

National Research Center on Career and Technical Education

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) authorizes the U.S. Department of Education (department) to establish a national research center to carry out scientifically-based research and evaluation to:

- Develop, improve, and identify the most successful methods for addressing the education, employment, and training needs of participants, including the integration of academic and technical education, education technology, and distance-learning approaches.
- Increase the effectiveness and improve the implementation of career and technical education (CTE) programs that integrate challenging academic and technical skill standards.
- Improve the preparation and professional development for teachers, faculty, and administrators.
- Improve student learning in the CTE classroom.

Perkins IV also authorizes the center to conduct dissemination and training activities based on this research.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) competitively awarded a new five-year grant to conduct the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE) following the reauthorization of the Perkins IV legislation in FY 2007. The grant was awarded to the University of Louisville in Kentucky, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, Cornell University, Clemson University, and the Southern Region Education Board.

Broad Areas for Research and Dissemination

Engagement – reducing dropouts and increasing school completion at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

Achievement – strengthening academic and technical knowledge and skills.

Transition – increasing the movement of students from high school to postsecondary education and from education into the workplace.

Reports and Tools You Can Use

- A Web site with both the full text of current research studies and an archive of the research studies and reports from the last two national research centers housed at the University of Minnesota and the University of California at Berkeley. That is 14 years of research on career and technical education!
- Applications for participation in and proceedings from technical assistance academies on various topics pertaining to Perkins IV: nontraditional indicators of performance (Summer 2007) and local programs of study (dates to be announced shortly).
- Identification of “best and promising practices” that are supported by evidence, as well as spotlights on “teacher/practitioner wisdom” – activities that have been tried in the classroom or in a real world setting and present new approaches to address effective career and technical education instruction (currently under development).

Timeline October 2007 – July 2012

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Web Site www.nccte.org