

## 2026 NACTEi Conference

### Sunday, April 26

Time	Title		Presenter	Room/Floor	Description
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Pre-Conference Board Meeting		Claude Christian and Trish Meyer	Oslo Board Room--3	

### Monday, April 27

Time	Title		Presenter	Room/Floor	Description
9:30 - 11:30 am	Perkins 101	NACTEi	Dr. Angela Davis, Dr. Jeff Fletcher, and Samantha Uriegas	New Sweden--2	This session is designed for Perkins administrators, coordinators, and educators and will provide an overview of the history and administration of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, including key programmatic and fiscal requirements. Participants will engage in a facilitated peer-to-peer dialogue to explore state perspectives and share practical strategies for ensuring compliance while upholding the intent of the law.
10:30 - 10:45 am	Beverage Break			Denmark Commons--3	
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own			Fjords Ballroom	
1:00 - 5:00 pm	NACTEi Pre-Conference with Bruman Group: Federal Education Funding Rules and Compliance		Michael Brustein, The Bruman Group	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	
	Evening on Your Own				

### Tuesday, April 28

Time	Title	Topic	Presenter	Room/Floor	Description
7:00 - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast			Fjords Ball Room--2	
8:00 - 8:15 am	Welcome and Introductions		Claude Christian NACTEi President	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	
8:15 - 9:00 am	Minnesota Welcome and State of CTE in Minnesota		Karl Ohrn, Minnesota System Director for CTE	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	
9:00 - 10:15 am	Keynote Speaker: ACTE Federal Policy Updates		Dr. Alisha Hyslop, ACTE	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	It has been an eventful year in education and workforce development policy around the country, particularly at the federal level. This session will explore in depth the federal policy activities that have impacted CTE, covering both Congress and the Administration. We'll provide a deep dive into the federal budget and appropriations process, activities of the Departments of Education and Labor, potential reauthorizations of key legislation, and other secondary and postsecondary policy issues.
10:15 - 10:30 am	Vendor Engagement/Networking Break			Denmark Commons	
10:30 - 11:30 am	CTE Instructors in the time of AI: Lessons of human Value and developing Soft Skills	Artificial Intelligence	Dr. Keith Wallace	Bergen I--2	The growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Career and Technical Education (CTE) makes developing student soft skills critical for workplace success. While AI enhances learning through personalized, adaptive environments, it presents challenges like over-reliance. Effective AI integration requires educators to shift roles, becoming facilitators who supervise learning progress and outcomes of AI use in the classroom. This session shares best practices from a case study where GTE faculty explored AI use in their sectors.
10:30 - 11:30 am	Building a Collaborative CLNA Team	Compliance Monitoring	Dana Kuhn	Norway--3	This interactive presentation guides participants through building a collaborative CLNA team aligned with state requirements and a multi-program environment. It covers stakeholder roles, data-driven decision making, engagement strategies, and action planning. Featuring polls, partner discussions, and hands-on activities, the session equips participants to form an effective, sustainable CLNA team with clear norms, responsibilities, and next steps, ensuring stronger industry alignment and improved outcomes for learners.
10:30 - 11:30 am	Funding the Future: How Strategic Use of Perkins Dollars Built a Districtwide Work-Based Learning Culture	Finance/Budget	Jimmy Martin Rocky Dickinson	Bergen II--2	In this session you will find out how Moore Public Schools reshaped its entire approach to career readiness by investing Perkins funds not in more inventory—but in people who connect students to career paths. This session will highlight how the district leveraged Carl Perkins to hire Career Specialists, resulting in exponential growth in internships, industry tours, advisory connections, and workforce-aligned programming.
10:30 - 11:30 am	Advancing CTE from Reporting to Results	SPONSOR	ICEV	Bergen III--2	As CTE data continues to shape school performance metrics and priorities, school leaders play a critical role in translating data into actionable decisions for their district. This session explores a five-level framework for data use in CTE, showing how programs evolve from compliance-driven collection to strategic decision-making using Eduthings.
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch & Sponsor Highlights			Fjords Ball Room--2	

