



1. [CHIPs CTE Challenge: Open](#)
2. [ADVANCE IET Basic Design Camp: Application Open](#)
3. [Manufacturing Extension Partnership Grant: Open!](#)

1. CTE Momentum Power Your Future Challenge



**POWER YOUR FUTURE:  
INSPIRE YOUR  
STUDENTS TO IMAGINE  
CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

[poweryourfuture.ctemomentum.com](http://poweryourfuture.ctemomentum.com)



**REMINDER!** [Submissions](#) due by **November 19** for OCTAE's [Power Your Future Challenge](#) to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increased access to career and technical education. Up to 10 winning teams will receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool.

2. CTE CHIPS Challenge – Open!



OCTAE's new [CTE CHIPS Challenge](#) is designed to expand strategies for student engagement in the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing world. The CTE CHIPS Challenge is a multi-phase federal prize competition, aligned with the CHIPS and Science Act ([CHIPS](#)) with a \$1,000,000 prize pool. **Submission Deadline is Dec. 20.** Entrants are invited to submit innovative action plans to:

- increase students' opportunities to develop skills and experiences that better prepare them for the careers aligned with CHIPS;
- expand student recruitment, training, and placement strategies in these careers; and support teachers in building out CTE programs.

### 3. ADVANCE IET Basic Design Camp: Apply Now!



OCTAE is pleased to announce that state teams can now apply to be part of an additional cohort of the ADVANCE IET Basic Design Camp (BDC). Apply [here](#) and find more details at [ADVANCE IET](#).

- When: Deadline to apply is Nov. 26. The BDC will run from February 7 – March 7, 2025.
- What: BDC participants will learn how to plan, design, implement, and assess high-quality integrated education and training (IET) programs for adult learners. The sessions will be hosted via Zoom and will comprise a total of 18.5 hours of synchronous training and discussion time per cohort.
- Questions? Contact your area coordinator or [ietdesigncampinfo@air.org](mailto:ietdesigncampinfo@air.org).

### 4. New Manufacturing Extension Partnership Grant: OPEN

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MEP)

The U.S. Department of Commerce is hosting a [Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\) grant](#) competition open to non-profits and institutions of higher education. Interested in learning more? Check out this [pre-recorded webinar](#).

- What: NIST MEP is seeking applications regarding a cooperative agreement to operate an MEP center that will provide manufacturing extension services such as workforce development to small and mid-sized manufacturers
- When: Deadline to apply is Jan. 9, 2025.
- Funding: Estimates of up to \$8 million a year and up to \$40 million for 5-year period (see the [NOFO](#) for specifics funding amounts based on location).
- MEPs: To learn more about MEPs and how you can plug in, [read more here](#).

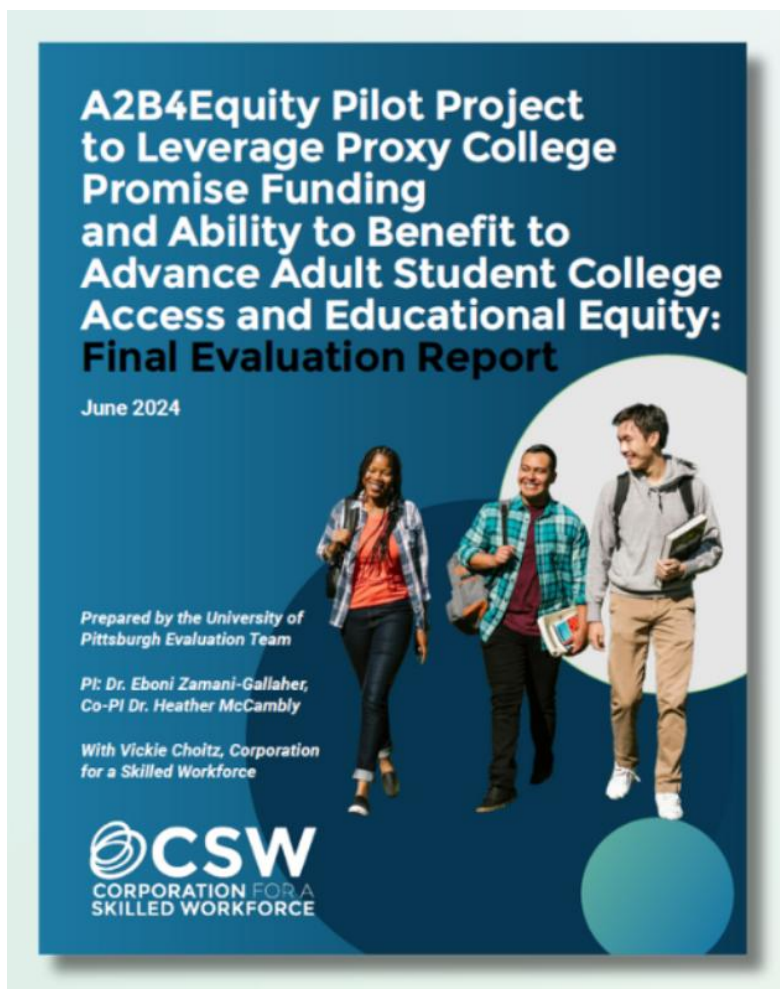
## 5. National Apprenticeship Week



**Save the date!** Join us to celebrate the [10th Annual National Apprenticeship Week](#), **Nov. 17-23rd** National Apprenticeship Week (#NAW2024) is a nationwide celebration where industry, labor, equity, workforce, education, and government leaders will showcase the value and success of Registered Apprenticeship.

