

# ENGAGE. CONNECT.

TIPS & TRENDS FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COLLEGE & CAREER TRANSITIONS

December 19, 2019

## Greetings!

We're still catching our breath from the ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference - and, as East Coasters, still readjusting to the (correct) time zone. But we had a wonderful time in Anaheim! Some of the key developments from the conference:

- We introduced two new products at the NC3T booth in the Expo: **The Pathways Design Suite** (detailed below), and **CareerSmart Classrooms**, a soon-to-be-available set of lesson plans and support materials to help educators across the school incorporate career content into their instruction.
- We released Version 3.0 of **Seamless WBL**, our online solution to managing work-based learning and advisory boards. Key developments included a searchable job board for students, the ability to post hours for students, substantial improvements to advisory board management, and a soon-to-be-released tool for building student learning agreements.
- We supported the public launch of a new **Work-Based Learning section for ACTE**. Kelli Diemer, head of this new section, held a fantastic pre-con and an excellent first business meeting, and is already working on a national gathering in April!

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to working with you in the new year!

Brett

## The CCL In.Sight Blog

Have you read the latest posts from **The CCL In.Sight Blog**? Hans and Brett share thoughts and information on Career Connected Learning. Read a recent blog post:

### **Think Holistically and Don't Go Alone. Excerpts from the New Pathways System Decision Guide**

As we approach the end of the calendar year, it's a great time to step back and reflect on what's working and what can be better next year. In that light, I'm sharing an excerpt from the conclusion of my new publication, "The Pathways System Decision Guide," which is available for shipping on December 13. You can learn more about the Decision Guide at the NC3T Bookstore.

#### **How Pathways and Career Connected Learning is Different**

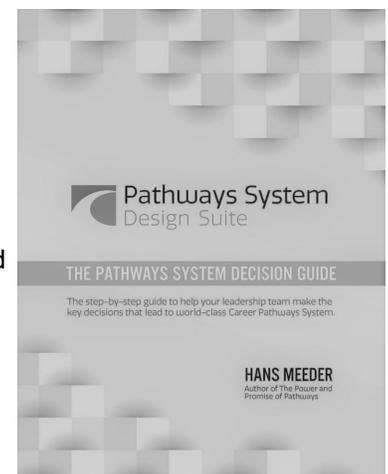
The work you are doing to embed Career Connected Learning across education through the pathways system framework has long term value for individuals, our communities, and our nation as a whole.

For too many decades, our schools have been bifurcated, with some students getting practical, career-oriented education, but also carrying a stigma of being a second-tier option. On the other side of the divide, most students have been encouraged to prepare for "college" with a vague notion that somehow that would lead to personal success. That promise has been underwhelming for many, and for some, rings hollow.

Your work is to bring these two worlds together, giving each and every student a relevant education that challenges them to excel and pursue a pathway that is meaningful and personalized.

**[Read the full post here.](#)**

And remember, if you want to receive these blog posts as they're published, just **[subscribe to the blog](#)** and we'll do the rest!



## NEW from NC3T: The Pathways Design Suite!

If you're interested in developing individual Pathway Programs or integrated Pathways Systems across your school, district, or region, the Pathways System Design Suite, written by Hans Meeder and now available from NC3T, is an indispensable resource for you. This suite of resources includes:



- **The Pathways System Decision Guide** - This is a step-by-step guide to help your leadership team make the key decisions that lead to a world-class Career Pathways System. The Pathways System Decision Guide gives you the confidence that you and your team address all of the important design decisions that need to be made in creating a career pathways system, scaled to fit your needs.
- **The Pathway Program Design Guide** - This is a simple-to-follow guide for designing a Pathways Program or upgrading an existing CTE program into a Pathway Program. The Design Guide is built around 10 elements of high-quality careers and each element is directly linked to guidance from the Perkins Act.
- **The Pathways System Resource Kit** - The Pathways System Resource Kit is a collection of forms, templates, talking points, and fact sheets that your leadership team can draw upon as you work through the Decision Guide to design, develop, and promote your pathways initiative.

[Visit the NC3T bookstore](#) to order one or all of these essential tools!