1:15 - 2:15 pm	From Data to Decisions: Strengthening Data Literacy Through Alabama's Regional CTE Data Meetings	Data Driven Decision	Dawn Morrison	Bergen II--2	Explore how Alabama's regional data meetings build data literacy and support informed decision making among LEA CTE directors. This session highlights how regional data practices help leaders interpret performance trends, identify areas of need, and connect those insights to Perkins budgeting and program planning. Participants will also see examples of the simple, practical data exercises used in the regional meetings to reinforce consistent, intentional data use across districts.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Change Your Focus: From Monitoring Overload to Risk-Based Support	Compliance Monitoring	Sue Selland-Miller	Norway--3	Tired of monitoring that consumes time but adds little value? Minnesota moved from indiscriminate oversight to a proactive, risk-driven system that prioritizes technical assistance. Learn how this approach drives targeted strategies, reduces burden, and fosters collaboration. Walk away with actionable tools to refine your Perkins V risk assessment and monitoring process for greater impact.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Marketing Perkins: Strategic Enrollment Management as a CTE Recruitment Tool	Recruitment	Virginia Maze	Bergen I--2	Perkins isn't just a funding source — it's a recruitment strategy. This session demonstrates how South Louisiana Community College and Region IV transformed Perkins investments into powerful enrollment and engagement tools through targeted marketing, ConnectEd teacher-industry experiences, and employer-driven recruitment campaigns. Attendees will learn how to align messaging with labor-market demand, leverage coalition partnerships, and improve performance indicators by attracting special populations and non-traditional students into high-demand CTE pathways.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Smart Grant Management	Finance/Budget	Dr. Marcy Green	Bergen III--2	This session reviews key steps in the Perkins grant process: budgeting, timeline, monthly monitoring, monitoring tools, and ensuring funds are spent appropriately and timely. We have developed a method of determining how funds are spent and tracking them monthly to ensure they are used for the benefit of faculty, staff, and students based on Perkins regulations regarding allowable expenditures for secondary and postsecondary education. Let us share how we determine expenses, monitor the expenditures, and spend the Perkins grant.
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Vendor Engagement/Networking Break			Denmark Commons	
2:30 - 3:30 pm	You're the Voice: Help Shape the Next Edition of Putting Your Data to Work	Data Driven Decision	Dr. Alisha Hyslop and Kathleen McNally	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	What should a data book for CTE educators include today? Join us for a special working session where NACTEi participants can become part of a revision team for a national resource, Putting Your Data to Work: Improving Instruction in CTE. Attendees will engage in an interactive, hands-on work session to review current chapters, discuss priorities for content and tone, and share field-based stories, examples, and quotes. Through a facilitated gallery walk, small-group discussion, and whole-group synthesis, participants will help shape what the next edition should include—and how it should be written—to ensure it reflects real CTE practice and voices from the field. We welcome your input—participants will be credited as contributors where content is used.
3:45 - 4:45 pm	<b>Regional Meetings (Rooms Assigned Below)</b> Region I--Bergen 1; Region II--Norway; Region III--Bergen 2; Region IV--New Sweden; Region V--Bergen 3				
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Networking Reception			Denmark Commons	
	Evening on Your Own				
<b>Wednesday, April 29, 2026</b>					
<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Room/Floor</b>	<b>Description</b>
7:30 - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast			Fjords Ballroom	
9:00 - 10:15 am	Keynote Speaker: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education		Adam Flynn-Tabloff, OCTAE	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	Participants will engage with currently available CTE data and dive into CTE enrollment and performance data for program year 2024-2025. Participants will also learn about administration priorities and national activities supporting CTE.
10:15 - 10:30 am	Vendor Engagement/Networking Break			Denmark Commons	
10:30 - 11:30 am	Building a Professional Pipeline	WF Development/ Career Exploration	Snehal Bhakta	Bergen III--2	Empower students to move beyond basic business literacy and step into a global world of professional excellence. This session will explore the synergy between certification and curriculum partners to support your Perkins' CLNA priorities through organizations like MBA Research and work-based learning providers. Let's prepare students for real-world "business" success..