- Since the launch of NAW, ApprenticeshipUSA partners have hosted approximately 10,000 events attended by over 1.4M people of all ages and backgrounds and issued over 1,800 proclamations.
- Spread the word about your event or proclamation: Add it to the nationwide list of celebrations [here](#) and use the hashtags #DecadeofNAW, #NAW2024, #ApprenticeshipUSA.

## 6. Ability to Benefit



**We're encouraged by the adoption of Ability to Benefit (ATB) to support adult students earning postsecondary credentials.** We continue to see ATB as a powerful strategy for further education and training.

- [Ability to Benefit 101](#): Students without a high school diploma or recognized equivalent can be eligible for Title IV aid if they are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program and meet one of the following: (1) Passes an independently administered approved test; (2) Completes at least 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours; or (3) Completes an approved State process.
- [State Process](#): In 2023, [final regulations](#) were published implementing this statutory change. In 2024, ED published [guidance](#) on the state process and eligible career pathways programs.
- [Credit-Hour Provision](#): Once a student completes six credit hours in an eligible career pathway program, they qualify to apply for federal student financial aid. Read the latest on A2B4Equity, a pilot project that supported implementing this provision at community colleges: [Evaluation & Lessons Learned](#).

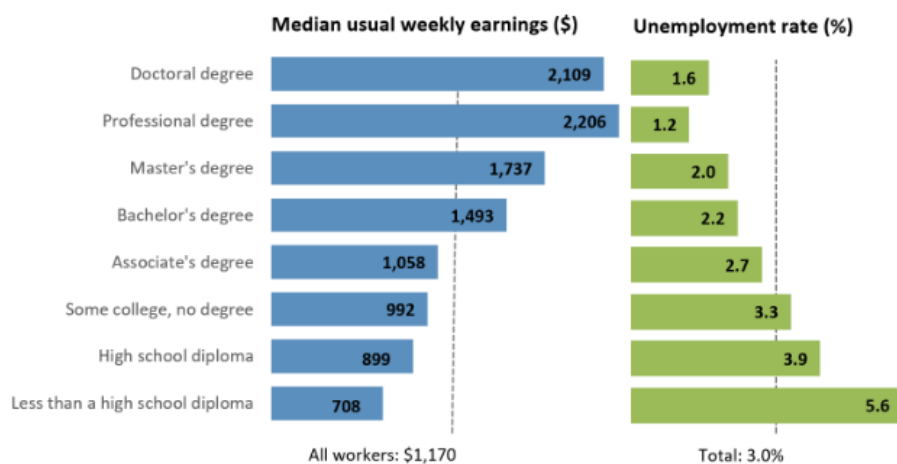
## **7. Infrastructure Learning Community**

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is convening a robust [Infrastructure Learning Community](#) (ILC) in partnership with Jobs For the Future. The goal of the ILC is to foster a collaborative environment for grantees from across the federal government who are leading, supporting, scaling, or developing initiatives funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, supporting [Investing in America \(IIA\)](#) and the wider field of IIA stakeholders.

Stay Connected and Join our Community Today! Receive e-mail notification updates about new posts, resources, or training items in the ILC. [You can choose whether to be notified instantly, daily, or weekly](#) -- after creating a WorkforceGPS email account, select "personalized email alert" and under "communities" choose the "Infrastructure Learning Community."

## **8. New BLS Skills Data & Employment Projections**

## Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2023



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the [2023-33 employment projections](#).

- These [data](#) provide the job outlook for 832 occupations and which skills are most relevant for those occupations.
- Information can be used for job seekers, students, workers, employers, and researchers.

## 9. New Overview of Family & Consumer Sciences

The Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences published an overview of this 100-year-old industry sector. Read the [press release](#).

- Alliance members created the framework shared in this overview to advance the value of Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) globally.
- FCS is recognized as a career pathway for students, professionals and is a people-centered science that supports healthy and successful lives through the provision of education, research, and technology.
- Read the full document: "[Family and Consumer Sciences: Overview of a 100-year-old industry sector](#)".

## 10. IES Research Grants

Education Research Grants continue to expand the evidence base on career and technical education. As part of its Research Networks program, the National Center for Education Research (NCER), in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), has awarded [grants](#) to six research teams who will conduct exploratory and impact studies on a variety of career development opportunities (CDOs) in large school districts across the U.S.

These grantees are part of the second iteration of the [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Research Network](#). OCTAE supports leadership of the [CTE Research Network](#), which also includes training and dissemination. NCER is expanding the evidence base on CTE and related activities through other investments as well. IES awarded grants to study:

- The implementation and impact of technical skills assessments in [Pennsylvania](#)
- The implementation of new career pathways initiatives in [New York City](#)
- The extent to which college credits earned in high school are transferred to a postsecondary institution and applied to a degree or major in [North Carolina](#)
- School-to-work pathways in [Washington State](#)
- Educator preparation pathway programs in [Maryland](#)

## 11. Swiss Apprenticeship MOU Signing



**The U.S. and Swiss governments have renewed a memorandum** of understanding to expand and strengthen quality apprenticeships and pathways to good jobs, including Registered Apprenticeships among Swiss companies and Swiss-invested companies in the U.S. Read the [Press Release](#).