



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear CTE leaders,

Congratulation on the start of a new school year! I miss the buzz of youthful energy, excitement of seeing friends and favorite teachers, and optimism each year begins with. I hope you take a minute to soak it in!

Our team is grateful for your commitment to ensuring each learner engages in an equitable and high-quality education, enriching experiences, and meaningful relationships to achieve their individual career and life goals. In the year ahead, our shared values of centering equity, fostering growth, using data with transparency, elevating student and community voice, and working as a team will make this possible while we collectively inspire students, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity across our state. Your leadership is essential.

Together, we will continue to prepare every learner for success in postsecondary education, career, and life while ensuring Delaware remains a national model for CTE! Our priorities for this year include:

- Continuing to develop educator workforce pipeline through Teacher Academy, apprenticeships, and “Grow Your Own” initiatives. Delaware is setting a national standard for developing a diverse and sustainable pipeline of future teachers;
- Advancing clarity through common definitions, shared language, and clear expectations across state workforce agencies, schools and partners to create a stronger, more coherent CTE system;
- Ensuring credentials earned are aligned to measures of value for learners, ensuring they lead to opportunity and meaningful outcomes;
- Elevating student, educator, and industry voice in all aspects of CTE, especially as the starting point;
- Providing immersive work-based learning for students at scale so they are better prepared to enter the workforce;
- Embedding environmental literacy in all programs of study so classroom learning is connected to sustainability and climate resilience, and students are prepared to lead in the green economy; and
- Improving data transparency and partner preparedness through updated safety guidance, professional learning, statewide CTSO calendars, the bi-weekly CTE Cadre Newsletter, and the Delaware CTE Annual Report so that our work is grounded in data and meaningful outcomes for youth and adults.

Thank you for the passion, and compassion, you bring each day. You matter!

With gratitude,

Dr. Jon Wickert and the Career & Technical Education (CTE) and STEM Initiatives Workgroup