10:30 - 11:30 am	Strengthening Career-Tech Pathways with Pathways to Success Toolkit	SPONSOR	Christine Neito	Bergen III--2	Career and Technical Education leaders play a critical role in aligning programs to workforce demand and improving learner outcomes. This session introduces the Pathways to Success Toolkit, a practical framework to strengthen career pathways through cross-sector alignment, stackable credentials, integrated supports, and employer engagement. This session will explore the toolkit and gain actionable insights to enhance foundational skill readiness, build stackable credential pathways, and improve completion and employment outcomes.
10:30 - 11:30 am	Unlocking CTE Student Success in Texas: Insights from a Postsecondary Data Dashboard	Data Driven Decisions	Tina Jackson	Norway--3	Explore how the THECB Perkins V Postsecondary Data Dashboard enables Texas institutions and stakeholders to analyze CTE student outcomes, track performance indicators, and identify disparities. Learn how to use the tool for Local Needs Assessments, improving program effectiveness, and promoting closing the gaps. This session will demonstrate how data supports meeting state and federal goals for workforce readiness and student success through informed decision-making.
10:30 - 11:30 am	AI (AI) and other New Technologies Strategies--Training for CTE Expansion	Artificial Intelligence	Donna Crouch	Bergen I--2	This 60-minute workshop helps CTE leaders embed AI and emerging technologies while ensuring safety, equity, and compliance. Participants experience a micro-drone demo, design a standards-aligned lesson, and adopt an AI ethics toolkit. Aligned to Perkins V and ACTE frameworks, it includes ready-to-use resources and a 30--90-day implementation plan.
11:30 - 1:00	Networking Lunch & Business Meeting			Fjords Ballroom	
1:15 - 2:15 pm	The Implementation of Workforce Pell: Data and Programmatic Implications	WF Development/ Career Exploration	Dr. Alisha Hyslop, ACTE	Scandinavian Ball Room--3	Last summer's enactment of the Workforce Pell program marks a pivotal shift in federal higher education policy. For the first time, it expands access to Pell Grants for students in short-term education and training programs. However, the rules around Workforce Pell are very complicated, especially from a data and reporting standpoint. This session will provide a deep dive into what the new program means for institutions and learners. We will review the basic requirements of the legislation and subsequent regulatory activity, and what stakeholders need to know to maximize this new opportunity, particularly from a data standpoint, as well as how the data elements in Workforce Pell interplay with other reporting requirements at the postsecondary level and the potential for more widespread changes that will impact other postsecondary CTE programs.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	The Brightpath Effect: Connecting Classrooms, Careers, and Community	SPONSOR	Art Maxwell	Bergen III--2	Discover how "The Brightpath Effect" transforms CTE from a school-based program into a community-wide engine for prosperity. This session explores how the YouScience Brightpath ecosystem serves as a strategic gift, uncovering student aptitudes to bridge the gap between education and the workforce. We will examine how providing families with actionable data empowers them as partners in career planning while simultaneously helping administrators meet Perkins V and CLNA requirements. Join us to learn how to leverage objective talent data to foster an equitable, high-performance pipeline that lifts every stakeholder—students, families, and local industry alike.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Building a Collaborative CLNA Team	Compliance Monitoring	Dana Kuhn	Bergen II--2	This interactive presentation guides participants through building a collaborative CLNA team aligned with state requirements and a multi-program environment. It covers stakeholder roles, data-driven decision making, engagement strategies, and action planning. Featuring polls, partner discussions, and hands-on activities, the session equips participants to form an effective, sustainable CLNA team with clear norms, responsibilities, and next steps, ensuring stronger industry alignment and improved outcomes for learners.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Perkins Funding Transformation: Strategies to Enhance Program & Student Success	Finance/Budget	Emily Clevenger	Norway--3	Come learn about one Florida state college's success in utilizing Perkins Grant funding to meet program needs and enhance student success. Learn the strategies utilized at a post secondary institution to improve grant spending from 84% to 97%, increase industry certification attainment by over 75%, and increase Florida state Performance Based Incentive Funding by over \$500,000. Attendees will leave with templates.
2:30 - 3:30 pm	A 360-Degree Approach to Student Retention: From Pre-Orientation Data to Post-Program Re-Entry	Data Driven Decisions	Sara Holzberlein	Norway--3	This session explores a CTE institution's data-driven, three-phase approach to student success and retention. The pre-program phase uses orientations and surveys to catch early issues like accommodations and transportation. During the program, faculty implement early alerts and corrective plans, tracking data with exit tickets. Post-program, staff manage re-entry contracts, financial aid restructuring, and follow up on commitments. Key takeaways highlight the necessity of team communication, data management, and clear pathways for student return or retention.

