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TO: State Policy Leaders
FROM: Darla L. Miller, Virginia ACTE Executive Director
DATE: November 2023
SUBJECT: Important Documents Pertaining to Career and Technical Education

The Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (Virginia ACTE), in coordination with 10 other professional organizations representing career and technical educators throughout Virginia, has developed several documents that outline facts and figures—along with initiatives—pertaining to career and technical education (CTE) in Virginia.

The Virginia Career and Technical Education Priorities for Education and Workforce Initiatives for 2023-2024 (formerly *Issues and Solutions*) presents critical issues facing the CTE profession, particularly the students and employers of our Commonwealth. This document represents the key policy positions of career and technical educators throughout Virginia.

We ask you to consider our views as you make critical decisions on educational programs, budgets, and state mandates. The impact of the current initiatives must be reviewed to ensure a balance among education requirements for all of Virginia's children. CTE plays a vital role in the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and its related initiatives. The data in ***Priorities for Education and Workforce Initiatives*** highlights CTE as a component of preparing for a qualified and competent Virginia and global workforce.

CTE: Connecting Career Preparation to the Workforce

The enclosed CTE fact sheet offers data that shows how Virginia has a leading role in preparing secondary public education students for college and careers. In 2022-2023, CTE students earned more than 147,400 nationally recognized and Virginia Board of Education approved industry credentials. Approximately 54 percent of graduating seniors completed a state-approved sequence of CTE courses and received an Advanced Studies Diploma. CTE program completion leads to graduation, better standardized testing results, and career and life readiness. Consistently, more than 98 percent of CTE completers graduate on time and pass both reading and mathematics SOL.

To ensure and expand CTE in Virginia public schools and to contribute to the economic growth of the Commonwealth, your full support is vital. We appreciate your consideration of our perspectives on these challenging education and resource allocation issues. If we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darla L. Miller".

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