

2026 Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 20-22 // DENVER, CO



Tuesday, October 20

1 - 6 p.m.	Registration
3:15 - 4 p.m.	Sponsor Mingle
4:15 - 4:35 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks
4:35 - 5:15 p.m.	Plenary The Connected Path: Where Learner and Employer Voice Meet Career Technical Education (CTE) systems work best when their two most important beneficiaries help design them. But we tend to elevate the learner voice and the employer voice separately, and rarely in the same room. This session brings learners and employers together to model what it takes to center both voices and turn input into action.
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Reception & Networking Activity

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:40 - 9:40 a.m.	Plenary Panel Discussion: Credentials of Value This session will provide an overview of Advance CTE's work on Credentials of Value, followed by a discussion with state and national leaders exploring what makes a credential truly valuable for learners, employers, and communities. Panelists will share perspectives on how credentials of value can strengthen CTE systems and advance the CTE Connects shared vision.
9:50 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.	Collaborative Breakouts Dive into a discussion connected to a <i>CTE Connects</i> vision principle and work collaboratively with peers to explore solutions, share perspectives, and identify practical approaches to move the work forward.
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Networking Lunch (Role-Alike)
1:45 - 2:55 p.m.	State-Led Breakouts Bringing CTE Connects to Life See <i>CTE Connects</i> in action as state leaders share strategies, lessons learned, and approaches for addressing key issues shaping the field. Sessions include: • Connecting Middle School Career Exploration to Career Pathways • Who Will Teach the Future Workforce? Addressing the CTE Educator Pipeline • CTSO Involvement as a Lever to Accomplish State Priorities • AI in CTE Standards: Early Implementation • Work-Based Learning That Scales: State Strategies for Expanding Access
1:45 - 2:55 p.m.	Office Hours: Credentials of Value Bring a challenge to a conversation with an Advance CTE expert. Get customized guidance, explore ideas and resources, and identify practical next steps.

3 - 4 p.m.	Keynote AI in Action: Translating Industry Technologies into CTE Instruction As artificial intelligence adoption accelerates across industries, postsecondary Career Technical Education programs must align curriculum with applied, workforce-relevant AI technologies. This session examines an initiative funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins V) from the Tennessee Board of Regents in partnership with ECMC Foundation that supports colleges integrating industry-driven AI competencies. Presenters will discuss research findings and how the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) continuous improvement framework guided the first cohort, resulting in data-informed curriculum design, strengthened employer partnerships, and early evidence of positive student outcomes.
4:10 - 5 p.m.	Advance CTE Business Meeting (Advance CTE Members Only)
Thursday, October 22	
7:30 – 10 a.m.	Registration
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:35 - 9:35 a.m.	Plenary Personalized & Flexible Pathways Unlocked: Breaking Free from Rigid Systems In this interactive 45-minute plenary, leaders from Accelerator states within the Launch Initiative will bring <i>CTE Connects</i> Principle 4: Personalized and Flexible Pathways to life by exploring a central challenge: What does it take to move beyond fixed pathways, timelines, and choices, and create flexible experiences that adapt to learners instead?
9:45 - 11 a.m.	State-Led Breakouts Systems That Inspire Learn how states are building the systems and structures needed to advance <i>CTE Connects</i> . Attendees will gain practical strategies, lessons learned, and real-world examples from states putting these systems into action. Sessions include: • Building a Data Culture: Capacity, Staffing, and Governance • Positioning CTE within State Priorities through Transition • From Compliance to Collaboration: Building Stronger State-Local Relationships • One Vision, Many Partners: Making Combined State Plans Work
9:45 - 11 a.m.	Office Hours: (Technical Assistance, Career Clusters®) Bring a challenge to a conversation with an Advance CTE expert. Get customized guidance, explore ideas and resources, and identify practical next steps.
11 - 11:45 a.m.	Plenary Up to Date with the Office of Career, Technical & Adult Education (OCTAE) [Invited]
11:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Closing Remarks