

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Academic Office

Career and Technical Education Unit Newsletter



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Building Competency-Based Pathways

In May CTE Unit Education Consultants Lee Marcoux and Sue Loud travelled to Arlington, Virginia to participate in the Competency-Based Pathways (CBP) and CTE Roundtable.

Sponsored by Achieve and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc), participants represented Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon in addition to Connecticut. Seeking to bridge the divide between traditional core academics and CTE, attendees participated in an exercise to articulate a collective vision for an aligned, integrated and mutually reinforcing system across CTE and Competency-Based Pathways.

The participants identified the perspectives of student, school, district and state, and worked to describe what a fully integrated CTE/CBP system would mean to each. Brainstorming on the critical components for each of the stakeholders included the following examples:

- ◆ Students must have individual learning plans aligned to their career aspirations and work-based learning opportunities.
- ◆ Schools must engage in a culture shift, which allows flexible scheduling and reporting.
- ◆ Districts must foster ongoing communication with parents and community partners about competency-based models and the benefits of CTE.
- ◆ States must look to graduation requirements that move away from course completion to mastering competencies.

During a breakout session Connecticut shared CTE lesson plans, unit plans and curriculum maps from several comprehensive high schools, a vocational-agricultural school and the Connecticut Technical High School System. These artifacts were recognized as exemplars that showcased how Connecticut teachers are integrating CTE and what is known in Connecticut as Mastery-Based Learning.

As a follow-up to the meeting, Achieve released the following publication:

Building a Strong Relationship between Competency-Based Pathways and Career Technical Education

Co-written by Achieve and NASDCTEc, the brief highlights opportunities and key considerations in integrating CTE into state CBP systems. It explores the leverage points and challenges to integrating CTE into a CBP system. For more information about Mastery-based Learning contact Suzanne Loud.

Hour of Code

 The Computer Science Advisory Committee has been meeting and is mounting an initiative to encourage every school district in Connecticut to engage in an activity around Computer Science Week (December 7–13, 2015) and then every organizer will receive a gift card to iTunes, Amazon or the Windows Store as a thank-you gift from Code.org. Schools who commit to running a school-wide Hour of Code event can win a significant award for their school. In 2014, Quaker Hill Elementary School in Waterford, Conn. received a check for \$10,000! Click on the [Details](#) link here to get information on hosting an Hour of Code. The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has additional options for Computer Science Week events, as well as coding competitions for students. The [CSTA November Newsletter](#) lists several student opportunities and includes an article about Chinma Uche who is a Connecticut teacher. For more information about Computer Science and the Computer Science Committee, please contact [Marcy Reed](#) or [Jennifer Michalek](#) at the CSDE.

Connecticut FFA finds National Success at the National FFA Convention and Expo



The 88th National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention and Expo was held in Louisville, Kentucky on October 28-31, 2015. More than 65,000 FFA members from all 50 states and Puerto Rico were in attendance. Connecticut FFA delegation, 400 plus members strong, attended sessions where they were inspired by guest speakers and National FFA Officers. The delegation viewed over 450 Industry and collegiate exhibitors, attended leadership workshops, and competed in dozens of events.

It is in the competitions that Connecticut FFA members excelled.

Students from the Wamogo (Region 6) FFA won the National FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE). Team members Emma Wood, McKayla Ford, Amanda Fowler, and Meagan Samele demonstrated their ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill in practical settings, as well as identified-breeds, parasites and equipment. Participants also completed a written exam and responded to scenario questions about current topics in the veterinary industry. Teams presented to a panel of judges about the roles and responsibilities of the veterinary team in a variety of situations involving patients from companion animal to large animal. Besides being the National FFA team champions, McKayla Ford took first place individually, and Emma Wood was fourth highest individual.

Below is a list of FFA members who placed in the top ten individually in other CDEs.

Forestry CDE—third place-Nicholas Vertefeuille of Storrs Regional FFA.

Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems CDE-seventh place-Benjamin Conklin of Storrs Regional FFA.

Environmental and Natural Resources CDE-sixth place-Mari Cullerton of Housatonic Valley FFA.

