



Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2026
1:00pm – 2:00pm ET

Via Zoom

Attendees: Cathy Hoehn, Cynthia Rogers, Eleri Gesler, J.C. Gregory, Jacqueline Korengel, Justin Browning, Karen McFadyen, Kevin Middleton, Matt Cooper, Tanelle Sawyer

Staff: Debbie Dennison, Elishah Taylor, LaChrista Ellis, Sara Jagers

Welcome and Workgroup Overview

Cathy Hoehn, Education Academic Program Manager, CTE Programs & Pathways Branch Office of Career and Technical Education, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Cathy explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review and evaluate industry certifications recommended for inclusion on Kentucky's valid industry certification list, which is used by educators to assess students in career pathways.

Ms. Hoehn provided an overview of the meeting by explaining that five certification requests would be reviewed and she would first walk through the certification process, key stakeholders involved, and what post-meeting steps would follow. She also acknowledged and thanked the members of the CTE Certification Continuous Improvement Workgroup for their expertise and contributions, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between education and industry partners.

Industry Certification List Process & Flow Chart

Ms. Hoehn explained that the Industry Certification List Process starts with an [application](#) from business or industry, which is reviewed by local workforce boards, OCTE staff, and the BEAT team. The BEAT team makes a recommendation, which then moves through the CTE Certification Workgroup, the Education Attainment Committee, and finally to the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board for approval.

She noted that the flow chart outlines these six steps and emphasized that certifications are continuously reviewed to stay aligned with education standards and workforce needs.

BEAT Recommendations

Cathy Hoehn explained that the BEAT teams reviewed five certification applications, with the following outcomes:

- SFMA Turfgrass Science Certification (Agriculture) – Recommended as a stand-alone credential

- Adobe Certified Professional Illustrator (Computer Science/Media Arts) – Recommended for expansion into an additional pathway
- Unreal Engine 3D Fundamentals (Computer Science/Media Arts) – Recommended as a stand-alone credential
- Unity Certified User VR (Computer Science/Media Arts) – Recommended as a stackable credential
- AMCA Mental Health Technician (Health Science) – Recommended as a new credential for an upcoming pathway
- Overall Outcome: All certifications reviewed by the BEAT teams were recommended for approval based on alignment with workforce needs and student career readiness

Cathy Hoehn noted that the Lean Six Sigma Yellow, Green, and Black Belt certifications were not part of the current recommendations but are still under review and scheduled to go to the BEAT teams for evaluation. No final decision or recommendation has been made.

Discussion & Questions

Discussion around “Tech Plus” certification was had. It is being used in other states as a precursor or foundational technology credential before more advanced certifications (like A+). It was added that Tech Plus functions as a digital literacy certification and may be best used as a stackable credential.

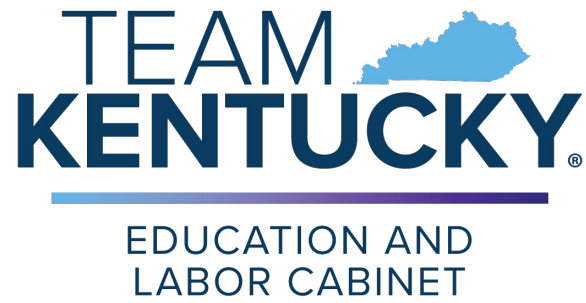
Debbie Dennison Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, led the formal vote to recommend the reviewed certifications to the Education Attainment Committee. She confirmed that all members were in favor of recommending the certifications reviewed by the BEAT teams to the Education Attainment Committee.

Ms. Dennison, KWIB, presented a [fillable volunteer form](#) for businesses interested in providing feedback or participating in assessments. She explained that the form was created in response to a request from Cathy Hoehn as a way to better connect employers to the CTE process. Debbie described the form as a tool for businesses to submit their contact information, areas of expertise, and interest in multiple program areas. She framed it as a first step to ensure employers’ voices are heard and to facilitate collaboration between industry and education. Debbie encouraged participants to share suggestions on how to further strengthen connections between employers and the CTE process. The volunteer form is available on the Career & Technical Education Certification Process page of the KWIB.ky.gov website.

Adjournment 1:26 pm

Cathy Hoehn thanked participants for their time and for allowing her to lead the certification reviews. There was no further business, and the workgroup members were dismissed, and thanked for their contributions and engagement.

The slide deck and accompanying resources are available with the post-meeting materials on the [KWIB website](#).



