



TO: State Policy Leaders
FROM: Dr. Brenda D. Long, Virginia ACTE Executive Director
DATE: November 2019
SUBJECT: Important Documents Pertaining to Career and Technical Education

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

Issues and Solutions for Career and Technical Education in Virginia for 2019-2020

The enclosed *Issues and Solutions for Career and Technical Education in Virginia* presents critical issues facing our profession and 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 reform initiatives must be studied 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 *Issues and Solutions* 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 is taking a leading role in preparing secondary public education students for careers. In 2018-2019, CTE students earned more than 165,000 nationally recognized and Virginia Board of Education approved industry credentials. Approximately 45 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 the reading and mathematics Standards of Learning.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Brenda D. Long", is written below the text "Best regards,".

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