

# Perkins Factsheet

August 2018

## STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ACT

### CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT



The *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act* reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Assistance Act of 2006 and will be referred to as Perkins V. The reauthorization is the primary federal funding source for high school, college, and university career and technical education (CTE) programs that are critical for preparing youth and adults for jobs in tribal, local, and national economies. Perkins V takes effect on July 1, 2019, with a one-year transition for eligible entities.

#### What is Perkins V?

More than 11 million secondary and postsecondary students and workers benefit from Perkins-funded high-quality CTE programs as they pursue high wage, high skill, and high demand jobs.<sup>i</sup> State education agencies, postsecondary institutions, workforce development boards, and standalone CTE agencies are eligible to apply for Perkins funding for their CTE programs. Through Perkins V, Congress authorizes over \$1 billion in vocational and career-focused education each year.<sup>ii</sup> Perkins V continues to focus on aligning the standards and curriculum at the secondary and postsecondary levels and goal achievement to prepare students to fit the dynamic demands of the labor market and stimulate economic growth.

Perkins funds local and state CTE programs to train students in skills and develop teacher's pedagogical techniques at the secondary and postsecondary level. Perkins V makes several changes to CTE programming by:

- Authorizing state-based CTE standard creation, goal setting, local alignment to standards, and accountability maintenance;
- Encouraging CTE "programs of study" that combine technical and academic content to create experiential learning opportunities, including internships; and
- Prioritizing programs where students finish having gained industry-recognized credentials to gain jobs.

**\$25 Million**

**Received Annually**

**48**

**CTE Programs**

**10,266**

**Students**

#### What is CTE?

Formerly known as vocational education, career and technical education, CTE, is a program-based strategy to train students directly for jobs in specific employment sectors. For example, a program may include courses to prepare students for jobs as lab technicians, information technologists, early childhood teaching aids, manufacturing materials managers, agriculture inspectors, paralegals, or audio engineers. At the end of a CTE secondary or postsecondary program, students generally receive industry-recognized certificates or technical, academic, and employability skills to prepare them for high wage, high skill, and high demand jobs.

#### Native Programs and Perkins

Since the 2006 reauthorization of Perkins, tribes and tribal organizations have created and funded 48 secondary and postsecondary CTE programs for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students. Tribes and tribal organizations receive more than \$25 million annually, approximately 2.5% of the total CTE funding. Based on high success rates, Perkins has demonstrated its potential to spur the creation



of successful Native-led CTE programs that prepare students for jobs in their communities and stimulate Native economies. CTE is of particular importance to rural communities by preparing Native students for jobs on tribal lands. Tribes and tribal organizations have reached thousands of Native students.<sup>iii</sup> By bolstering tribal control over CTE programs, tribes increase their self-determination and ensure Native youth can work profitably in close proximity to their communities.

Perkins V creates new and increased opportunities for tribes and tribal organizations to participate in CTE as described below.

### 1. Authorization of Direct Funding to Tribal Entities

The reauthorization increases opportunities for tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal education agencies to receive direct funding and implement their own programs. Perkins V supports tribal self-determination in education through direct access to funding by:

- Appropriating formula funding to the states and designating tribes as eligible institutions to apply for competitive funding from the states;
- Including tribes as eligible entities for consortium funding with other eligible entities;
- Identifying tribes as qualified youth intermediaries with expert knowledge on Native students and ways of knowing; and
- Recognizing tribes as business/industry partners to consult with in the creation of CTE programs.

### 2. Mandated Consultation with States, Institutions, and Local Education

Perkins V includes expanded requirements for consultations with tribes or tribal organizations as states create CTE standards and local education agencies apply for program funding.

- **State Consultations** - Perkins V delegates CTE goal setting, management, and attainment to states, eliminating the formerly required federal approval from the Secretary of Education. States must consult with tribes regarding the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of CTE programs.
- **Local Education Agencies Consultations** - Before applying to fund a program, local education agencies are required to meet with a diverse set of community members, including tribal representatives, to shape programming.
- **Institutions Consultations** - Educational institutions must consult with tribes before creating professional development programs designed to provide teachers with evidence-based strategies to effectively teach CTE.

### 3. Improved Access to Data in Study Reviewing Program Results

The Comptroller General of the United States is required to consult with tribes and tribal organizations regarding the newly commissioned study on students gaining high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations after completing Perkins-funded programs. This study will provide data that will be disaggregated by subgroup so tribes can have access to American Indian and Alaska Native student-specific results of the CTE programs.

For additional information or questions, please contact NIEA at (202) 544-7290.

#### Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> White House, "President Donald J. Trump is Committed to Preparing America's Workers for the Jobs of Today and Tomorrow." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-committed-preparing-americas-workers-jobs-today-tomorrow/>

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> Twenty-two American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations, nine Native Hawaiian organizations, and seventeen tribally controlled colleges and universities have received federal funding to build programs that train students for high-wage, high-skill, or high-demand jobs since Fiscal Year 2008 under Sections 116 and 117.

