



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Partners,

Every day, students discover new interests, educators create meaningful learning experiences, employers open doors to careers, counselors help students navigate their futures, and community partners invest in the next generation. As we conclude the 2025–2026 school year, we reflect with gratitude on the people who make CTE possible across Delaware.

Together, we are helping students build confidence, develop skills, explore opportunities, and create pathways to successful futures. Guided by our shared vision that every learner deserves access to an equitable and high-quality education, enriching experiences, and meaningful relationships, we celebrate the impact you have made on students and communities throughout our state.

This year, Delaware students continued to demonstrate what is possible when education, industry, families, and communities work together. The accomplishments below reflect just a few of the many the opportunities you helped create and the outcomes students achieved through your leadership, dedication, and partnership.

Student Participation in High-Quality Coursework Aligned to Industry

- More than 30,000 Delaware high school students participated in career pathways, accessing dual enrollment opportunities, credentials of value, youth apprenticeships, and work-based learning experiences that helped them connect classroom learning to future careers;
- 98.5% of Delaware CTE completers graduated high school on time, reflecting the commitment of students, families, educators, and support systems working together toward success; and
- Students across Delaware continued to pursue career-connected learning at increasing rates, contributing to a 30% increase in postsecondary CTE enrollment from 2022–23 to 2023–24.

Student Access to Early Career Experiences and Successful Transitions

- More students successfully transitioned to college, training, military service, and employment, contributing to a 5% increase in high school CTE completers entering postsecondary education or the workforce within six months of graduation;
- Students gained meaningful workplace experience through internships, apprenticeships, and other immersive work-based learning opportunities, contributing to a 9% increase in participation statewide;
- Through DECA, BPA, TSA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, and Educators Rising, more than 4,300 Delaware CTE students participated in over 400 competitive events and leadership development opportunities, strengthening leadership, technical, and employability skills while serving their communities, earning scholarships, competing nationally, and bringing national recognition to Delaware.

Expanding Opportunity and Access for Every Learner

- Students, educators, employers, workforce leaders, and community partners worked together to strengthen Delaware's shared vision for career-connected learning and future workforce success;
- Partners across education, workforce, business, government, and community organizations reaffirmed their commitment to new opportunities and reducing barriers through the release of the [Delaware Pathways Strategic Implementation Plan](#).

- Student voices helped shape new Programs of Study, policy updates, CTSO guidance, and local needs assessment processes, ensuring learners were active participants in decisions that affect their educational experiences.
- The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) expanded access to career-connected learning, workforce preparation, career exploration, and individualized transition supports for youth receiving rehabilitative and support services, helping young people develop the skills, experiences, and connections needed for success in postsecondary education, employment, and long-term self-sufficiency.
- Record attendance at the 2026 Navigating Delaware Pathways Summit brought together education, workforce, business, government, and community leaders to explore opportunities for innovation and strengthen Delaware's career-connected learning ecosystem.

Celebrating and Supporting Delaware's Career-Connected Learning Community

- Delaware students earned national recognition for their accomplishments, including Isha Prasad Kanchana of Newark Charter School and Chuiyee Kong of Caesar Rodney High School, who were named Delaware's 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education;
- Delaware's work received national recognition through Education Week, ACTE, Advance CTE, EdScale, and other organizations highlighting innovative approaches to preparing students for future success;
- Dr. Michael Hill-Shaner was recognized with the 2026 Advance CTE State CTE Distinguished Leadership Award for advancing learner-centered pathways and elevating student voice;
- Teachers and students gained access to enhanced safety resources and practices through Delaware's 2025 Safety Guide, supporting safer and more effective learning environments statewide;
- Delaware's Career & Technical Education and STEM Initiatives Workgroup received the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Teamwork Award in recognition of its efforts to expand access to high-quality opportunities for all students;
- Melissa Tracy of Odyssey Charter School and Ariel Almondo of Smyrna Middle School were recognized as DACCTE Outstanding Career and Technical Education Educators, and Maya Zhao of MOT Charter High School earned first place in the DACCTE CTE Month Poster Contest;
- The Delaware Restaurant Association and New Castle County Vo-Tech Workforce Pipeline Development Program were recognized as Superstars in Education for excellence in career-connected learning and work based learning;
- Delaware CTE accomplishments, student success stories, and emerging opportunities were shared throughout the year through the Delaware [CTE Bi-Weekly Newsletter](#), Governor's Reports, and DOE social media.

Most importantly, these accomplishments are not about plans, reports, policies, or programs. They are about students discovering purpose, developing confidence, and building futures. They are about educators who inspire learners every day, employers who invest in the next generation, families who provide support and encouragement, and partners who believe in expanding opportunity for all.

We are grateful for all you do and look forward to continuing this important work together. **Our work is, first and foremost, about people.** We are only successful if participating in CTE results in fulfilling careers grounded in individual identity, financial stability, and healthier communities. Thank you for your leadership, partnership, and commitment to Delaware students.

With gratitude,

Dr. Jon Wickert and the Delaware Career & Technical Education (CTE) and STEM Initiatives Workgroup, including Ms. Andrea Keen, Ms. Daneisha Allen, Dr. Denise Purnell-Cuff, Dr. Michael Hill-Shaner, Mr. Miguel Ramirez, Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, Dr. Orrin White, Ms. Rozie Townsend, and Ms. Stephanie Brown.