



Additional Funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

Request

WMMA strongly supports full short- and long-term funding and implementation for career and technical education (CTE) programs in order to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness and create a pathway for family wage jobs and rewarding careers. In addition, we respectfully request cosponsorship of the legislation below to support CTE and apprenticeships.

Background

The presumption that college is the primary career path for most U.S. students ignores the ever-changing needs of learners and employers. Career and technical education (CTE) programs focus on much needed concrete, in-demand skills and provide students with opportunities to apply those skills immediately in the workforce. These courses deliver to students the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions. According to a study by Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute, U.S. manufacturers will need to find an additional 2 million qualified candidates to fill 3.5 million openings by 2025.

The U.S. Congress has long supported career and technical education as a pathway to success. According to the Brookings Institute, the first federal law providing funding for vocational education was passed in 1917, even before education was compulsory in every state. In 1984, Congress passed the Perkins Act “to increase the quality of technical education” and the legislation has been instrumental in helping close the skills gap and U.S. manufacturing competitiveness by supporting secondary and post-secondary career and technical education programs at state and local levels.

Legislative Priorities

- Support full funding of Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act in FY 2021 Appropriations legislation.
- Cosponsor **S. 3273 (Young, Kaine)**, the Assisting Community Colleges in Educating Skilled Students (ACCESS) to Careers Act. The bill would set up a community college and career training grant program with the goal of increasing college and career readiness.
- Cosponsor **H.R. 989/S. 431**, the PARTNERS (Promoting Apprenticeships through Regional Training Networks for Employers’ Required Skills) Act. The bill would establish a grant program to support the creation and expansion of industry partnerships to help small and medium sized businesses develop work-based learning programs and provide mentoring and support services for workers.

About the WMMA

Founded in 1899, the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) is a professional trade association composed of more than 230 North American manufacturers of woodworking equipment, cutting tools and supplies whose purpose is to promote the interests of its members serving the woodworking industry. Members’ products are used in the production of furniture, cabinets, millwork and other wood products. Many members also serve the plastics, stone and non-ferrous metals markets. WMMA members’ equipment is sold worldwide. Learn more about the WMMA at www.WMMA.org.

Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America
2331 Rock Spring Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050
443-640-1052 | www.wmma.org