



# THREE RIVERS EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT EFE 100

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIRECTORS REPORT - APRIL 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.

## GRANT UPDATES

- **FY 26 allocations**
  - CTEI - FY25 to FY26 \$3,247,161
  - Perkins - FY25 to FY26 \$876,020
- **Perkins Update**
  - **Spending/Allocation needs to be before June 30th**
- **CTEIG Update**
  - Funding received
  - Payouts moving seamlessly
- **CTE Consolidated Application Updates**
  - **Amendment #6 will be submitted May 1st**
  - **April Goals Check**
    - Career Exploration and Guidance
    - Academic and Technical Skills
    - Work-Based Learning
- **[FY 27 Grant Process Overview Cheat Sheet](#)**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Key FY 26 PD Takeaways

- **Strong regional engagement:** 9 schools represented across the TREES region.
- **Largest session: CTE Network SPED** - 22 participants.
- **Consistent participation:** Lockport Township .
- **Multi-district involvement:** Valley View, Minooka, Coal City, Plainfield, Lincoln-Way, and Wilco Career Center all participated.
- **[PD Survey sent out for FY27](#)**

### FY27 Planning - Guided by Perkins Indicators and CTEI

- Peer to Peer Presentations
- CTE Network - 4 sessions
  - SPED, AI, WBL, Neurodiversity
- Entrepreneurship Across the Curriculum
- **[Math, Science, and Reading in CTE](#)**
- Trades Math

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND WBL

- Focus on all stakeholder levels
  - **Legislators**
    - **Senator Cappel and Representative Avelar met with students at the Capitol**
    - **TREES Leaders met with Rep. Underwood, Senator Duckworth, and Senator Durbin**
    - **K12 Appropriations CTE Advocacy**
  - **JJC Leaders in Administration and Departments**
    - **TREES Meeting with Dr. Namuo for an update and shared work ahead**
    - **Coordinating JJC/TREES Advisories for FY 27**
  - **Regional Office of Education**
    - **CTE Network Planning** - Will and Grundy
  - **Middle School Partners**
    - **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Discovery Day - November 5th**
    - **Junior Achievement Sessions**
  - **Consultants for PD and Data**
    - Zuccarello and Associates
      - **CCPE Team Based Challenge**
      - **CLNA Preparation Documents**
      - **Programs of Study - [Manufacturing and Information Technology](#)**

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Director proposed HYA Contract
  - HYA will attend the May 14<sup>th</sup> Administrative Council meeting
  - New proposed package \$18,500 with travel

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## DIRECTOR REPORTING PILLARS - FY26

### **Developing Short- and Long-Term Regional Goals (CLNA-Aligned)**

- Continuing refinement of regional priorities through FY27 planning and CLNA alignment work
- Supporting district access to FY27 planning sheets to improve consistency and transparency in goal-setting
- Strengthening alignment between regional CTE goals, Perkins indicators, and program of study development
- Using STA program development feedback to inform long-term apprenticeship and workforce pathways
- Framing next-phase regional priorities as programs evolve in response to labor market and industry needs

### **Strategic Planning & Regional Alignment**

- Advancing coordinated regional planning structures across member districts
- Preparing continued engagement with leadership groups to shape long-term strategic direction
- Supporting refinement of program structures through RFP-driven planning discussions
- Integrating stakeholder feedback from STA and counselor engagement sessions into planning priorities

### **Communication & Stakeholder Engagement**

- Providing ongoing updates to districts on FY27 grant planning tools and timelines
- Strengthening communication following grant overview sessions to ensure clarity and alignment
- Improving structure and frequency of regional updates for transparency in Perkins, budgeting, and programming
- Enhancing communication of regional initiatives including STA, trades events, and program highlights

### **Regional Work-Based Learning & Instructional Programs**

- Expanding work-based learning opportunities through employer engagement
- Supporting regional career exploration events such as Counselor Trades Day and student exposure experiences
- Highlighting growth and completion of programs such as Wilco CERT and health/emergency response pathways
- Continuing development of STA (Student to Apprentice) program structure aligned to regional workforce needs
- Strengthening program of study alignment and career pathway coherence across districts

### **Regional CTE Network & Instructional Programs**

- Strengthening Program of Study alignment across member districts
- Planning fall listening and learning sessions and program tours (Fall 2025 cycle)
- Initiating regional advisory committee discussions to support Perkins compliance and industry alignment
- Supporting instructional alignment through CIP database utilization and program evaluation tools

### **Fiscal & Organizational Management**

- Supporting timely FY25 and FY26 grant submissions and compliance requirements
- Providing access to FY27 planning tools to strengthen fiscal readiness and transparency
- Refining allocation processes to improve equity and efficiency across districts
- Enhancing monitoring systems for grant compliance, documentation, and reporting accuracy
- Advancing end-of-year processes to support equitable fund distribution and audit readiness

### **Collaboration & Community Engagement**

- Strengthening partnerships with Joliet Junior College, workforce development, and ROE partners
- Expanding employer engagement through industry tours and partner-hosted learning experiences
- Increasing visibility of CTE programming through regional communications and storytelling
- Supporting community engagement around student pathways in high-demand career fields

### **Integrity & Ethical Leadership**

- Maintaining transparency in budgeting, Perkins indicators, and allocation processes
- Ensuring confidentiality and professionalism in district and staff communications
- Promoting equitable access to programs and resources across all member districts
- Reinforcing ethical leadership through consistent documentation and reporting practices

### **Advocacy & External Relations**

- Representing TREES at IACTE, ACTE, and regional CTE leadership meetings
- Serving as liaison between ISBE and member districts on Perkins and CTE implementation
- Monitoring and communicating state and federal policy updates impacting CTE
- Participating in public-facing events including April 14<sup>th</sup> appropriations committee and CTE Advocacy Day
- Bringing back best practices from ACTE and regional conferences to inform regional strategy

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