



THREE RIVERS EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT EFE 100

DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY - APRIL 2026

Professional development and P&CC activities focus on advancing system goals: expanding equitable access to high-quality CTE programs, aligning pathways with local labor market needs, increasing work-based learning, and strengthening industry and community partnerships. Key activities and outcomes support student preparation for in-demand careers and address the workforce needs of Will, Grundy and parts of Cook County.

P&CC

FY 26 Leadership
Chair Nick Schroder and
Chair Elect Scott Duensing

- Regional leadership that guides CTE PD priorities for teachers and industry
- District admins and career center leaders.
- Oversees committees, curriculum, staffing, resources, and program evaluation.
- Collects industry and community feedback on curriculum and pathways for advisory committees

FY27 Leadership Candidate Nominations

CTE NETWORK

FY 26 Leadership
Co-Chairs

Kara Gierke and Tammi Conn

- Collaborative Workgroup: Regional CTE teachers and leaders working together.
- Supports P&CC: Shares best practices, drives innovation, and aligns CTE programs with student and workforce needs.
- Partnerships: Works with Will and Grundy/Kendall ROEs to coordinate professional development, collaboration, and regional resources.

REGIONAL UPDATES

- Leadership and District Running Reports
- ISBE National Career Clusters
- **TREES End of Year Allocation Timeline and Forms**
 - EOY Grant Allocation Requests
 - Submit by April 30th
 - Reviewed by P&CC on May 7th
 - Review by Administrative Council on May 14th
 - Approved by TREES Director by May 21st
 - TREES Proposals
 - CTE Learn - Courses
 - MS Career Guides
- **TREES Programs of Study**
 - Manufacturing
 - Information Technology
- IWIN- Embedded Learning
- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment
 - Section 4 - TREES Regional Report - **EDR4 Data**
 - LNA Template
 - CLNA Timeline
- FY 27 Grant Process - **April 13th Session**
 - Language adjustments
 - Budget Sheets
 - School Inventory Systems
- Middle School/Elementary Grant Process
 - Elementary School Grant Guidelines
 - Budget Tracking
 - Regional opportunities
- **Junior Achievement Opportunities**
 - **March 9th - MS Career Awareness**
 - **March 17th - Occupation Career Speaker**
 - **Gardner MS**

Holly Camerano

TREES System Director

1215 Houbolt Road, Room H1019
708.826.1012

holly.camerano_c@jcc.edu
cteintrees.org



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TREES REGION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **CTE Network**
 - November - Introduction Session - 14 Participants
 - January - SPED and CTE - 22 participants
 - March - EL and CTE -10 Participants
 - **Regional WBL Leaders Group**
 - WILCO, GAVC, Joliet Township, Reed Custer, Lockport, Plainfield, Lemont
 - **WBL Communications**
 - **6th Grade Career Discovery Day**
 - Middle School and Elementary Leadership Group
 - Valley View, Reed Custer, GAVC, Channahon, Plainfield, Coal City, Braceville
 - **Counselor Trades Experience** - April 15th - 31 Participants Registered
 - **Peer to Peer PD**
 - A + I - 8 Participants
 - AI Generated Jewelry - 18 Participants
 - Beyond the Likes and Follows - 11 participants
- Key PD Takeaways**
- **Strong regional engagement:** 9 schools represented across the TREES region.
 - **Largest session: CTE Network** - 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**

CTE NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

- **CTE and SPED - Matt Mullins and Matt Eber**
 - **Differentiated Instruction**
 - **Chunking**
- **EL Learner Strategies**
 - AI Tools Shared by Lemont HS FaCS

STATE AND NATIONAL PD

- ACTE WBL, April 29-May 1, Providence RI - TBD
- ISBE Career Connections, May 6th, Bloomington, IL
- ACTE Region III Conference, June 15-17, Menomonie, WI - TBD

CTE Network can assist for individuals who want to become more involved

FY27 Professional Development Opportunities

- IMTS - September 14th - 15th
- Chicago BUILD - October 28th - 29th
- MFG Day - October 7th, 2026
- Health Educator Conference - November 6th

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