

For Immediate Release

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May 4, 2022

Commencement Celebration Recognizes Accomplishments of Career and Technical Education Students

PITTSBURGH, May 4, 2022 – The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division of Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is thrilled to announce the return of the CTE Celebration. PPS CTE will once again be in the comfortable confines of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers' (PFT) building on Thursday, May 5, 2022, to honor graduating seniors of the 16 CTE programs throughout the District. This year's keynote speaker is Partner4Work's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Robert L. Cherry.

"The challenges presented by the pandemic were a tremendous hurdle for our students," said CTE Executive Director Angela Mike. Through hard work, perseverance, and the support of our teachers, administrators, and supporters, this year's senior class has not just overcome those challenges; they have triumphed. As they transition into post-secondary education institutions, the workforce, labor unions, and the military, the promises of CTE are being realized through them."

CTE seniors will be honored for all they have accomplished during their time in CTE: industry certifications, dual enrollment credits, SkillsUSA participation, and success on the NOCTI and NIMS examinations (end-of-program assessment exams for CTE students). Nearly 100 percent of CTE seniors will graduate with one or more certifications, and students continue to work to achieve more as they prepare for the end of the school year.

Thursday's event features a catered dinner and an awards ceremony, as well as a new "CTE Signing Day" component. Partners from post-secondary, industry and the government will join the District as it celebrates 146 CTE seniors and their families.

Awards will be presented to the ever-growing network of industry partners for their valuable support of the mission of CTE and their roles in supporting CTE students, including, but not limited to: The Buccini/Pollin Group, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Steamfitters Local Union 449, City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Allegheny Health Network, UPMC and Google. Several CTE teachers will also be recognized for outstanding service over the past year.

CTE Executive Director Angela Mike and PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis, along with Interim Superintendent Dr. Wayne Walters, will co-host the program, which begins at 5:30 p.m. Additional special guests include Board CTE Liaison and First-Vice Chair Devon Taliaferro, City Council President Theresa Kail-Smith, State Senator Lindsey Williams and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.