

WORKFORCE EDUCATION NEW JERSEY AS A LABORATORY FOR AMERICA

Employers, educators, and policymakers in New Jersey have made career and technical education a priority in recent years, strengthening existing programs and creating new options for secondary and postsecondary students. Now, under a new administration, the state has the opportunity to build on this success, educating the workforce of the future for New Jersey and, potentially, perfecting models that can be implemented nationwide.

New Jersey's story has come to the attention of policy thinkers in Washington, D.C. In recent months, three policy organizations – **Opportunity America**, **AEI**, and **Advance CTE** – have focused research efforts on the exemplary work being done in the state's vocational-technical high schools, community colleges, and the career pathways that connect them.

On **May 1, 2018**, these organizations will cosponsor a half-day convening in New Jersey, bringing together educators, employers, policymakers, and others to discuss the progress made in recent years and look ahead.

Top goals for the day:

- To look ahead to the future – how can the new administration continue and consolidate the gains of recent years?
- To provide an opportunity for local leaders to identify challenges and successes on which to build
- To showcase the state's successful programs as models for others outside the state

The new commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, **Robert Asaro-Angelo**, will deliver a keynote. Two additional sessions will feature employers, educators – secondary and postsecondary – and administrators from across the state, along with researchers from Opportunity America, AEI, and Advance CTE.

The event will take place at **Gloucester County Institute of Technology**, one of the leading vocational-technical high schools in New Jersey.

In conjunction with the public convening, a visiting delegation of congressional staff who work to craft federal policy on career education will have an opportunity to tour two exemplary New Jersey programs, distilling lessons to take back to Washington.

Three New Jersey organizations with a commitment to career education will cosponsor the event: the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the NJ Council of County Colleges, and the Career Tech New Jersey.

Opportunity America is a Washington-based nonprofit promoting economic mobility. The American Enterprise Institute is a public policy think tank dedicated to defending human dignity, expanding human potential, and building a freer and safer world. Advance CTE is a national nonprofit that represents state leaders responsible for CTE across the U.S.