SEPTEMBER 2026

CPSN CONNECT

CAREER PATHWAY SUPPORT NETWORKS NORTHWEST OHIO REGION



North Central Ohio Educational Service Center | Department of Education & Workforce
Career Pathway Support Networks Northwest Region

STRONGER CTE STARTS HERE!

We're excited to be back and continuing our commitment to supporting Career Technical Education programs across Northwest Ohio. Our mission remains the same: providing practical, responsive support to help schools navigate CTE planning, applications, data, professional development, and program improvement. We value our partnerships with NW Ohio CTE community and look forward to reconnecting, building new relationships, and continuing this important work together. For more information or to connect with our team, check out our web page:
www.ncoesc.org/northwestcpsn

Dr. Laura Kagy
Northwest Ohio CPSN Lead
lkagy@ncoesc.org

IRC Redesign

Big Changes Coming for Industry-Recognized Credentials!
ODEW has announced major changes to how Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs) will count toward graduation beginning with the Class of 2030. Under the new requirements, students using industry-recognized credentials as a pathway to graduation will need to earn either one approved standalone credential or an approved bundle of credentials. The updated approach is designed to emphasize credentials that provide meaningful value to students and stronger connections to careers and workforce needs. See the new requirements and approved credentials on the ODEW website.

CPSN Virtual PD sessions on the IRC Redesign and Next Steps coming soon!

Did you know?

Career advising is evolving in Ohio! See what's new in the **refreshed Career Connections** Framework and discover how it can support the work already happening in your school. Watch the **latest ODEW video** and check our calendar below for upcoming training and regional events.

Want CPSN at Your School?

Bring CTE expertise directly to your district! Our team is available to visit administrators and staff to discuss programs, resources, and custom topics.
Have questions or want to explore new opportunities? Fill out our **sign up form** to connect and let us know how CPSN can support you.

Your CTE questions. Our team. Let's connect!

Spotlight

Congratulations to Apollo Career Center! Apollo Career Center will receive $320,000 to establish new manufacturing career-technical education programs, as one of 10 recipients of a newly established statewide grant.

Apollo CAREER CENTER

3M THIRD MONDAY MEET-UPS NW CPSN REGION
UPDATES • RESOURCES • QUESTIONS

Start your week in the know! Join us on ZOOM the third Monday of each month from 9:00–9:30 a.m. for the latest CTE updates and resources from across the NW Starting Monday, September 21, 2026!

Join the 3M Meet-Up NW CPSN Region. → zoom

Join the 3M! ✍ Sign up for reminders, calendar invites, upcoming topics, and easy access to the monthly Zoom link

Thanks for reading and being part of our NW CPSN community.

HTTPS://WWW.NCOESC.ORG/NORTHWESTCPSN

Meet the Leadership Team

STRONGER CTE STARTS HERE

Fueling student success and unlocking real opportunity is at the heart of the Northwest Ohio Region Career Pathway Support Network (CPSN) Team. By uniting regional educators, business leaders, and community trailblazers, CPSN forges direct pipelines to high-impact Career Technical Education, elite workforce development, and tailored career advising. Driven by a passion to empower the next generation, CPSN delivers the specialized support, hands-on preparation, and open doors students need to conquer their future careers.

Dr. Laura Kagy serves as the Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Lead and Director of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways at the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center (NCOESC). With 36 years of educational experience in Ohio and a doctorate in Educational Leadership, she is passionate about creating opportunities that help students, schools, and communities thrive. Laura believes in bringing educators, businesses, and community partners together to build innovative pathways and make opportunities happen throughout Northwest Ohio. She and her husband have been married for 33 years, have two adult children, and farm in Bloom Township. Laura looks forward to connecting, collaborating, and supporting the incredible educators, students, and communities across the Northwest Ohio CPSN region.



Dawn Wagner has supported Ohio Career Technical Education (CTE) since 2005, beginning as a Tech Prep Administrative Assistant, advancing to Tech Prep Coordinator, and now serving as a Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Coordinator at the NCOESC. With experience in both private industry and public service, she brings a unique perspective to CTE and workforce development. Dawn specializes in project and data management, event planning, and connecting people, ideas, and resources to strengthen CTE programs and support student success. Dawn is excited for what's ahead and looks forward to continuing to build partnerships, share resources, and support the great work happening in CTE across Northwest Ohio.



