NCTEF Board of Directors' Meeting
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUTURE PROJECTS
September 7, 2008

With the passage of Perkins IV and the requirement for programs of study, combined with the tightening of budget belts and the economic downturn, many groups are taking note of CTE. This is an incredible time for CTE. Some are looking to CTE as an engagement tool for drop outs, others see CTE as a way to bring relevancy to the high school experience and even others view CTE as an economic/workforce development. Groups like the National Governors Association, National Association of State Boards of Education, The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO, National Association of Manufacturers, Achieve, etc. are making CTE a priority agenda item.

The interest in CTE is being further energized as groups become aware of Career Clusters. They see Career Clusters as a transformative vehicle that is on a clear path from old "voc ed" to a "modern CTE" that is rigorous, responsive and leads to both postsecondary education and the workplace.

This interest has brought about many significant partnership opportunities that NASDCTEc/NCTEF has been engaged in:

- The September edition of ACTE's Techniques focuses on Career Clusters.
- A collaborative being led by OVAE and including NASDCTEc/NCTEF, National Governors Association, National Association of State Boards of Education, The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Association of Community Colleges and ACTE have been meeting regularly to discuss how we can collaborate to get the word out about career clusters/programs of study. The group worked together on the RFP and selection of statewide articulation grantees. We will also be working together on the year 2 NCCTE Technical Assistance Academy, which will focus on programs of study.
- As an offshoot of the abovementioned partnership, a very interesting additional partnership conversation has begun around technical skills assessments. This partnership includes NASDCTEc/NCTEF , CCSSO, the U.S. Chamber, and OVAE. More information will be distributed at the meeting regarding this partnership.
- Finally, NASDCTEc/NCTEF is a key partner with the National Governors Association in their 2008-09 policy academy, which will focus on CTE. NASDCTEc/NCTEF is responsible for developing a self assessment tool states will use to gauge the status of their CTE system, including measures of progress in a variety of areas including standards, clusters, funding, etc.

As our partnerships expand the interest and demand for technical assistance, professional development and products increase. Over the coming months, NASDCTEc/NCTEF will have to spend significant time on the following activities:

- Update existing products to align with recent changes to the K & S statements
- Determine if additional products are needed and putting a plan in place to produce these products
- Identify new cluster leaders
- Improving representation on the national advisory committees
- Develop a professional development plan to provide assistance to our membership re: clusters/programs of study
- Develop a marketing plan to get the word out about clusters
    - Organizations we should be meeting with and/or presenting to
    - Meetings we should have booths at

The time is one of unprecedented opportunity; the challenge is to get the word out fast enough and to the right people. As we begin to fill the vacant staff positions and expand our partnerships, we will be poised to fully realize the potential of these opportunities and to exercise significant leadership in defining the next steps for CTE.