2:30 - 3:30 pm	From Classroom to Career: Work-Based Learning That Pays... Literally	WF Development/ Career Exploration	Laine Powell	Bergen III--2	What if students earned an industry credential, a stipend, and solved a real community problem — all before graduation? This session showcases a high school work-based learning model, Pearls in Tech Accelerator, where students learn Python coding and build AI chatbots to address local community challenges, earning a nationally recognized AI Essentials certification and a paid stipend upon completion. Participants will explore how to design outcomes-driven WBL programs that motivate students and deliver measurable workforce
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Demystifying Perkins for Global Impact	Compliance Monitoring	Samantha Uriegas	Bergen II--2	This session offers a practitioner's perspective shaped by decades of experience working with, within, and around Perkins since 1999. This session blends reflection and interactive activities to unpack how Perkins can be leveraged beyond compliance, positioning it as a catalyst for global engagement. Participants will explore practical strategies and real-world insights for integrating a CTE alignment mindset while identifying opportunities to globalize Perkins initiatives on their campuses. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to strengthen program impact, expand partnerships, and align local CTE efforts with a broader global vision.
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Action: A Framework for Translating Industry Technologies into CTE Instruction	Artificial Intelligence	Michael Tinsley Jaci Whitaker	New Sweden--2	In this session we will look at how career and technical education (CTE) programs are uniquely positioned to navigate the potential artificial intelligence (AI) driven economy. To assist CTE policymakers, educators, researchers and students looking for the signal amidst the noise, we propose a new pedagogical framework: the Applied Co-Intelligence (ACI) model. In this session, attendees will learn 1) what the ACI model is and how it moves beyond simple conception of AI literacy and is built on the purposeful integration of 2) three skill spheres: Technical skills, Transferable skills, and AI Mastery. Along with 3) the four primary barriers blocking its implementation - the alignment crisis, the human capital gap, the structural barriers, and the evidence gap. Finally, we will discuss 4) a stakeholder driven plan of action with recommendations for policymakers, education providers, and industry & employers.
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Vendor Engagement/Networking Break			Denmark Commons	
3:45- 4:45 pm	Beyond the Checklist: A Purpose-Driven, Phased Approach to Perkins Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring	Jaci Whitaker Michael Tinsley	New Sweden--2	This session explores effective Perkins monitoring of local education agencies (LEAs) conducted by state agencies within career and technical education systems. Participants will learn how to design meaningful corrective action plans that include ongoing technical assistance and clarify federal requirements, helping locals achieve compliance & understanding. Attendees will also gain a phased monitoring framework, offering state agencies a practical plan of action when staffing and capacity limit the ability to thoroughly monitor every institution each year.
3:45- 4:45 pm	Meet Your AI Career Coach: Let's Chat Future Jobs!	Artificial Intelligence	Snehal Bhakta	Bergen I--2	Experience the future of CTE with Rubin Education's AI-powered career simulations. Students engage with virtual mentors, tackle real workplace challenges, and prepare for CTSO competitions all by using AI. Discover how immersive technology is transforming career learning.
3:45- 4:45 pm	Exploring a Mentoring + Career Tech Model to Strengthen CTE Pathways	WF Development/ Career Exploration	Dr. James Houseworth	Bergen II--2	This session will share a developing effort to adapt the evidence-based Check & Connect framework into a Mentoring + Career Tech model for community colleges and high schools. Presenters will describe the emerging theory of action, early implementation steps, and exploratory work underway to assess feasibility. Participants will gain insights into how these partnerships could be structured to improve "Getting In" and "Getting Through" phases of CTE pathways.
3:45- 4:45 pm	Data-Informed Leadership: Building High-Quality CTE Programs	Data Driven Decision	Niketa Dean	Bergen III--2	High-quality CTE programs require more than compliance—they require intentional design, alignment, and sustainability. This session highlights strategic approaches for Perkins V leaders to build cohesive, data-driven systems that support program excellence. Participants will examine effective practices for aligning secondary and postsecondary efforts, leveraging partnerships, and sustaining meaningful outcomes across programs.
	Evening on Your Own				
<b>Thursday, April 30</b>					
<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Room/Floor</b>	<b>Description</b>
8:00 - 9:00 am	Hot Breakfast Buffet			Fjords Ballroom	
9:00 - 10:00 am	Change Your Focus: From Monitoring Overload to Risk-Based Support	Compliance Monitoring	Sue Selland-Miller	Norway--3	Tired of monitoring that consumes time but adds little value? Minnesota moved from indiscriminate oversight to a proactive, risk-driven system that prioritizes technical assistance. Learn how this approach drives targeted strategies, reduces burden, and fosters collaboration. Walk away with actionable tools to refine your Perkins V risk assessment and monitoring process for greater impact.

