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NAPE Releases 2013 Perkins Act Reauthorization Position Paper

Cochranville, PA (2/26/13) --- The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) has released a Position Paper regarding the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which is designed to increase the quality of career and technical education (CTE) and is set to be reauthorized in 2013. NAPE promotes the ideals of the Act and advocates for closing equity gaps and providing all students the opportunity to obtain skills and training necessary for the jobs of today and the future.

NAPE believes that the federal government and states should work together to ensure that local education agencies provide high-quality CTE programs based on strong standards that will provide youth and adults with the skill-sets to be competitive in the 21st century. NAPE's position and recommendations regarding reauthorization of the Act center around the following concepts:

A focus on equity: The Perkins Act can only truly be viable if there is a strong focus on programs that lead to high-wage careers for *all* students, including women, racial and ethnic groups, the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, single parents, displaced homemakers, individuals pursuing nontraditional careers, and English language learners.

Acknowledgement of national and global realities: CTE will be the most successful if we realize the global nature of today's careers, the global competition in today's economy, the knowledge-based nature of today's required skill-set, and the impact of changing demographics and workforce preparedness.

Accountability: The current accountability provisions in Perkins IV, particularly the measures to increase the participation and completion of underrepresented gender students in nontraditional fields and technical education programs, are crucial to improving performance.

High-quality programs: High-quality programs build usable skills for 21st-century high-wage jobs and ensure access and success across gender, race and ethnicity, and Perkins-defined special populations.

Career development for students: Career development and counseling is critical to students' successful education and skill building that will lead to students choosing careers that will provide them with family-sustaining wages.



National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

Educator professional development and effectiveness: Highly effective teachers and administrators are the backbone of successful CTE programs.

Building on success: Programs should build on lessons-learned from the success of high-performing states and local CTE programs.

Creation of partnerships: CTE programs will be served by partnerships between various groups including, secondary and postsecondary educators, employers, and community-based organizations.

NAPE looks forward to working with Congress to reauthorize a Career and Technical Education Act that ensures access and success for EVERY student in high-quality, family-sustaining wage career preparation programs where there are no equity gaps. To read the position paper, please visit the [Public Policy section](#) of NAPE's website.

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About NAPE: The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) is a national, nonprofit consortium of state and local agencies, corporations, and national organizations that collaborate to create equitable and diverse classrooms and workplaces where there are no barriers to opportunities. For more information, visit www.napequity.org.