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DR. KELSALL HONORED AS EXEMPLARY LEADER

Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Superintendent of Ridgewood High School District 234, and winner of the 2019 IACTE Champion for CTE Award. (and nominee for the National ACTE Awards for 2020)



Ridgewood Community High School District 234 serves the communities of Norridge and Harwood Heights. The mission of Ridgewood High School focuses on learning: “Students will become adaptable lifelong learners and responsible, ethical citizens

with the ability to make informed decisions in a changing global society. Our program for Competency-based learning will replace the traditional process for earning grades and credit in the Ridgewood High School Math Department. The overarching goal is to put students on their fastest path to results that matter.”

“It’s not just about Ridgewood High School,” says Dr. Kelsall, “but about helping our local communities. The process includes a transition period for everyone to understand how this impacts their daily lives. There are a variety of jobs and different roles that need to be filled just in the manufacturing world such as Human Resources, Business and Finance, Sales & Marketing, Transportation & Shipping . . . in fact every career cluster is represented in one way or another in these companies.”

“We wanted to give students the ability to take ownership in finding careers. Part of the big vision is— how do we help students find their passion? That should lead them to find a career that creates fulfillment. One challenge we have is finding a way to expose students to different career areas so they can find that fit.” The days of categorizing CTE and non-CTE student populations are gone. Replacing that perspective is a new lens of understanding that every student will be in a career, and the job of education includes helping students identify their interests as soon as possible. “

Credits:

[https://www.isbe.net/
Pages/perkinsv.aspx](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/perkinsv.aspx)



CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

Connections Workshop March 6-7, 2019 (Wednesday and Thursday)

The annual Connections Conference is set for March 6-7, 2019 at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

If you are unfamiliar with the Connections Conference, it is held over a two-day period. The first day opens with a keynote speaker and then the rest of the conference will be 16-18 break-out sessions running concurrently over the two days. Attendees will have an opportunity to select sessions online that they would like to attend ahead of the conference or can make their choice on site. All sessions are open choice.

There are three types of presentation sessions:

- **Concurrent sessions** are one hour, single presentation, theater-style sessions.
- **Deep dive sessions** are two hours, single presentation, theater style sessions (will include a 15 minute break).
- **Workshop sessions** are two hours, hands-on presentation, classroom sessions (will include a 15 minute break).

[Tinley Park Convention Center](#)
18451 Convention Center Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477

[Register on line](#)

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Leyden HS District 212

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Mr. Matt Kirkpatrick
Oak Park & River Forest HS
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NEW PERKINS PLAN

Perkins V requires a comprehensive local plan to be developed in each education for employment region. *The PLAN* includes an analysis of labor market information, Career Pathways and Programs of Study, Business Partners, and past Perkins Performance Indicator achievement for each school and total DVR region as the basis for recommending local goals and related approvable grant expenses for the next four to five years.

Perkins Performance Indicators include Career Pathway enrollment in high school, continuation into related postsecondary training/Programs of Study, Reading and Math skills, and Nontraditional Pathway Completion in approved programs. During 2019 Administrative Council members and DVR Committees will be addressing issues and questions that will help inform this process. The local PLAN is due from each region this fall, so that the information can be reviewed for the final state level PLAN that needs to be submitted to OCTAE in April 2020.

QCC & TMA HONORED AS EXEMPLARY BUSINESS PARTNERS FOR CTE

Congratulations to Jon Goreham, President & CEO of QCC Corp., and the Technology & Manufacturing Association (TMA) who are winners of the 2019 IACTE Business - Education Partnership Award. (and nominee for the National ACTE Awards for 2020)

QCC wanted to grow the next generation of workforce, equipped to handle the changing technological requirements in their field. Ridgewood High School wanted to build career opportunities for students while helping local companies develop and grow valued employees. Ridgewood is a comprehensive high school, but not large, and so is without the resources that larger districts may have available. So while they do have a pre-engineering program at the high school, budget and space constraints prohibited them from offering the depth of technical programs they would like to make available to students for whom these are serious career interests.

"There are many factors that build high-quality CTE programs. Just a few of those are the application of integrated knowledge and skills in authentic scenarios, student use of industry appropriate facilities and equipment, guidance programs with career development emphasis, work-based learning experiences, and business partnerships. What we have found is that that well-grounded business partnerships can be the linchpin for success in these different facets of developing high quality CTE for students." says Dr. Kelsall. As a pilot program in the Illinois Competency Education Initiative, Ridgewood High School has structured an innovative senior year that allows students to bypass rigid seat time requirements in favor of identifying their career passions, and then participating in related activities and events. One example is the program with TMA and QCC in which students leave the home school two days each week for hands-on manufacturing training.

Since the high school does not have all resources to fill the variety of student requests, developing partnerships that supply those experiences is critical. By sending students to the TMA training facility, and to the QCC manufacturing plant in their neighborhood for internships, the QCC/Ridgewood High School partnership gives a small cohort of high school students technical training on equipment that would otherwise be unavailable, and authentic worksite experience that helps to confirm the students' initial understanding of both the demands and advantages of the work environment and technical skills needed.

The partnership has moved through it's formative phase, and in review they recognize additional ways, not to change, but to build on it. "We have brought in additional stakeholders, including our local college which has a manufacturing program, and our local Perkins consortium (Education for Employment Region). Together we created the Near-West Suburban Manufacturing & Engineering Career Initiative. Working together, this group is evaluating educational opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, and other avenues of community engagement." The mission is to equip, empower, and engage young people to be immediately prepared to participate in the workforce.

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DVR DIMENSIONS

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

From ISBE: The federal reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act named Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act also known as Perkins V was signed into law by the President on July 31, 2018. The purpose of this Act is to develop more fully the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills of secondary education students and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in CTE programs and programs of study. Perkins V requires secondary, postsecondary and business/industry to work together to strengthen career and technical education for students.

Illinois will need to submit a transition plan in April 2019 and a 4-year state plan in April 2020. The development of the plan aligns with other statewide efforts, including:

[Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act \(PWR\)](#)

Illinois' [competency-based learning](#) pilot,

[Postsecondary and Career Expectations framework \(PACE\)](#) ,
[college and career pathway](#) endorsements and
[Transitional Math, Illinois' 60 x 2025](#),

[Career Pathways Dictionary](#)  and

[ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators](#)  for accountability under ESSA,
[Dual Credit Quality Act](#) and the

[Expanding Career Pathway Opportunities in Adult Education](#) .

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA), signed into law on December 10, 2015, requires that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers. The law shows unprecedented support for career and technical education, including CTE in definition of a well-rounded education, requiring coordination of ESSA and CTE plans by State and local education agencies, supporting the integration of academic and CTE coursework, and encouraging States to include the progress of students in attaining career and technical education proficiencies on State report cards. <http://cte.ed.gov/legislation/about-essa>

DVR COMMITTEE CHAIR APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

DVR Committee Chair Applications for FY20 are available from DVR. See your DVR Admin Council member if you are interested!!