



# Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

## CTE Workgroup Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 3, 2025**  
**1:00pm – 2:00pm EDT**

**Zoom Meeting**

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**Attendees:** Cathy Hoehn, Correy Eimer, Dr. Beth Hargis, Justin Browning, Laurie Mays, Myra Wilson, Regina Phillips, Sara Tracy

**Staff:** Debbie Dennison, LaChrista Ellis, Sara Jagers

### **Welcome and Overview of Workgroup Objectives**

**Cathy Hoehn, CTE Programs & Pathways Branch, Office of Career and Technical Education**, welcomed everyone and started the meeting with an overview of the agenda. She shared existing workgroup membership. She highlighted the core Business and Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT) team members in the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), including newly added members.

Cathy walked through the certification submission process. The slides and additional materials are available in the post-meeting packet available on the [KWIB website](#) after the meeting.

### **BEAT Recommendations**

Cathy Hoehn shared BEAT recommendations for industry certifications reviewed over the last quarter. The Stukent Social Media certification is not being recommended for approval as it is not an end of pathway assessment due to the lack of alignment with key standards that are focused within the e-commerce pathway. The Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (ASK), previously used for certification, is being phased out due to the vendor discontinuing the exam, with a complete phase-out expected by June 2025. In its place, the Concepts of Management and Concepts of Entrepreneurship exams are being introduced as standalone assessments and recommended to add by the BEAT. Additionally, the Youth Apprenticeship Certification is being recommended as a standalone credential and is already an approved certification. In the computer science sector, the Certiport AI Foundations and Person IT Specialist certifications are pending approval as industry certifications.

In the manufacturing industry, the HAAS Basic Mill Operator and HAAS Basic Lathe Operator certifications are currently under review. The team is exploring what is required to expand access by establishing additional

authorized HAAS training facilities statewide, with the goal of offering these certifications more broadly to students and workforce programs. These efforts aim to address regional training gaps and support employer demand for CNC machining skills. Findings from this review, including potential pathway alignments and facility requirements, will be presented to the team for final recommendations.

In the transportation industry, the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) High School Certification, aligned to the Diesel Medium/Heavy Truck Inspection, Maintenance, and Minor Repair Technician pathway (47.0605.07), was evaluated and found to be inconclusive and not valuable for hiring decisions. As such, BEAT does not recommend this certification for continued use. Additionally, several transportation pathways are being deprecated and recommended for removal, including Entry-Level Mechanical and Electrical Repair Technician, Entry-Level Structural Analysis and Damage Repair Technician, Master Automobile Service Technician, and Diesel Front-End Technician.

Finally, a group of transportation-related certifications are scheduled for removal by June 2026. These include the ASE Student Certifications, as well as the following diesel and repair-focused certifications: Diesel Brakes, Diesel Electrical/Electronic Systems, Diesel Engines, Diesel Suspension and Steering, Mechanical and Electrical, and Structural Analysis and Damage Repair. Notably, Mechanical and Electrical and Structural Analysis and Damage Repair appear both as certifications and pathways, reflecting duplication and strengthening the case for removal.

### **Additional Discussion / Voting**

Cathy opened the floor for questions, acknowledging that there are several pending items under review.

A question was asked about the ASK assessment being split and whether it would incur an additional cost to students. Cathy clarified that there would be no extra cost, as students can choose either exam. However, if the exams are stacked, there would be an additional cost. Cathy emphasized that it's a good question because BEAT often asks whether the option is feasible for students. The vendor provides answers to these questions, which helps address concerns and gives teachers flexibility to assess students based on their strengths, tailoring their recommendations for which exam would be the best fit.

There was appreciation for the concern about costs, with mention that funding is available, so if students choose to take both exams, the school will have the necessary financial support. It was also noted that the original ASK exam was difficult for some students, and it had caused challenges for teachers due to gaps in the teaching standards. While some ASK exams are particularly challenging, the inclusion of standalone exams gives students the option to choose alternatives that might be less difficult.

**Debbie Dennison, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)** asked if Cathy or CTE had been able to review the opportunity to certify Ready for Industry (RFI) certifications. She mentioned that it could be beneficial for driving education and online training programs at career centers. Certifying Ready for Industry pathways would enhance the programs' credibility with employers and improve participant onboarding.

There was discussion about the RFI pathways and a positive perspective was provided by a local workforce development director.

It was suggested that the RFI program, is valuable and could be beneficial for employers if recognized. Discussion was had around the importance of showing value to RFI pathways and what that might look like. Additional

information is being gathered from the software creator and will be further shared as available. Additional discussion indicated that industry certifications should align with specific program pathways to demonstrate that students have the necessary skills rather than just general knowledge.

Cathy confirmed that the list of certifications demonstrates technical skill attainment, and any additional tests should assess mastery of these skills. She expressed caution about including the RFI if it's primarily about career exploration or terminology, as it's important to ensure that certifications genuinely reflect students' skills and give them a competitive advantage.

