all levels of CTE instruction. Discounts for KACTE members and organizational/school groups are available, as well as free resources.

Watch a 1-Minute Video on CTE Learn's Kentucky Professional Development Portal
https://youtu.be/AXeRYl_6Idl

New Modules on KY CTE Learn Virtual Portal

ED149 – Teach Game Design in CTE Classrooms

This course provides educators with the tools and strategies to teach game design effectively in career and technical education (CTE) settings. Through modules focused on classroom management, collaborative game development, and student assessment, teachers will learn how to foster an engaging and productive learning environment that balances creativity with discipline.

Educators will explore methods for teaching teamwork, assessing diverse student projects, and integrating game design competitions to motivate and challenge students. The course also covers industry career pathways and helps teachers guide students in creating professional portfolios and connecting with game design professionals, preparing them for future success in the field.

Here is a direct link to the course: https://ky.ctelearn.org/ED149

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CM143 – Building and Leading Effective CTE Advisory Boards

This course provides CTE program leaders with practical strategies for transforming advisory boards from compliance exercises into powerful tools for driving program success. It guides participants through the complete advisory board life cycle, from establishing foundations to measuring impact.

The content addresses the basics of board design and setup, goal-setting, recruiting, meeting management, and more. Participants learn to identify key stakeholders, establish clear expectations, engage members effectively, and implement strategic initiatives that enhance program quality.

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on creating boards with meaningful industry connections that drive program success. By focusing on purposeful engagement rather than administrative requirements, the course helps CTE leaders develop boards that effectively bridge education and industry needs, ultimately improving student outcomes and program relevance.

Here is a direct link to the course: https://ky.ctelearn.org/cm143

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ED150– Teaching Creative Computer Programming and Interactive Projects.

This course equips educators with the skills to effectively teach computer programming to secondary and postsecondary students, focusing on creative programming, interactive projects, classroom management, and assessment. It encourages integrating artistic elements into programming assignments to inspire students and deepen their interest.

Educators will learn to guide students in building dynamic applications that respond to user input, making programming concepts tangible. The course addresses classroom management challenges like diverse student abilities and maintaining engagement. It also provides tools for assessing both the process and outcomes of student projects, emphasizing technical proficiency and problem-solving skills while offering constructive feedback. Through theory, practical examples, and hands-on activities, educators will create an inspiring and effective programming classroom.

Here is a direct link to the course: https://ky.ctelearn.org/ED150

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CS133 – Career Theory Fundamentals for Career Support Professionals.

Dive into the essential theories of career development with this foundational course designed for career support professionals. You will explore major career development theories, categorized into distinct themes, and gain a high-level overview of their strengths and limitations. The course emphasizes a holistic approach, encouraging the integration of multiple theories to effectively address the diverse needs of your learners.

By learning techniques specific to each type of career theory, you'll be equipped to put theory into practice. By the end of the course, you'll have a deeper understanding of career decision-making, planning, and the dynamics that influence learners' choices and behaviors. Enroll now to enhance your expertise, elevate your practice, and make a lasting impact on your learners' career journeys.

Here is a direct link to the course: https://ky.ctelearn.org/CS133

CS109R- Empowering Justice-Involved Learners for Career Success.

Working with justice-involved learners can feel like navigating a maze of legal constraints, stigma, and high-stakes hiring processes. This course equips you with innovative, real-world strategies to unlock fresh employment opportunities for these individuals, while elevating your own professional impact.

Discover powerful tactics for instilling confidence, guiding disclosure conversations, and crafting "turnaround talks" that reframe negative narratives. You'll gain an insider's view into how employers assess risk, why fair chance hiring matters, and how to overcome common obstacles to employment. By the end, you'll be fully prepared to coach learners to confidently navigate the employment landscape. Strengthen your toolkit and become a catalyst for meaningful opportunities – enroll today!

Here is a direct link to the course: https://ky.ctelearn.org/CS109R

Get Empowered with High-Quality CTE Series

CTE Learn launched the entire *High-Quality CTE Series*, which is designed to empower educators with the knowledge and tools to excel in Career and Technical Education CTE). Each course aligns directly with the *ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework*, providing actionable insights and strategies to improve your programs and student outcomes.

Why take these courses?

• They are tailored for CTE professionals.
• They are focused on the critical elements of high-quality CTE programs.
• It is self-directed learning.
• Individuals complete at their own pace and gain skills to address specific areas for improvement.
• It fosters professional growth.
• CTE professionals can use the Framework's self-assessment tool to identify where you can expand your expertise.
• It offers convenient access.
• As part of the CTE Learn subscription it is accessible 24/7 online.

High-Quality CTE Course Series

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2. Sequencing and Articulation: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ102
3. Student Assessment: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ103
4. Prepared and Effective Program Staff: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ104
5. Engaging Instruction: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ105
6. Access and Equity: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ106
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8. Business and Community Partnerships: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ108
9. Student Career Development: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ109
10. Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ110
11. Work-Based Learning: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ111
12. Data and Program Improvement: https://ky.ctelearn.org/HQ112

Visit https://ky.ctelearn.org/category/high-quality+cte to learn more!

CTE Learn Offers Professional Development Credit From the Convenience of Your Personal Computer

CTE Learn's credit courses are endorsed by the University of Central Missouri (UCM), a regionally accredited public university. Participants have the opportunity to earn college credits for their completed **CTE Learn** courses. They can earn 1 Semester Credit Hour (SCH) for any block of 4 **CTE Learn** courses. In addition to eligibility to apply for both undergraduate and graduate college credit, completion of **CTE Learn** courses also provides participants with a professional development recognition badge and certificate of completion.

