## MEETING MINUTES

# Virginia Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, October 27, 2022

CTE Resource Center, 2002 Bremo Road, Richmond VA 23226

### Attendees

**Committee members:** Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Jason Daniel, Susan Long-Molnar, Darla Miller, Meghan Milo, Lorin Sodell, Teri Wiley, Diego Wilson, Christie Garton, Dr. Linda Zanin.

**VDOE:** Dr. Anthony Williams, Sharon Acuff, Kelly Davis

### Opening Remarks and Welcome

Dr. Sukeena Stephens welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

### Public Comment

No written public comment was submitted, and no one requested to make a public comment.

### Approval of Minutes (June 9, 2022)

The minutes were reviewed. Lorin Sodell moved to approve the minutes, Susan Long-Molnar seconded, and the minutes were approved by consent at 9:07 a.m.

### Introduction of New CTE Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Anthony Williams, Interim Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Members of the advisory committee—new and returning—introduced themselves. New members include:

* Christie Garton, who represents the Education and Training Career Cluster;
* Meghan Milo, who represents the Energy Career Cluster;
* Teri Wiley, who represents the Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster; and
* Diego Wilson, who represents the Architecture and Construction Career Cluster.

### Department of Education Update

*Dr. Anthony Williams, Interim Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Dr. Williams gave an explanation of the overall organization of courses in Virginia by Career Cluster and Pathway. Virginia has 17 Career Clusters and 83 Pathways, with each course aligned to one or more Career Clusters and Pathways. He reviewed the academic and career plan of study and what the plan does to further a student’s career interests and suggest courses to reach that goal. He stated that the goal is for the student to understand that this is a fluid document and that it can be changed.

He reviewed the CTE curriculum revision process, in which CTE courses are revised approximately every three to five years. He also talked about the challenges of connecting business/industry with schools to create relationships.

Ms. Long-Molnar, Jason Daniel, and Dr. Stephens discussed their efforts to bring in individuals to help match employers with school divisions and students. Dr. Stephens suggested members contact their CTE advisory committees in their school divisions. Lorin Sodell recommended contacting the state WBL coordinators to connect workforce to schools.

Darla Miller spoke of the issues of employers insisting on hiring seasoned workers over high school students and dispelling the stigma of hiring young workers.

Ms. Garton asked, what are we doing to help teach students professionalism and change the assumptions about young workers? Ms. Miller replied that the first 38 skills in each course are devoted to Workplace Readiness Skills.

Mr. Sodell suggested that, as a way to get more students into the workplace, the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry partner with the Virginia Department of Education to explain the rules and dispel the myths and misconceptions around underage workers having an experience in an industrial setting.

Board members asked whether a strategic plan could be created for workplace engagement and publicizing a model that can be adopted by school divisions.

Dr. Williams asked the board to participate in curriculum revision meetings and to recommend individuals in business/industry to participate, too.

Kelly Davis reviewed a list of courses scheduled to be revised this year and recommended that committee members participate so they can understand the process and work with business/industry partners and educators to revise the curriculum.

Ms. Milo suggested using the committee members to network and expand contacts for participants in meetings. She also suggested that they would have more success by breaking the meeting into two parts – what do students need to know and then more educator-specific details.

Ms. Davis explained the recruiting process for business/industry and teacher participants on curriculum revision teams.

Dr. Williams explained the CTSOs and state leadership conferences. He invited the committee to attend the state leadership conferences as a guest.

Ms. Davis reviewed CTE civil rights and federal program monitoring, which are federally required processes for CTE programs.

Dr. Linda Zanin asked if there were a “road map” that displays the paths you can take to a profession. Ms. Davis replied that the academic and career plan, in conjunction with an interest inventory, helps the student develop a path. She also mentioned the Career Investigations course the student takes in middle school.

Sharon Acuff updated the committee on the High-Quality Work-Based Learning initiative, which serves the state. She explained the criteria for a student to have a work-based learning experience and how HQWBL aligns with graduation requirements.

Dr. Williams reviewed fall CTE professional development sessions for teachers, which are planned for mid-November, and he encouraged the committee to attend and participate in the meetings. He also reviewed the summer professional conference dates and locations, as well as the 2023 CTE New Teacher Institute.

He updated the committee on the 2023 Creating Excellence Awards luncheon, planned for June 8, 2023, in Richmond.

Ms. Garton asked for guidance on the committee members’ roles. Dr. Stephens said she wants to ensure the committee members are working in their subcommittees and participating in action items and initiatives in a strategic and deliberate way. Ms. Garton suggested asking committee members what other interests they have that might contribute to the board’s work.

Mr. Daniel asked how the committee could support the WBL team.

### 2022-2023 Meeting Date Calendar

*Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Chair*

Dr. Stephens distributed to the committee the meeting dates.

### Virginia ACTE Update

*Darla Miller, Virginia ACTE Liaison*

Ms. Miller shared information about Virginia ACTE and CTE advocacy information with the committee, including the Fact Sheet and the 2022-2032 Issues and Solutions, going into detail on the six priorities for CTE educators in Virginia.

### Adjournment

Mr. Daniel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Milo, and the committee adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Next meeting: January 19, 2023, 9 a.m. to noon.

### Advisory Committee Member Roundtable

No formal roundtable discussion was held at the meeting. Mr. Sodell submitted his comments before the meeting.

**Lorin Sodell:** The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) based in Danville is proceeding with a GO Virginia competitive grant, which will expand this successful career exploration program further across the state. Today, there are GO TEC Career Connections labs either in place or in progress in 25 middle schools in Virginia. Most of these are in GO Virginia Region 3, which is more or less equivalent to Virginia Superintendent’s Regions 6 and 8. This grant will expand GO TEC to GO Virginia Regions 1, 4, and 5 (approximately Superintendent’s Regions 1, 2, and 7).

The IALR grant will establish in-region coordinating entities (IRCEs) in each of the participating regions to help serve school divisions in those regions to locally implement Career Connections labs in those divisions’ middle schools. In GO Virginia Region 4 (Central Virginia), we are working with seven school divisions—mostly in underserved areas, both urban and rural. Similar expansions are planned in the Hampton Roads and far southwest regions of the state. The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) is the IRCE for Central Virginia, together with partners Virginia State University College of Engineering and Technology and Brightpoint Community College.

The next steps of the process are for the state GO Virginia Board to review the grant request on December 8, and then for each region to submit specific “per capita” grant requests to support the construction of labs in the individual schools.

In August 2021, a chapter of the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) was launched in Central Virginia. This is supported by CCAM and Richard Bland College of William and Mary (RBC). FAME is supported nationally by the Manufacturing Institute, part of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Originally, there were nine manufacturing “core members” who were at the heart of this chapter, which trains students (mostly recent high school grads) to become multiskilled maintenance technicians for advanced manufacturing industries. In 2021, we launched the chapter with seven students. Students in this program are employed by the core members and work onsite at their locations three days per week. They also attend classes at CCAM and RBC twice a week and will receive an Associate of Science degree from RBC after two years.

This past August, Central VA FAME launched their second cohort of 12 students, and the chapter has now expanded to have 13 manufacturing core members. The program has received support from GO Virginia, Prince George County, and The Cameron Foundation, and is widely recognized as being successful and is expected to continue to expand across the region.