

Shared Policy Goal

Career & Technical Education

The Office of Commissioner of Higher Education agrees to partner with the Montana Legislature, represented by the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, to further the development and promotion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Montana. The following action steps will be pursued:

- 1) Develop a College and Career Readiness (CCR) Portal that equally promotes CTE and non-CTE opportunities available throughout the Montana University System. Examples:
 - Establish a user-friendly electronic catalog of CTE opportunities, including both degree and non-degree options like certificates and credentials.
 - Use labor market data (e.g., workforce demand, expected salary) to identify and promote “Montana Career Pathways” for various CTE fields ranging from welding to Allied Health Professions.
- 2) Work with k-12 partners and MUS campuses to more effectively promote CTE opportunities through school counseling and advising strategies. Examples:
 - Provide training workshops for high school counselors to build awareness of, and appreciation for, CTE opportunities available for their students.
 - Engage the Council of Education Deans to find ways to incorporate CTE training and advising into the curriculum.
- 3) Continuously review the effectiveness of existing CTE programs and conduct gap analyses to guide the development of new CTE opportunities that more effectively meet workforce demand. Example:
 - Periodically assess placement rates and salary information for graduates of CTE programs in each sector.
 - Collaborate with the Department of Labor and Industry as well as business and industry sectors to identify high growth areas and design CTE opportunities to meet workforce demand in those areas.
- 4) Explore avenues for developing a system-level approach for the recruitment of students interested in CTE. Examples:
 - Advertise all CTE opportunities in Montana, regardless of institutional home.
 - Where possible, offer more hybrid and online CTE programming that is accessible to students regardless of their physical location in Montana.
- 5) Meet with the Education Interim Committee (or other comparable legislative committee/group) to ensure that the Legislature has ongoing opportunities to provide information and feedback to OCHE and the Board of Regents, as well as explore and understand opportunities for expanding post-secondary CTE offerings statewide.

On behalf of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education:

Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education

Date

**On behalf of the Joint Appropriations
Subcommittee on Education:**

Rep. Llew Jones, Chairman

Date

Sen. Daniel Salomon, Vice Chairman

Date

Sen. Kenneth Bogner

Date

Rep. Brad Hamlett

Date

Rep. Tom Woods

Date

Rep. David Bedey

Date

Sen. Susan Webber

Date