Aaron Weisbrod proudly serves as a Career Connections Consultant with a focus on Industry-Recognized Credentials for the Northwest Ohio Region CPSN. He was previously the Postsecondary Transition Consultant for State Support Team Region 1 for the past 13 years, drawing on his extensive experience working in general education, special education, and higher education to support educators help students achieve successful postsecondary outcomes. He is very excited to continue this work in his new role.



Amanda Wolph has over 5 years of experience in education having built a career centered on supporting students, staff, and school operations. Amanda began in 2021 as an Administrative Assistant, later advancing to Student Service Coordinator and EMIS Coordinator — roles that deepened a genuine passion for education support work. This experience was further shaped by time as an Administrative Assistant at a satellite school of Sentinel Career Center. Amanda now serves as a Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Assistant and Fiscal Associate at the North Central Ohio Educational Center and is excited to continue contributing to the team's mission.



Shavron Kelley was born and raised in Chicago and her educational background is in Psychology, Special Education, and Communication. She has worked in Higher Education for 18 years and secondary education for 4 years. She has a true passion for not only seeing students succeed, but also to help ensure they are exposed to new opportunities and experiences. She believes educators have a responsibility to prepare and support the next generation—and she takes that responsibility to heart. She is excited to work at NCOESC as one of the new Northwest Ohio Region Career Connections Consultants to help ensure all students in our region have access to resources that will help prepare them for their futures.



Lisa Hite is a Career Connections Consultant with the Northwest Ohio Region CPSN. She has 25 years working in CTE as a teacher, administrator, and CTE Consultant within the State State Support Team system. She has taught grades K-12 throughout her 31 years of experience and is passiontate about Universal Design for Learning and promoting Career Education. She is looking forward to continuing this work with her role in the CPSN.



Kristie Reighard, Ed.S., is a Northwest Ohio education leader with over 20 years of experience spanning the classroom, school administration, and career-technical education. She began her teaching career in science before moving to Penta Career Center, where she coordinated a STEM camp connecting middle schoolers to career pathways. She went on to serve as a high school principal, and moved into EdTech program management and curriculum development. Kristie later served as an elected member of the Ohio State Board of Education, stepping away from that role to join the NCOESC, where she now supports the Northwest Ohio Region CPSN as a Regional Coordinator and works as a gifted education consultant.



Kim Swartz has served 30+ years in education, serving as a high school English teacher, high school principal, and Director of Curriculum & Instruction. In her administrative roles, she gained experience and expertise with leadership, professional learning, and district-level career planning. She has spent the past 12 years helping educators and school leaders navigate challenges, identify opportunities, and develop practical solutions. Kim looks forward to partnering with districts to support educators and school leaders, strengthen career programs, and expand meaningful career opportunities for all students as a Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Coordinator.



Anna Diekman has earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Bowling Green State University. Over her 45-plus year career in education, she has had the privilege of teaching and supporting secondary and post-secondary students across Northwest Ohio.
Her background includes 35 years teaching Marketing Education and IT—primarily to high school students at Toledo Central Catholic, Lima Senior High School, and Clay High School—alongside 27 years as an adjunct professor teaching instructional methods to seniors and graduate students at Bowling Green State University. She also served as a Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Coordinator at The University of Toledo for nine years. Currently, she is in her second year as a part-time Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Coordinator with the NCOESC and looks forward to collaborating with administrators across the region and the exceptional staff.



Gary Swartz is a recently retired educator with more than 32 years of experience. His career spans roles as an English teacher, athletic director, and Middle school principal. As Middle school principal, he brought innovation to his school by developing a Maker Space and successfully navigating the CTE-26 process from start to finish. Now serving as a Northwest Ohio CPSN Regional Coordinator, Gary looks forward to using his experience to support districts across the region.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1
Explore Ohio's New Career Connections Framework & Tools

October 20
Ohio Articulation & Transfer Workshop

October 26
AMLE Workshop- NCOESC Tiffin Campus

October 27
AMLE Workshop- Shawnee Middle School

November 9
Kevin Fleming- The Power of Possibility

January 20
CTE-26 Workshop

February 2
CTE-26 Workshop

February 3
CTE-26 Workshop

February 9
CTE-26 Workshop

Department of Education & Workforce
Career Pathway Support Networks
Northwest Region



Let's connect and work together as a team to support you and help you succeed. We're here to listen, collaborate, and provide the guidance and resources you need along the way. We look forward to building a strong partnership and working together toward shared goals.