In the National FFA Agriscience Fair; Michaela Cisowski, of the Northwestern Region 7 FFA was first place in the Power, Structural and Technology Systems division. In the Social System Division, Lianna Dolce and Kelli Knapp of Mattabeset FFA (Middletown High School) took third place. In the National FFA Proficiency Awards, a program that recognizes students for their development, leadership and growth of the students' Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, Woodbury FFA member, Robert Losee was national champion in the Nursery Operations-Entrepreneurship/Placement Division.

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 629,367 student members as part of 7,757 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs.



U.S. Department of Education Reach Higher Career App Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) Reach Higher Career App Challenge calls upon mobile app developers, educators, and data mavens to submit mobile solutions to improve access to information about CTE to help students, including students with disabilities and English learners, navigate education and career pathways, and increase the capacity of career counselors to assist students in making decisions about their education and career options. The Challenge seeks mobile app solutions focused on middle- and high-school students that include integrated tools to assess user skills and interests, and offer users accessible information on occupations, education options, credentials, and career-seeking skills through an individualized user experience. Submissions should include a plan for full development and integration of local educational and employment data—so that any student, anywhere, can reach higher. Total prize pool is \$225,000 that consists of five finalists that will receive \$25,000 each with a grand prize winner receiving \$100,000. We encourage Connecticut CTE students and educators to take on this challenge to develop career apps using the criteria that can be found at <http://www.reachhigherchallenge.com>.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

CTSOs are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs. The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations. In Connecticut, these organizations can be found in the comprehensive high schools and the technical high schools. They are committed to providing students with the best contextual learning experiences through hands-on applications, recognition through competition and awards for achievement, real-world experiences and other individual and team-building activities. CTOS build bridges between the school, family and community that give students positive, powerful experiences in civic responsibility.

Contact Information for CTSOs

DECA (Formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America)	Dennis J. Kelly, State Advisor	860-877-3038
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)	Theresa LeBrun, State Advisor Lee C. Marcoux, State Director	tlebrun@cheshire.k12.ct.us Lee.Marcoux@ct.gov
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FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America)	Belle Garafola, State Co-Advisor Linda Mushala, State Co-Advisor Lee C. Marcoux, State Director	bgarafola@region15.org lmushala@fairfieldschools.org Lee.Marcoux@ct.gov
HOSA (Future Health Professionals)	Susan Troupe, State Co-Advisor Nancy Tipping, State Co-Advisor Debra Blazys, State Co-Advisor Lori Matyjas, State Supervisor	troupes@brookfieldps.org Nancy.tipping@gmail.com deblazys@yahoo.com Lori.Matyjas@ct.gov
Skills USA	Heidi Griffen, State Director	Heidi.Griffen@ct.gov
TSA (Technology Student Association)	Jim Huston, State Advisor Harold Mackin, State Supervisor	te321@aol.com Harold.Mackin@ct.gov



Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls, and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives. The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund works closely with the CSDE to expand and improve the educational and economic opportunities available to students in Connecticut and assist educators in providing equitable, non-discriminatory programs.



CWEALF can provide the following services to schools:

- ◆ Career awareness activities for students
- ◆ Professional development to expand awareness of non-traditional careers
- ◆ Connections to professionals working in non-traditional fields
- ◆ Sexual harassment training for students and staff

CWEALF's Web site is also a great resource for career awareness in information and activities for educators, parents, and students. Visit www.girlsopp.org or email aberardi@cwealf.org to learn more about how CWEALF can assist your school.

CTE Calendar 2015-16

Date	Event	Location
November 6, 2015	CTEEA Annual Conference	CCSU Student Center
November 16, 2015	Perkins Administrators Meeting	Cromwell Crowne Plaza
February 2016	CWE for the 21st Century	TBD
April 4, 2016	FBLA Spring Leadership Conference	Cromwell Crowne Plaza
TBD	Spring CTE/Technology Conference	TBD
April 8, 2016	Personal Finance Conference	Southbury Crowne Plaza
April 2016	Unpaid Experiential Learning	TBD
June 2016	ServSafe Food Handler Certification	TBD

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