Debbie Dennison asked if there were any further discussions or recommendations related to the certifications Cathy reviewed. With no additional comments, she moved to entertain a motion for approval of the recommendations as discussed. Regina Phillips, Senior Director, Special Projects KentuckianaWorks made a *motion* to **approve**, and Correy Eimer, Associate Director, Northern Kentucky Area Development District *seconded it*. Debbie then called for a final vote, for approval of the recommendations. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Cathy shared the Departments updates to social media content and contact information. She encouraged everyone to reach out with any questions, particularly about pending items, and provided her contact information for follow-up.

Debbie thanked everyone for their time. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.



# Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

## Career and Technical Education Workgroup Meeting

**AGENDA**  
**April 3, 2025**  
**1:00pm – 2:00pm EST**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88519480200?pwd=adWdUBFXu92YbZJD2wWbCjlwxMA8U5.1>

**Meeting ID: 885 1948 0200 Passcode: 346669**

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<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Welcome and Overview of Workgroup Objectives</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn CTE Programs &amp; Pathways Branch Office of Career and Technical Education</i>
<b>1:10pm</b>	<b>Industry Certification List Process &amp; Flow Chart</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn</i>
<b>1:15pm</b>	<b>Certification Submission Process</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn</i>
<b>1:20pm</b>	<b>BEAT Recommendations (Voting Required)</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn</i>
<b>1:45pm</b>	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn</i>
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	<i>Cathy Hoehn</i>

**Regarding the CTE Certification Review Workgroup on 4/03/25:**

1. Recommended for approval per BEAT review

Certification	Program Area	Reason
AED High School Certification	Transportation	Received applications via kwib.projects@ky.gov (see the following pages)
Certiport – Generative AI Foundations Certifications	Computer Science	
Certiport – Pearson IT Specialist AI Certification	Computer Science	
HAAS Basic Mill Operator HAAS Basic Lathe Operator	Manufacturing	
HAAS Basic Mill Operator HAAS Basic Lathe Operator	Manufacturing	
Social Media Marketing Certification	Business & Marketing	

2. Requests to include new options per BEAT review

Certification	Program Area	Reason
ASK Management/Entrepreneurship	Business & Marketing	Vendor Prompted Change

3. Requests for recognition per BEAT review

Certification	Program Area	Reason
TRACK Youth Apprenticeship	Education and Training Program	Program Area Review

### Certificate Information

- Name of Certification - AED High School Certification
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - The AED Foundation's High School Certification Test is an end-of-program fundamental assessment that evaluates technical knowledge of pre-hire applicants and employed technicians in the heavy equipment industry upon high school graduation. The primary function of the test is to ensure industry standards are upheld by our members, schools, and partners by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of graduating high school seniors in the six core competencies: Powertrains, Diesel engines, HVAC, Hydraulics/hydrostatics, Electrical and Safety/administrative processes.
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://aedfoundation.org/industry-testing/>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - Fairdale High School

### Program Contact Information

- Name - Karina Utreras  
Company - Associated Equipment Distributors  
Address - 650 E Algonquin Rd Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone - 630-975-1774  
Email - [kutreras@aednet.org](mailto:kutreras@aednet.org)

Local workforce development area impacted: Statewide

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable – NA

### Certification Information

- Name of Certification - Certiport - Generative AI Foundations Certification
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable –
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Blog/2024/September/Introducing-the-Generative-AI-Foundations-Cert.aspx>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - We have a consortium of companies requesting including Eyeconic, Inc. and the South Central Kentucky Regional Technology Council

### Program Contact Information

- Name of person for program questions – Meredith Rozanski  
Company - Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce  
Address - 710 College St Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone - 270-781-3200  
Email - [meredith@bgchamber.com](mailto:meredith@bgchamber.com)

Local workforce development area impacted: South Central

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable - Warren County Public Schools

### Certification Information

- Name of Certification - Certiport - Pearson IT Specialist AI Certification
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - Artificial Intelligence Professional Exam
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://certiport.filecamp.com/s/i/n4mlgs8hJG6DV8kl/s/m40yiexUc78ZJ5qG>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - A consortium of companies requesting including Eyeconic, Inc. and the South Central Kentucky Regional Technology Council

### Program Contact Information:

- Name of person for program questions – Meredith Rozanski  
Company - Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce  
Address - 710 College St Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone - 270-781-3200  
Email - [meredith@bgchamber.com](mailto:meredith@bgchamber.com)

Local workforce development area impacted: South Central

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable - Warren County Public Schools

### Certification Information

- Name of Certification - HAAS basic mill operator, HAAS basic lathe operator
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - These courses are designed to provide the basic knowledge necessary to get started as a CNC machine operator or CNC machinist. They offer basic machine operation, proper safety, and fundamental machining processes including programming, metrology, blueprint reading, basic math, and materials. After the online course is completed, a hands-on test is given at an authorized facility. There is no cost for this certificate.
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://learn.haascnc.com>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - C&R Machine & Fabrication LLC

