

**Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)**  
**Academic Office**  
**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Unit Newsletter**



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## CTE Conference

On November 30, 2016, 280 educators from across Connecticut converged at the 2016 Career and Technical Education (CTE) conference. At the conference, the Annual CTE Assessment Awards were presented to districts in recognition of schools demonstrating top student scores on the CTE Assessment and offering high-quality CTE programs. Keynote speaker Kate Blosveren Kreamer from Advance CTE presented the shared vision for the future of CTE which included:

- all CTE programs are held to the highest standards of excellence;
- all learners are empowered to choose a meaningful education and career;
- all learning is personalized and flexible;
- all knowledge is facilitated by knowledgeable experts; and
- all systems work together to put learner success first.

Following the keynote speaker, the Annual CTE Assessment Awards were announced. The CTE Assessment Awards are given to the schools with the highest student scores in one of the 21 pathways. The award not only recognizes the achievement of the student but also demonstrates the quality of CTE programs across the state. The conference offered three sessions and a variety of professional development opportunities including topics such as: College and Career Readiness through Rigorous Career Pathways; Medical Laboratory Technician – A Bloody Good Career; Gaining STEAM for your Maker Movement; Expanding Gender Equality and Diversity: Strategies for Non-Traditional Program Recruitment; Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) 101; and Personal Finance Online Learning Modules. Evidenced by participant feedback, educators found the content relevant and helpful to improving their practice. Here are a few participant comments: “the college and career readiness seminar was incredible”; “sessions were eye opening”; and “the information was diverse and able to be applied readily in current classes.”



## Online Personal Finance Learning Modules



The Online Personal Finance Modules was a Perkins Innovation Grant model for 2016-17 grant year. The purpose of the grant was to develop online personal finance learning modules that would provide students practice with targeted financial standards and competencies and enable them to apply effective financial decision making as they make the transition into postsecondary education. These learning modules expose students to technology, expand learning opportunities and reinforce personal finance standards and competencies. Students must have access to computers in school or at home and be highly motivated learners who understand that online learning requires commitment to self-directed learning.

To accomplish this task, a successful district would: align district Business and Finance Technology Personal Finance standards and competencies to district’s curriculum; create four online learning modules using the Connecticut Personal Finance Standards with a cloud-based software such as Edmodo, Schoology, EduCanon, Google Docs, Moodle, or similar type software; provide targeted course instruction and interaction between teacher and student online and face-to-face over an 8 - 10 week period; and provide ongoing teachers’ professional development training of creating online personal finance learning modules.

Ansonia School High School was awarded this grant. Karen Phipps, CTE Director and Business Teacher and along with Rachel Sopko, ELA and Technology Teacher collaborated to create this a successful quarter credit course at the high school. Karen and Rachel worked together by using the four least performing standards from the CTE Assessment and developed modules using Schoology and Google Docs software. Students complete these 8 week modules outside of school. The teachers promoted this course by going to study halls and through English and Business classes. 38 students have already received credit for one or more of these online modules this year! A survey was sent to students that have taken the course and 90% stated they would recommend the course and would take another online course. The high school is making plans to offer Web Design and Fashion Marketing online in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Phipps at [kphipps@ansonias.org](mailto:kphipps@ansonias.org).

## CTE Assessment News

The 2017 Connecticut Statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Assessment program opened with the release of the Memorandum of Testing Agreement that was sent to all secondary school principals in December 2016. The CSDE testing procedures, in cooperation with the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), require each school to submit a Memorandum of Testing Agreement form signed by the secondary school principal. This agreement specifies the basic guidelines and process for participation in the assessment. Upon receipt of this form, the principal will receive a secure password (changed annually) necessary for securing access to student user codes, and post-testing score reports/data. If you have not yet submitted this form, it should be signed electronically and sent back to Suzanne Loud at [suzanne.loud@ct.gov](mailto:suzanne.loud@ct.gov) as soon as possible.

**Electronic Final Commitment of Concentrators Form (EFCC):** This form is the most important process piece for participation in the Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment. The purpose of the form is to finalize the exact number of students from your school who will be taking each CTE test (21 areas of concentration) so that user codes can be accurately assigned to your school. Remember that to be a concentrator a student **MUST** test in the Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment program. Please complete your data entry at least five working days before testing. The Electronic Final Commitment of Concentrator Form (EFCC) was sent to all secondary school principals during the first week in January. A secure password will be sent to each principal after we have received the school's Memorandum of Testing Agreement. This password, plus your site code, will permit the principal and the school's CTE assessment coordinator to complete the EFCC form.

**Testing Window:** The 2017 Connecticut Statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) Assessment will be administered in the test window period from April 17 through May 26, 2017.

**Sample Items:** New sample items representing the lowest performing competencies from last year's statewide assessment data will be available beginning in February and can be found in the "tool box" component of the client services site at <http://www.nocti.org/statecustomized-CTSS.cfm>. Sample items from 2015 will still be available in the "tool box", along with CTE teacher developed sample items from the Connecticut CTE Conference of October 15, 2015.

**Online Testing & web-based TRAINING:** The 2017 Statewide CTE Assessment will be administered through the online QuadNet™ system. New this year is on-demand, web-based training designed specifically for Connecticut high schools. We will no longer hold mandatory in-person briefing sessions. The shift to web-based training will better meet user needs by allowing schools the flexibility to access training at their convenience and also to train as many individuals as desired. The training Webinar will be housed on the Client Services Center. A welcome email will be forthcoming to alert CTE Test Administrators regarding details on this new procedure. As with the in-person briefing sessions, specific requirements for online testing will be covered during the webinar. It is important that at least one administrator/representative participate in the training webinar to learn essential procedures pertaining to registering student concentrators and securing access to score reports and data.

### CTE Calendar 2016-17

Date	Event	Location
January 24, 2017	Cooperative Work Education	National Guard Office, Middletown
March 13, 2017	CT DECA State Career Development Conference	Aqua Turf, Plantsville
March 22, 2017	CT HOSA Spring Leadership Conference	Best Western, North Haven
March 27, 2017	CT FBLA Spring Leadership Conference	Cromwell Radisson Hotel
March 31, 2017	CT FCCLA Spring Leadership Conference	Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury
April 7, 2017	Personal Finance Conference	Wyndham Southbury
May 12, 2017	CT Learns and Works Conference	Hartford Sheraton, Rocky Hill

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