

## Advancing Career and Technical Education in State and Local Career Pathways Systems

One of the primary goals of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) is to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage occupations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The Act promotes the challenging academic and technical standards that are required to compete in today's global workforce.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) launched a two-year project in October 2012 to advance career and technical education (CTE) in state and local career pathways systems, which are designed to prepare students to transition into careers and college. The initiative builds on the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) "Career Pathways Technical Assistance Initiative," and is designed to help states integrate CTE programs of study into broader Career Pathways system development efforts already underway. In January 2013, five states were selected for participation through a competitive application process: Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Oregon. Each state team will be assigned a coach and will have subject matter experts available to help them develop and implement their action plan and achieve their goals. A contract was awarded to Jobs for the Future, Inc. to lead the state coaches using key elements, strategies, and tools presented in the "Career Pathways Toolkit: Six Key Elements for Success." The coaches and experts will adapt and augment the strategies in the Toolkit to meet the personalized needs of the states. The state teams will receive technical assistance through online and face-to-face meetings and by sharing information, resources, and ideas with other participating state teams via a virtual hub.

"American employers need a workforce that is skilled, adaptable, creative, and equipped for success in the global marketplace."

- U.S. Department of Education

- Arne Duncan

- Secretary

This project is led by Mary Clagett, Director for Workforce Policy at Jobs for the Future, ([mclagett@jff.org](mailto:mclagett@jff.org) or 202-709-5330, ext. 406).

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