9:00 - 10:00 am	Building System Change into Your Leadership Structure: A new Blueprint for boards or advisory committees	WF Development/ Career Exploration	Christopher Vito	Bergen III--2	Participate in a dynamic information session focused on embedding system change within your Perkins Consortium or any Board of Directors. Learn how our collaborative model—uniting three Perkins Consortia with MN North College—can be tailored to fit your organization’s structure and goals. We’ll guide you through a practical, step-by-step approach to governance alignment, cross-system collaboration, and sustainable implementation. Gain a customizable framework, practical tools, and actionable strategies to design a new blueprint that strengthens leadership capacity and drives long-term, measurable impact.
9:00 - 10:00 am	Beyond the Checklist: A Purpose-Driven, Phased Approach to Perkins Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring	Michael Tinsley	Bergen II--2	This session explores effective Perkins monitoring of local education agencies (LEAs) conducted by state agencies within career and technical education systems. Participants will learn how to design meaningful corrective action plans that include ongoing technical assistance and clarify federal requirements, helping locals achieve compliance & understanding. Attendees will also gain a phased monitoring framework, offering state agencies a practical plan of action when staffing and capacity limit the ability to thoroughly monitor every institution each year.
10:00 - 10:30 am	Networking Break--Beverage Only			Denmark Commons	
10:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Hot Topic Subject Matter Experts (SME)</b> <b>(4 separate round table discussions for 20 minutes each session)</b>			Fjords Ballroom	
	<i>1) AI Integration and Emerging Technologies</i>			Fjords Ballroom	
	<i>2) Workforce/Career Ready &amp; Recruitment</i>			Fjords Ballroom	
	<i>3) Data-Driven Decision Making</i>			Fjords Ballroom	
	<i>4) Developing an Impactful CLNA Team</i>			Fjords Ballroom	
11:30 am - 12:15 pm	Conference Wrap-Up		Claude Christian	Scandinavian Ballroom	
1:00 - 4:00 pm	Post-Conference Board Meeting-- Box Lunch		Claude Christian	Oslo Board Room--3	