Career and Technical Education Certification Workgroup
Meeting Briefing Packet

April 02, 2026

1:00 – 2:00 pm ET



Career & Technical Education (CTE) Certification
Workgroup Meeting

AGENDA
April 02, 2026
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83927787164?pwd=nZwSJI6Z4bl5z8yJR1YOQWVwslRoma.1>

Meeting ID: 839 2778 7164 Passcode: 773910

- 1:00 pm **Welcome and Overview of Workgroup Objectives**.....*Cathy Hoehn*
Education Academic Program Manager
CTE Programs & Pathways Branch
Office of Career and Technical Education

- 1:05 pm **Industry Certification List Process & Flow Chart***Cathy Hoehn*

- 1:10 pm **Certification Submission Process**.....*Cathy Hoehn*

- 1:15 pm **Application Review and BEAT Breakdown**.....*Cathy Hoehn*

- 1:30 pm **BEAT Recommendations (Voting Required)**.....*Cathy Hoehn*

- 1:45 pm **Discussion & Questions**.....*Workgroup Members*

- 2:00 pm **Adjournment**.....*Cathy Hoehn*



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification

Recommendation

The Business and Education Alignment Taskforce (BEAT) has reviewed the following certification applications and made recommendations for the approval of the CTE Certification Review workgroup.

| Industry Certification Name | Industry Certification Program Area | Recommended Industry Certification List? |
|---|--|--|
| Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator | Computer Science | The BEAT recommends expanding the Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator certification to the Digital Design and Game Development pathway. |
| AMCA Mental Health Technician | Healthcare | The Beat recommends adopting the AMCA Mental Health Technician Certification |
| Lean Six Sigma | Multi | Pending BEAT recommendation |
| SFMA Turfgrass Science | Agriculture | The BEAT recommends the Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Turfgrass Science Certification as a standalone credential for the Plant Science Systems pathway. |
| Unity Certified User: VR | Computer Science/Media Arts | The BEAT recommends the Unity Certified User: VR Credential. |
| Unreal Engine 3D Fundamentals | Computer Science/Media Arts | The BEAT recommends the Unreal Engine #D Fundamentals as a standalone credential |

Certification Information

Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator

- **Description:** Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - Adobe Certified Professional

certifications are the official, industry-recognized credentials that validate proficiency in Adobe Creative Cloud applications and foundational knowledge for digital media careers. The 50-minute Graphic Design & Illustration Using Adobe Illustrator exam is comprised of two sections—selected-response items followed by Live-in-the-App tasks in Illustrator—and is designed at the level appropriate for the following Target Candidate: The Target Candidate has approximately 150 hours of instruction and hands-on experience with Illustrator. \$66 or Site License \$4,624

- **Website:** <https://certiport.filecamp.com/s/i/YD7zIWbVNiC2XrJN>
- **Recognized by:** Fayette County Public Schools
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass|KentuckianaWorks - Greater Louisville|Northern Kentucky|West Kentucky
- **Previous Program Status:** Yes

AMCA Mental Health Technician

- **Description:** Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - 119.00 A Mental Health Technician cares for individuals with mental or emotional conditions or disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners. A Mental Health Technician may monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff, or participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications.
- **Website:** <https://www.amcaexams.com/exam-candidates/mental-health-technician-certification/>
- **Recognized by:** Three Rivers Medical Center
- **Workforce Areas:** Statewide
- **Previous Program Status:** N/A

Pending / Under Review

- Lean Six Sigma – Industry Certification Program Area: Multi - pending BEAT recommendation

SFMA Turfgrass Science Certification

- **Description:** The certification assesses industry-valued and industry-recognized standards produced by the Sports Field Management Association. Comprised of sports field managers from across the country, SFMA serves as an official voice for green-industry professionals. The certification validates individuals have acquired knowledge and skills in turfgrass development, turfgrass environment, preparation, practices and benefits. Those who earn the certification are more qualified and prepared to pursue a meaningful career in the turfgrass or sports field management industries. Additionally, the certification allows employers to identify and connect with more skilled candidates, filling gaps in the labor market and jumpstarting individuals' careers. The certification exam consists of 100 questions and assesses knowledge and skills from the following weighted industry standards: Benefits of Turfgrass 5%; Turfgrass Anatomy, Identification & Adaptations 20%; Turfgrass Environment 25%; Turfgrass Cultural Practices 30%; Playing Surface Preparation 20%. Cost: There are three different pricing options to sit for an industry certification. iCEV offers a certification subscription to iCEV subscribers for \$35/year, sold in bundles of 25 for \$875. Certification vouchers allow for one attempt at the exam and cost \$50 for iCEV subscribers & \$75 for non-iCEV subscribers. An iCEV subscription, which provides optional curriculum for the certification, is a per-student cost and can be quoted here: <https://www.icevonline.com/request-quote>
- **Website:** <https://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/turfgrass-science-certification/>

