THREE RIVERS EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
EFE 100

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Organizational reports provide updates on grants and state initiatives, professional development, work-based learning, regional partnerships, and long-term strategic planning. Each area reflects TREES' broader goals of expanding equitable access to high-quality CTE, aligning pathways with labor market needs, and preparing students for in-demand careers, while also inviting council feedback to guide priorities and strengthen regional impact.

Employer Partnerships and Work-Based Learning

- September 29th Partner and Employer Breakfast: follow-up resources and ongoing partnership opportunities.
- Plumbers Local 130 Bridge Program: 32-hour pilot, October 6–December 17 - 15 confirmed students

Career Exploration and Student Engagement

Career Discovery Day: November 5 at JJC; approximately 2,600 sixth graders expected.

- October 9: school wave information shared.
- October 14: exhibitor check-ins at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- October 15: planning committee update at 1 p.m.

Entrepreneur Pitch Event: November 13.

Program Alignment and Regional Advisories

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Advisory: October 21st, hybrid.
Connect business, finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship programs with employers.
Continue outreach to chambers, economic development partners, and businesses.

Professional Learning

- Next Level book study: October 19, 4–5 p.m. - 7 teachers
- CTE Learn: self-paced professional learning opportunity. - 9 Teachers
- CTE Network - 12 participants, SPED in CTE in November
- Counselors in the Trades - 8 registered

Fiscal Management, Compliance, and Funding

- TREES CTEI Amendment 1 and Minooka Amendment 2.
- GATA assistance requested for historical audit-reporting items.
- FY28 ISBE projection: $4,059,017.50, assuming 100% implementation of the new funding formula.
- FY27 allocation: $3,820,188.
- Potential increase: $238,829.50, approximately 6.25%.
- Final allocation and formula implementation remain unconfirmed.

EFE Procedures and Efficiency

- Continue refining TREES grant procedures and increasing transparency with district and career center leaders.
- Use consistent tools, including the TREES Grant Cheat Sheet, budget tracking, District/Center Checklist, and end-of-year allocation forms.
- Clarify submission deadlines, leadership review, and director approval steps.
- Inventory: Review equipment inventory procedures, documentation, and district and career center responsibilities to support accurate records and consistent tracking.
- Provide regular regional updates on requirements, deadlines, and next steps.
- Identify opportunities to simplify procedures and reduce repeated follow-up.

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FY27 TREES ORGANIZATIONAL PILLARS AND PRIORITIES

Strategic Planning & Regional Goals
- Partner with HYA to develop a regional strategic plan shaped by stakeholder feedback.
- Align CLNA priorities, Perkins indicators, programs of study, and labor-market needs.
- Establish measurable goals and a dashboard to monitor regional progress.

Communication & Stakeholder Engagement
- Provide consistent updates on grants, deadlines, compliance, and regional opportunities.
- Use TREES leadership tools and engagement data to improve transparency and follow-through.
- Expand stakeholder input and promote regional successes through purposeful communication.

Work-Based Learning & Career Pathways
- Expand the regional WBL continuum through career exploration, internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships.
- Advance STA: Building the Future and the Plumbers Local 130 Bridge Program.
- Develop regional WBL training, partner resources, and stronger employer connections.

CTE Network & Instructional Excellence
- Strengthen programs of study, dual credit, credentials, and secondary-to-postsecondary transitions.
- Provide professional learning through the CTE Teacher Network and regional training opportunities.
- Expand regional advisories and use data to guide program improvement.

Career Awareness & Student Opportunity
- Launch the Sixth-Grade Career Discovery Day for students across Will and Grundy Counties.
- Expand career exploration through tours, trades events, hands-on exhibits, and occupational speakers.
- Increase equitable access to credentials, dual credit, internships, and apprenticeship pathways.

Fiscal & Organizational Management
- Administer FY27 CTEI and Perkins funds with transparency, compliance, and measurable student impact.
- Strengthen district planning, amendments, documentation, monitoring, and audit readiness.
- Connect spending decisions to CLNA priorities, strategic goals, and equitable regional access.

Collaboration & Community Engagement
- Strengthen partnerships with JJC, career centers, workforce agencies, economic-development organizations, employers, and labor.
- Use regional advisories and partner events to align education with workforce needs.
- Expand opportunities for partners to serve as mentors, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and internship hosts.

Integrity, Equity & Ethical Leadership
- Maintain transparency in budgeting, allocations, performance reporting, and decision-making.
- Promote equitable access to programs, funding, professional learning, and student opportunities.
- Ensure accountability, confidentiality, professionalism, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Advocacy & External Relations
- Represent TREES through IACTE, ACTE, ISBE, legislative, and regional leadership activities.
- Communicate policy developments affecting CTE funding, programming, credentials, and access.
- Advocate for CTE and bring statewide resources and promising practices back to member districts

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