### Program Contact Information

- Name of person for program questions – Ronnie Sullivan  
Company - C&R Machine & Fabrication LLC  
Address - 744 Richmond Ave NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356  
Phone - 859-509-5106  
Email - [r.sullivan@rocketmail.com](mailto:r.sullivan@rocketmail.com)

Local workforce development area impacted: Bluegrass

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable - Jessamine County Schools

### Certification Information

- Name of Certification - HAAS basic mill operator and HAAS basic lathe operator
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - no cost
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://learn.haascnc.com>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - Machine Time Inc

### Program Contact Information

- Name of person for program questions – Craig Jackson  
Company - Machine Time  
Address - 108 Bradley Dr Nicholasville, KY 40356  
Phone - 270-903-4269  
Email - [craig@machinetime.com](mailto:craig@machinetime.com)

Local workforce development area impacted: Bluegrass

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable - Jessamine County schools

### Certification Information

- Name of Certification - Social Media Marketing Certification
- Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable –
- Website with additional information about certification - <https://www.stukent.com/high-school-social-media-marketing-certification/>
- Name of Kentucky Business/Industry recognizing and requesting the certification - American Marketing Association

### Program Contact Information

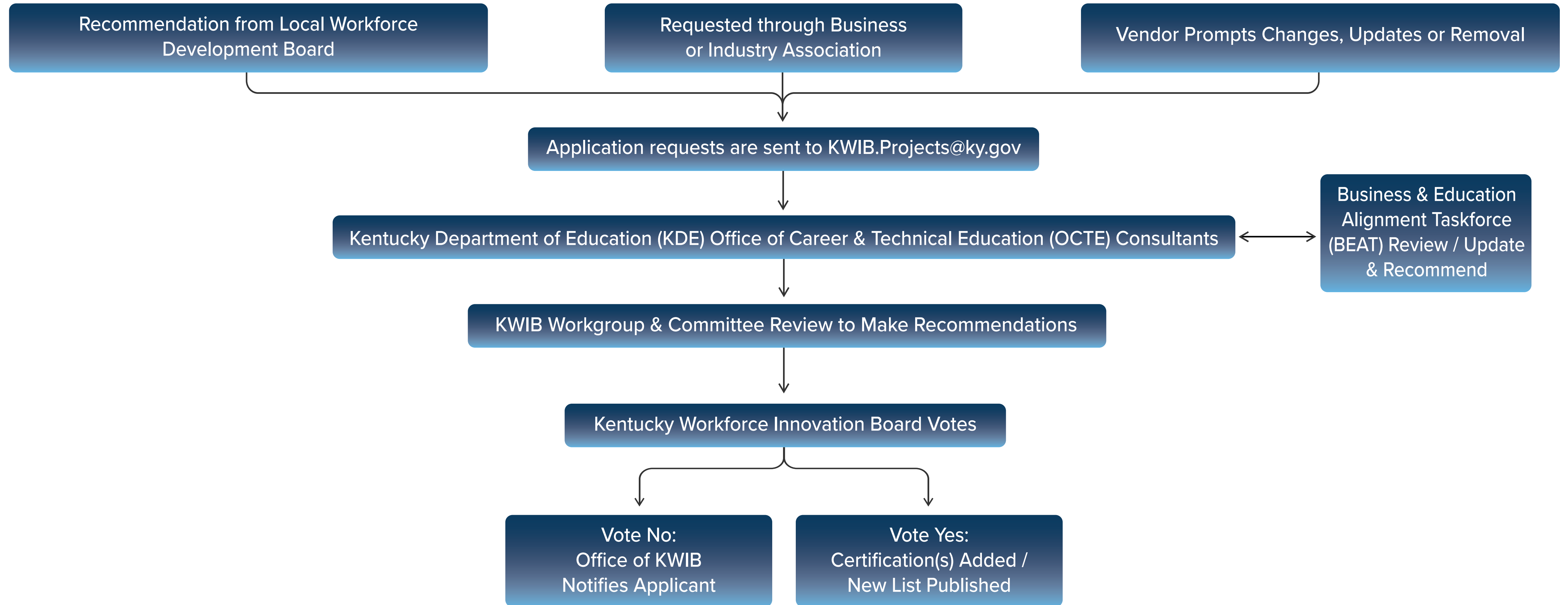
- Name of person for program questions – Edessa Polzin
- Company - American Marketing Association
- Address - 311 S WACKER DR STE 5800 CHICAGO, IL 60606
- Phone - 312-542-9070
- Email - [epolzin@ama.org](mailto:epolzin@ama.org)

Local workforce development area impacted: Statewide

### Additional Information

- Does this company have programs that have been approved or rejected previously? No
- Name of school district seeking use of certification if applicable - N/A

## Kentucky's K-12 Industry Certification Approval



For more information please visit  
<https://kwib.ky.gov/Pages/CTE-Certification-Process.aspx>

Process aligned pursuant to [KRS 158.6455](#).

Process occurs annually, with additions/changes considered by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) on a quarterly basis (workgroup to meet 6-8 weeks prior to quarterly KWIB meetings, when necessary).