- **Recognized by:** Georgetown
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass
- **Previous Program Status:** Yes

Unity Certified User: VR

- **Description:** Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - The Unity Certified User VR certification exam will test the candidate's ability to create VR experiences and programs within Unity software. The exam objectives are aligned with current industry standards set by professionals and educators. Individuals will be expected to have at least 150 hours of Unity software use and training to obtain this certification. Also, while not required, familiarity with C# programming and VR software and hardware (including tethered and standalone headsets) can help candidates learn Unity VR Development more easily. \$68 or Site License 100 exams \$2,185
- **Website:** https://certiport.filecamp.com/s/i/UCU_VR_Developer_0823
- **Recognized by:** Fayette County Public Schools
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass|KentuckianaWorks - Greater Louisville|Northern Kentucky|West Kentucky
- **Previous Program Status:** Yes

Unreal Engine 3D Fundamentals

- **Description:** Description of the Certification and Cost, if applicable - This certification serves as a powerful capstone for any student building foundational skills in interactive 3D with Unreal Engine. The certification is an ideal credential for courses in game design, animation, virtual production, and digital art. It covers building interactive 3D experiences, designing levels and creating player immersion using the tool behind some of the world's most popular games. The Unreal Engine 3D Fundamentals Certification aligns with CTE, STEM, and workforce development priorities in most states, making it eligible for Carl D. Perkins Funds and other career-readiness funding. \$50 per student or we can get district/school pricing discount.
- **Website:** <https://gameplan.com/certifications/unreal-engine-3d-fundamentals>
- **Recognized by:** Fayette County Schools
- **Workforce Areas:** Bluegrass|KentuckianaWorks - Greater Louisville|Northern Kentucky|West Kentucky
- **Previous Program Status:** No

To learn more about the item listed in the consent agenda above, please click the link to access the relevant information on Google Drive.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M7atN765M_sskMO4_W5B0oGHUrm_y-r0

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

#

21c Museum Hotels: Business & Marketing

A

AE Solutions: Agriculture

Aerotek: Agriculture

Aesop Studios: Agriculture

Affinity Farms: Agriculture

Alltech: Business & Marketing

Altec Industries: Agriculture

Amazon: Agriculture, Business & Marketing

American Electric Power: Agriculture

American Engineers, Inc.: Agriculture

Amteck Electrical: Agriculture

Amteck, LLC: Agriculture

Anchorage/Middletown Fire & Emergency Services: Agriculture

Arcadia Communities & Kentucky Bourbon Chefs: Agriculture

Associated Builders & Contractors: Construction

Associated General Contractors of Kentucky: Construction

Associated General Contractors of Western Kentucky: Construction

Automotive Service Excellence (ASE): Transportation

B

BAC Local 4 Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers: Construction

Baptist Health: Healthcare

Bardstown–Nelson County Tourist & Convention Commission: Business & Marketing

Berea Fire Department: Law & Public Safety

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Big I Kentucky: Business & Marketing

Blue Leaf Digital Marketing: Business & Marketing

Bluebird Embroidery: Family & Consumer Sciences

Bluegrass Harley: Transportation

BMW: Transportation

Boyd CAT: Manufacturing

Boyd County Schools: Education & Training

Brown-Foreman: Computer Science

Bullitt County Public Schools: Education & Training

C

C G Bank / Citizens Guaranty Bank: Business & Marketing

Catalent Winchester: Business & Marketing

Cecilian Bank: Business & Marketing

CHI Saint Joseph Health: Healthcare

Child Care Aware: Education & Training

Child Care Aware / Human Development Institute: Education & Training

Chubb Insured: Business & Marketing

Churchill Downs / Levy Restaurants: Family & Consumer Sciences

Churchill Downs, Inc.: Business & Marketing

City of Henderson: Engineering

Clark County Public Schools: Education & Training

Clark Material Handling Company: Business & Marketing

ClassAct Credit Union: Business & Marketing

Cleary Construction: Construction

Commerce Lexington: Business & Marketing

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Corvette Museum: Business & Marketing

Council on Postsecondary Education: Education & Training

Courage Media: Media Arts

Creative Stitches: Family & Consumer Sciences

Creekstone Farms: Agriculture

Crocus Academy: Education & Training

D

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control: Law & Public Safety

