Date: March 26, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: Directors of Career and Technical Education, Perkins Program Directors

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner

Division of Teaching and Learning

Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2025, no later than 4 p.m.

## **Elevate Career and Technical Education Innovation Notice of Grant Opportunity**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to announce the release of the Elevate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovation Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO). The NJDOE intends to award six districts up to \$50,000 each to modernize and enhance a CTE program of study by upgrading the program curriculum to align with business and industry standards, securing the latest equipment and supplies, supporting teacher professional development, and obtaining resources necessary to foster a future-ready workforce.

This grant aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry demands by equipping students with cutting-edge tools and the latest technology that mirrors real-world professional environments. By investing in CTE, local education agencies (LEAs) can provide students with the hands-on experiences, skills, and certifications needed to succeed in today's rapidly evolving job market, ensuring students are prepared for the careers of tomorrow. This initiative empowers LEAs to transform their programs and foster innovation.

The grant opportunity is open to all LEAs with grades 9-12 and eligible to receive Perkins funding, as listed in Appendix I of the NGO document. The CTE program of study must be currently approved, aligned with <a href="New Jersey's Key Industry Sectors">New Jersey's Key Industry Sectors</a> (Appendix II of the NGO), and actively serving students.

The Elevate Career and Technical Education Innovation NGO is now available on the Office of Grant Management webpage. Grant applications will be completed using the Electronic Web Enabled Grants (EWEG) System accessed through the NJDOE's Homeroom web portal. The grant application must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025. A technical assistance workshop will be held via webinar at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Preregistration is required by Friday, April 11, 2025.

For more information regarding the Elevate CTE Innovation NGO, please direct questions to the Office of Career Readiness at <a href="mailto:CTE@doe.nj.gov">CTE@doe.nj.gov</a>. For technical assistance regarding access to EWEG, please direct questions to the <a href="mailto:EWEG help">EWEG help</a> email account.

c: Members, State Board of Education NJDOE Staff Statewide Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools NJ LEE Group