CTE Learn offers more than 200 self-paced online courses for CTE professionals. Each course provides 4 hours of continuing education credits. Participants can enroll in any course at any time to meet their individual learning needs.

Visit **https://ky.ctelearn.org/college-credit/** to learn more!

Free Resources Available on CTE Learn

CareerPrepped is a FREE online career success system that supports work-based learning programs with virtual activities, tools, and resources to help students build, prove, and showcase their workplace skills with authentic evidence.

Use **CareerPrepped** to engage students in building employability skills and knowledge, documenting and reflecting on their learning, and showcasing their qualifications with online tools.

CareerPrepped is FREE for individual educators to use with their classes or for schools, districts, consortiums, agencies, and other organizations in workforce development who want a centralized, organization-wide implementation.

How Teachers Can use CareerPrepped

- Use Skill Builders as online lessons with companion workbooks to help students build employability skills.

- Engage students in reflection through question prompts in Skill Builders that can be used as assignments.
- Enable students to document and reflect on their learning through a digital portfolio with unlimited storage.
- Empower students to showcase their qualifications through a Career Site that can be shared with employers.
- Use provided rubrics to give students feedback on different learning activities available on **CareerPrepped**.
- Cultivate students' ability to articulate and justify their claims of skill with curated, authentic evidence.
- Help students earn competency badges.

*Please be sure to access **CareerPrepped** through your **CTE Learn** website -- click on "CareerPrepped" location in the navigation to learn more!*

CTE Learn Access Available Through ACTE Member Accounts

Members can now access **CTE Learn**, offering free professional development resources plus more than 200 for-credit, on-demand courses, through their ACTE member accounts. The single-sign-on process makes it even easier for members to access their 10 percent discount on all for-purchase CTE courses. Log in to **CTE Learn** by clicking the link at the top of the ACTE homepage and then click the "CTE Learn/Webinars" icon.

CTE Learn Network Change -- No 5-User Requirement

The 5-User requirement for subscription purchases across the entire **CTE Learn** network was removed. Among the reasons for the change is to facilitate smaller schools with small CTE staff to still access the training through group purchase. Individuals, too, may purchase subscription access to all courses. For more information, please contact tarlonm@maxknowledge.com.

Career Ed Lounge Is Free Sharing Service in KY Portal

The Career Ed Lounge (https://ky.ctelearn.org/lounge), a free service provided through the Kentucky **CTE Learn** portal, provides peer-to-peer learning and sharing opportunities for CTE professionals. More than 220,000 career education professionals across the nation have joined the lounge to connect and collaborate with their peers. Lounge members can join any public community group to engage with their peers on topics of interest, or they can create their own group(s), public or private, and choose the engagement tools they want for their group(s) such as discussions, blogs, bookmarks and files.

CTE Learn Introduces Unified Subscription System

CTE Learn now provides a unified subscription system for both individuals and institutions. Individual users get a subscription key that gives them unlimited access to all courses, and institutions get a single subscription key that they can share with all their users.

This unified system was created based on feedback received from **CTE Learn** purchasers and users. Purchasers were confused because they had to comprehend and consider two different purchase units (keys vs. users), and users were confused because of the different characteristics of enrollment and subscription keys. This change was made in consultation with ACTE leadership team to eliminate confusion, ease purchasing process, and simplify implementation and usage.

Additionally, a gateway pricing page has been created to enable ACTE staff to more easily direct national inquiries to partner portals. You can view this gateway page here: https://www.ctelearn.org/pricing.

CTE Learn is one of the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education's (KACTE) commitment to fulfill its purpose to enhance the professional development of Career and Technical Education (CTE) professionals. Additional programs are the KACTE Fellows Leadership Program, Professional Development Grant opportunities, and logistic management of the annual Kentucky CTE Summer Program.

🌟 New Course for Spring 2026! 🌟

CIT 299 Special Topics: AI for Everyone

3 Credit Hours | Fully Online | Can Count as an Elective

🤖 What's this course about?

Artificial Intelligence is changing how we live, learn, and work.
This hands-on, beginner-friendly course is designed for students of **all backgrounds**—no coding experience required!
Students will explore the **past, present, and future of AI**, while learning to use powerful tools like **ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, and image generators** for academic and professional productivity.

🔍 What You'll Learn:

- A brief history of AI and the types of systems shaping the world today

- How to use **generative AI tools** ethically and effectively

- Prompt engineering: drafting, refining, and iterating prompts

- Using AI to **summarize**, **edit**, **rephrase**, and **create** documents

- Basic data analysis and study skills using AI

- Core AI concepts: machine learning, expert systems, multi-agent systems

- Critical issues: **bias, fairness, deepfakes, copyright, and equity of access**

- Cybersecurity basics and protecting your data in an AI world

- Hands-on AI activities you can showcase in a **digital portfolio**

🧠 Competency-Focused Learning:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
✔ Describe how AI has evolved
✔ Use generative AI tools ethically in school and work
✔ Evaluate AI systems through ethical and social lenses
✔ Apply cybersecurity best practices
✔ Leverage AI-powered tools for better collaboration and productivity

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💡 Why Take This Course?

- No technical background required

- Tools like **Copilot Premium** included free with student accounts

- Prepares students for **real-world AI applications** across all fields

- Great addition to a **digital resume or portfolio**

📅 Offered Spring 2026 – 16-week Online

Encourage interested students to register early — seats may be limited!

🔗 Questions?

Contact Trevor Applegate at trevor.applegate@kctcs.edu

*flyer generated using ChatGPT version 5, august 2025