## MEETING MINUTES

# Virginia Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

9 a.m. to Noon

Thursday, April 11, 2024

### Attendees

**Committee members:** Christie Garton, Dr. Victor H. Gray, Susan Long-Molnar, Darla Miller, Lorin S. Sodell, Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Teri Wiley, Diego Wilson

**VDOE:** Sharon Acuff, Kelly C. Davis, William Hatch, Dr. J. Anthony Williams

### Opening Remarks and Welcome

Dr. 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 (October 26, 2023)

The minutes were reviewed by committee members. The minutes were approved by consent at 9:03 a.m.

### CTE Advisory Committee Initiatives

Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Chair

No updates were presented.

### Department of Education Update

*Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director*

Dr. Williams noted that three members’ terms expire on June 30, 2024. Related to that, Board of Education guidance that outlines the committee’s work currently follows general guidance for the agency. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education is creating committee-specific guidance; therefore, no new members can be brought on the committee at this time. According to the existing guidance, if there are terms that are expiring, there are provisions to allow that member to serve until the guidance is available to bring in new members.

Dr. Williams summarized several changes since the last committee meeting:

* The effects of the enactment of Senate Bill 707 (effective July 1, 2024), which permits “each public middle school and high school to establish career and technical education student organizations, regardless of whether such school offers career and technical education courses.” He noted that career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) are co-curricular and integrated with CTE instruction and course competencies, and that VDOE will follow the guidance related to CTSOs.
* Professional organization conferences will be held for CTE teachers in July. The VDOE Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education provides professional development and certification opportunities for teachers statewide, but staffing issues at VDOE in procurement may affect those opportunities.
* Sharon Acuff reported that the Experience Works work-based learning conference convenes in June. Because of procurement delays, the meeting was converted from in-person to virtual, and all sessions will be recorded and posted on the CTE Resource Center website.
* Ms. Acuff stated that, on April 25, the updated *CTE High-Quality Work-Based Learning Guide* will be presented to the Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year.
* The VDOE Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education will be presenting to the board on April 25 the industry-recognized credentials for the 2024-2025 school year. He shared that efforts to define and evaluate industry-recognized credentials are ongoing.
* The VDOE Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education also is collaborating with workforce agencies and stakeholders to update the CTE high-quality work-based learning standards to provide guidance to school divisions that will have some type of measurable outcomes, to know that students are engaging in successful WBL experiences.
* Dr. Williams mentioned the high-demand occupation list and the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE) dashboard, which will lead the work of all of the workforce agencies and connect to credentials and CTE high-quality work-based learning experiences.

### Advisory Committee Member Roundtable

Individual Members

Dr. Stephens invited attendees to share any recent updates.

Christie Garton shared that she’d like to know how to support the committee in her last year. She noted that, in the judging of Creating Excellence and getting non-traditional students into CTE, the applications didn’t address non-traditional students and asked whether there were any unique opportunities in CTE that would help those students and how she could contribute. She also stated that transportation to work-based opportunities was an issue.

Dr. Victor H. Gray shared that industry credentials and certificate programs are becoming the common language at the state level and in businesses/industries. He stated that the Virginia Manufacturer’s Association (VMA), of which Dr. Gray is director, is a Department of Labor intermediary for apprenticeships and creates manufacturing/training credentials for the workforce. VMA has built a new events center in the Richmond area and has built the Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI) technical lab with a 35-student capacity, along with remote access.

Susan Long-Molnar shared that, in the Hampton Roads region, there are teachers unaware that there are career cluster opportunities for students to grow into careers, and that reduces opportunities for students because they don’t hear about them. In one business partnership, there will be two sessions in the fall for teachers to come out to Dominion’s Surry nuclear facility to see the job opportunities. She also shared that Southside Workforce CTE forum last year was successful and it will return in May and allow more time for breakout groups focused on high-quality work-based learning experiences. She also emphasized getting parents involved, especially past elementary school, to get kids into CTE.

Lorin S. Sodell shared that, in central Virginia, they are working on establishing GO TEC labs across middle schools in Superintendents Region 1, through a Go Virginia grant. Depending on school division and grade, there are 9, 18, and 36-week courses, and there are teacher training programs for the labs. There are now four coordinating centers across the state to train and support teachers. Virginia State University hosted the FIRST Robotics championship for the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia region with more than 3,000 guests for three days, and all colleges in Virginia were exhibitors at the championship.

Dr. Stephens shared that she submitted a proposal to raise interest in law enforcement careers in high school, especially for females, and that it will be implemented. She also mentioned the national 30 for 30 program and the 20 by 23 program.

Teri Wiley shared that she has been able to work locally with Virginia Beach schools and a work-based learning specialist, who has been able to speak to a hotel association meeting. She added that she has volunteered and judged DECA, SkillsUSA, and FCCLA competitions and said it was a valuable experience.

Diego Wilson shared that he’s tried to make connections with VDOE, CTE, and volunteer work, one of which is the Hispanic Educators Association, which provides scholarships in Fairfax County and visiting schools with career expos to share their stories about coming to the United States and how they got to where they are today. The expos also help him to hear from teachers about opportunities for multilingual students, as well as students who have not been exposed to CTE opportunities and occupations.

### Virginia ACTE Update

*Darla Miller, Virginia ACTE Liaison*

Ms. Miller discussed the purpose and mission of Virginia ACTE. She reviewed the group’s priorities in support of Virginia CTE for 2023-2024 and encouraged the committee to attend the 2025 Virginia ACTE Professional Development and Leadership Seminar in Richmond.

### Adjournment

The committee adjourned by consent at 11:58 a.m.

Next meeting: June 13, 2024, 9 a.m. to noon.