



**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

DECEMBER 6, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Sen. Jimmy Higdon, Alisher Burikhanov, Col. Edwin Chilton, Karen Dodd, Beth Engle, Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher, Lauren Graves, Cathy Hoehn, Beth Hargis, Hope Harp, Mike Hesketh, Harmony Little, Tim McDonald, Brian Perry, Marcus Rodgers, Stacey Thompson, Tom Thompson, Kiley Whitaker

ABSENT: Bobby McCool, Max Wise, Beth Brinly, Heather Elder, Mike Stone, John Phillips, Mark Martin, Pam Todd, Ana Muse, Janae Allen

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Harmony Little, Committee Chair and Executive Director of Credentialing Strategies, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Summary of Discussion:

Little called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. ET and welcomed the committee.

Agenda Item: Greetings from Commissioner Robbie Fletcher

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher gave remarks highlighting the benefits of CTE, specifically dual credit opportunities. He praised the general assembly for the investment in CTE and discussed the CTE sites he had visited. Fletcher commented on the vibrant learning and innovation which is aligned to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) goals.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes from May 2024 Meeting

Summary of Discussion:

Approval of the minutes from the May 2024 meeting was deferred to the Spring 2025 meeting since there was not a quorum present.

Agenda Item: Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) Staffing Updates

Presenter: Beth Hargis, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Hargis shared OCTE new hires with the committee and they are as follows:

- Lauren Graves – Policy Advisor
- Esti Stith – Assistant Data Manager
- Amy Tracy – Data Manager
- Lori Looney – Data and Investment Branch Manager
- Chris Smith – New Teacher Institute (NTI) Director
- Barry Bond - Manufacturing Program Consultant
- Engineering Program Consultant
- Larry Huckaby, Construction Program Consultant

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Council

Presenter – Karen Dodd, PMP, Chief Performance Officer, Strategic Planning and Research, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dodd updated the group on the Kentucky United We Learn Council work. She shared the following question for discussion: How do you understand and assess whether schools are truly equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need to confidently pursue their career goals or higher education opportunities in their chosen field?

Mike Hesketh stated that senior surveys were given in Shelby County, which has led to schools working together aligning schedules to enable student enrollment. Alisher Burikhanov mentioned the need for Work Based Learning (WBL) and the benefits, plus the need for work ethics and soft skills in the workplace. Kiley Whitaker stressed the importance of pathway completion and benefits including increased wages, skills and job attainment. Little mentioned the benefit of dual credit and how it opens doors for greater opportunities. Little asked the group how we could hardwire these behaviors in K-12.

Agenda Item: Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

Presenter: Col. (Ret.) Tim McDonald, Director of Army Instruction, Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: McDonald discussed the current JROTC pilot. At present, there are 97 host programs in the state. The JROTC program has changed and includes science, technology,

engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunities. Likewise, they are adjusting their hiring procedures which should enable a greater applicant pool. Brian Perry shared the importance of getting before the General Assembly to continue this work.

Agenda Item: Schedule Spring 2025 Meeting Date

Presenter: Harmony Little, Committee Chair and Executive Director of Credentialing Strategies, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Summary of Discussion:

A doodle poll or date will be established and will be sent to members to schedule the next meeting for May 2025.

Agenda Item: Reflection and Adjournment

Presenter: Harmony Little, Committee Chair and Executive Director of Credentialing Strategies, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Summary of Discussion: Minutes of the May 2024 meeting and the December 2024 meeting will be placed on the agenda for approval at the next meeting (Spring 2025).

Agenda Item: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. by unanimous acclamation.