## FYI - Information You Can Use

### [The role of employers in addressing the skills gap](#)

Employers have an important leadership role to play in providing viable pathways into the workforce, particularly amid uncertainty about exactly what the future of work will look like. This leadership can take many different forms, from partnering with local high schools, to creating internal skills development programs, to identifying the skills they need and communicating these skills to local education and community partners. The four manufacturing employers interviewed for this series are each taking an approach to workforce development tailored to their company's needs and the local labor market landscape. While their specific approaches vary, several common themes emerge from the perspectives shared throughout this series. To begin, the employers interviewed in this series acknowledge the urgency of addressing the skills gap in light of hiring challenges. John Hazen White Jr., CEO of Taco Inc., cites the impending exodus of baby boomers as a primary source of concern, while Lauren Mynsberge at Batesville Tool and Die (BTD) says that the company has "tried various new approaches to attracting and retaining workforce, yet we still can't find employees." Dan Peterson, vice president for industry and government affairs at the Cook Group, explains that "a big challenge for us is finding enough people that are capable to do the work."

The Brookings logo consists of the word 'BROOKINGS' in a large, blue, serif font, centered within a white rectangular box.

[Full article: https://www.brookings.edu/](https://www.brookings.edu/)

### [New Community Colleges Catering to Needs of Next Generation of Students](#)

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg visited Guttman Community College to attend its opening on the morning of Aug. 20, seven years ago. In the afternoon, the school held a convocation to welcome its first class. Later that day, an accreditation team came to assess the new community college. "It was a big day," says Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Guttman Community College's president. "We dove in headfirst." In the last 10 years, a small group of new community colleges, like Guttman, has emerged on the U.S. higher education landscape, reflecting a subtle shift in how community colleges view their mission. Guttman Community College - the first new campus in the City University of New York (CUNY) system in 40 years - lives in a seven-story building embedded in the thick of midtown Manhattan off Bryant Park. The school was designed to give students extra support in order to boost three-year community college completion rates for students from all backgrounds. "We've really made equity at the center of our work at the college," Evenbeck says. "I think that's what our students deserve, and I hope we'll be up to the challenge because it's a big one, but it's so important."



[Full article: https://diverseeducation.com/](https://diverseeducation.com/)

### [Students, employers disagree on the relevance of college majors](#)

A growing number of employers are not only focusing on skills over college majors, but bypassing degrees as a job requirement. JPMorgan Chase, for example, announced earlier this year a \$350 million, five-year global initiative to meet the growing demand for skilled workers. "The new world of work is about skills, not necessarily degrees," said Jamie Dimon, the company's chairman and CEO, in a statement at the time. "We must remove the stigma of a community college and career education, look for opportunities to upskill or reskill workers, and give those who have been left behind the chance to compete for well-paying careers today and tomorrow." Perhaps in response to the tight talent market, some employers have gone even further, prioritizing soft skills over technical skills. They've placed a premium on soft skills that are applicable across job functions and industries, such as good interpersonal skills, critical thinking ability, effective communication and listening skills, attention to detail, and organization skills - especially for entry-level professional candidates.

**Full article:** <https://www.hrdiver.com/>



## Manage work-based learning across your school or district!

Interested in finding new partners, managing your work-based learning initiatives, running your advisory boards, and having access to real-time reporting on work-based learning? Join us for a walkthrough of [Seamless WBL](#) to see how we can help you with the following:

- Help educators find and manage partners
- Set up and manage work-based learning activities ranging from guest speakers to apprenticeships
- Run your advisory boards, including setting up meetings and providing members with a document library
- Provide employers and students with dedicated portals to view work-based learning activities and download and upload materials
- Run reports on work-based learning activity by educator, school, district, partner, or students



And we have even more exciting features in the works for our Phase 3 release in December!

If you'd like to learn more, there are several sessions available in December for a brief online walkthrough. [Register for one of these sessions here](#), or visit the [Seamless WBL website](#) to get information on features and pricing.

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### About the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T)

K-12 education and the adult workforce are inextricably linked; and, as even the most casual observer understands, we currently face real challenges on both fronts. [NC3T](#) was created to help educators, policymakers and community leaders design integrated college and career pathway systems that provide students with purpose and direction, and provide them the knowledge and skills they'll need to secure their futures and the futures of the communities in which they live.

If you're interested in connecting students to the workforce in some way, including through out-of-school initiatives, targeted in-school channels (CTE, academy models), or developing a comprehensive community-wide or regional strategy that all partners can get behind, please contact Hans Meeder ([Hans@NC3T.com](mailto:Hans@NC3T.com)) or Brett Pawlowski ([Brett@NC3T.com](mailto:Brett@NC3T.com)) to talk further.

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