



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

September 3, 2009

Dear State Directors of Career and Technical Education:

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) is pleased to invite your State to participate in the 15th Annual Perkins Data Quality Meeting; the second under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). This event will be held December 1-3, 2009, at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Baltimore, MD.

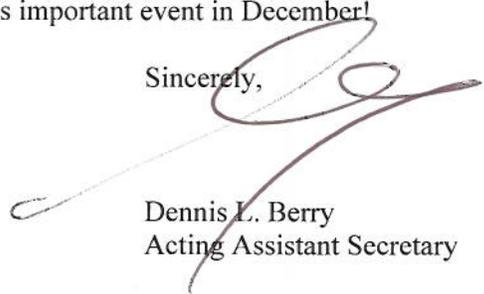
This year's theme is *Incorporating Career and Technical Education (CTE) Data into Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems*. As you are aware, the country is moving at a rapid pace to develop Statewide, P-20, longitudinal data systems. Prompted by the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and most recently by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the Department is channeling millions of dollars into States to promote reform and enhance their ability to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze, and use education data, including individual student records. The data systems developed with funds from these grants should help States, districts, schools, and teachers make data-driven decisions to improve student learning, as well as facilitate research to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps. *State career and technical education administrators are integral to these discussions.*

The meeting agenda will offer sessions ranging from strategies and challenges in creating individual student records and complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to the linking of secondary, postsecondary, and employment data. States will have ample opportunities to hear from nationally-recognized experts on these topics, as well as time to network and share effective practices with their colleagues. *It will be a meeting that you cannot afford to miss!*

As in years past, our office is pleased to offer airfare and travel costs for two participants from each State. A State may choose to send additional team members, although the State must bear the costs for those individuals. Further information on airfare, travel, and registration for this event will be sent under separate cover.

We look forward to seeing you at this important event in December!

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Berry
Acting Assistant Secretary