

GRANT FUNDS from the CARL D. PERKINS V: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century

On July 31, 2018, President Trump signed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act into law. This bill amends the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) and this amended act is now referred to as Perkins V.

The passage of Perkins V provides new opportunities to improve Career and Technical Education (CTE) and enables more flexibility for Connecticut to meet the unique needs of our learners, educators, and employers.

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) vision demands that all Connecticut's students have access today to flexible CTE pathways that will position them to graduate tomorrow as innovators equipped with adaptable, transferable skills that will contribute to the growth of Connecticut's high-knowledge economy

Perkins V funds must be utilized on programs aligned with priorities in Connecticut that are informed by labor market data and projections. Each of the clusters has merit, yet when placed against the workforce data including Connecticut's long-term industry and occupational projections for 2016–2026, the following 12 Connecticut Perkins V Career Clusters best fit the workforce needs of Connecticut:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources;
- Architecture and Construction;
- Business Management and Administration;
- Education and Training;
- Finance;
- Health Science;
- Hospitality and Tourism;
- Information Technology;
- Manufacturing;
- Marketing;
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; and
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics.

Carl Perkins funding for Bristol will be used to support ongoing curriculum revision efforts to better align Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Technology programs at each high school to the Career Clusters and Pathways outlined in Perkins V. With this year's allocation, the Bristol CTE department will develop a both a Health Science pathway with the intent of awarding students a CNA accreditation and a Cooperative Work Education (CWE) class allowing for students to gain work experience with a Bristol business partner. Professional development activities and sessions for teachers are aimed at increasing their knowledge of the career clusters and pathways in support of the work to align courses to the Perkins V standards. Teachers are continuing their work of working integrating reading and mathematics skills along with the technical skills required within specific career pathways. Additionally, they are learning about how to best incorporate skills within the social-emotional domains of goal-setting, understanding self-efficacy and self-regulation into CTE learning.

One requirement of the grant is to ensure that students have a strong experience in, and understanding of, careers by promoting experiences within industry outside of the classroom. The funds within this grant will allow Bristol students the opportunity to attend sessions at UConn and Tunxis in the area of Early Childhood Education; visit several local businesses within the manufacturing industry; see the operations of various local businesses from a business management perspective, and attend state-wide opportunities to learn more about the Accounting industry. This year, funds will also be used to provide career readiness coordination for students at both high schools.

Equipment funds will be used to purchase equipment that will be purchased for updating workshop equipment for the Architecture and Construction Pathway, as well as technologically advancing the Manufacturing and Web and Digital Communications. Equipment will be purchased for the development of the Heath Science pathway.

Distribution of 19-20 Carl Perkins Funding for Bristol:

- Grant Related Clerical and Technical Support..... \$ 3,767
- Training & Staff Development..... \$24, 131
- Curriculum & Instruction..... \$20,720
- Lab Equipment..... \$84,619

Grant Total: \$133,237