Department of Criminal Justice Training: Law & Public Safety

Dept. for Behavioral Health, Development & Intellectual Disability: Healthcare

Duke Energy: Engineering

Duo County Telephone Cooperative: Computer Science

E

East Kentucky Power: Business & Marketing

Eastern State Hospital: Healthcare

Education Professional Standards Board: Education & Training

Element Design: Engineering

Embry Body Shop: Transportation

Epic Games: Computer Science, Media Arts

Ethan Allen: Family & Consumer Sciences

F

Farm Credit Mid America: Agriculture

Fayette County Public Schools: Education & Training

Frankfort Fire & EMS: Law & Public Safety

Frankfort Police Department: Law & Public Safety

Future Tek: Computer Science

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2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

G

GE Appliances (Haier): Business & Marketing

GEAR UP: Education & Training

Georgetown Police Department: Law & Public Safety

Glowtouch: Computer Science

Graves County High School: Education & Training

Gray Construction / Gray Architects & Engineers: Construction, Engineering

Grayson County High School: Education & Training

Greater Louisville, Inc.: Business & Marketing

Green River Regional Education Co-op: Education & Training

H

H.W. Lochner, Inc.: Engineering

Hall Contracting of Kentucky: Construction

Halloway Feeds: Agriculture

HDR Engineering, Inc.: Engineering

Health Systems Informatics, Inc.: Business & Marketing

Hearst Media Group: Media Arts

Henderson County Schools: Education & Training

HJI Supply Chain Solutions: Business & Marketing

HMB Engineers: Engineering

Hofbrauhaus Newport, LLC: Family & Consumer Sciences

Homebuilders Association of Kentucky: Construction

Hometown24: Media Arts

Humana: Business & Marketing

I

IBEW - Louisville: Engineering

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Ignite Academy: Education & Training

IKORCC Carpenters Union: Construction

IKORCC Training Facility: Construction

Innovation2Creation: Media Arts

IonApex Electrical: Engineering

J

J.B. Hunt: Business & Marketing

Jackson Energy Cooperative: Engineering

Jackson Welding & Consulting: Manufacturing

Jefferson County Public Schools: Education & Training, Media Arts

Jessamine County Schools: Education & Training

Jo Ross Fashion: Family & Consumer Sciences

K

Kavanaugh Complete Car Care: Transportation

Keeneland: Business & Marketing

Keeneland Association: Business & Marketing

Keeneland Hospitality, LLC: Business & Marketing, Family & Consumer Sciences

Kenton County Schools: Education & Training

Kentuckiana Works: Business & Marketing

Kentucky 9-1-1 Services Board: Law & Public Safety

Kentucky ABC: Law & Public Safety

Kentucky Association for Economic Development: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Association of Manufacturers: Manufacturing

Kentucky Bankers Association: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Bar Association: Business & Marketing

Kentucky BHDID: Healthcare

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2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services: Healthcare

Kentucky Career & Technical College System: Education & Training

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association: Agriculture

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Corn Growers: Agriculture

Kentucky Department for Public Health: Healthcare

Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Agriculture

Kentucky Dept. Financial Institutions: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Dept. Travel & Tourism: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Education & Workforce Cabinet: Education & Training

Kentucky Educational Television (KET): Media Arts

Kentucky Educators Association – Aspiring Educators: Education & Training

Kentucky Energy & Environment Cabinet: Engineering

Kentucky Engineering Center: Engineering

Kentucky Farm Bureau: Agriculture

Kentucky Fire Commission: Law & Public Safety

Kentucky Firefighters Association: Law & Public Safety

Kentucky Highway Contractors: Construction

Kentucky Hospital Association: Healthcare

Kentucky Humane Society: Family & Consumer Sciences, Healthcare

Kentucky Pork Producers: Agriculture

Kentucky Poultry Federation: Agriculture, Manufacturing

Kentucky ProStart: Family & Consumer Sciences

Kentucky Psychiatric Correctional: Healthcare

Kentucky Restaurant Association: Family & Consumer Sciences

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2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Kentucky Retail Institute: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Sheep and Goat: Agriculture

Kentucky Small Grains: Agriculture

Kentucky Society of CPAs: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Sound Stage: Media Arts

Kentucky State Police: Law & Public Safety

Kentucky State University: Agriculture, Education & Training

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC): Transportation

Kentucky Travel Industry Association: Business & Marketing

Kentucky Welding Institute: Manufacturing

Kenwood Country Club: Family & Consumer Sciences

KLH Engineers: Engineering

KPFF Engineering Consultants: Engineering

KY Dept. Public Health—Maternal & Child Health: Healthcare

KYTC Division of Materials: Engineering

L

Level Up 911 Training: Law & Public Safety

Lexington Fire Department: Law & Public Safety

Lexington Metro Police Department: Law & Public Safety

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government: Law & Public Safety

Lexmark: Manufacturing

LG&E-KU: Engineering

LightSpeed PM: Business & Marketing

Link-Belt Cranes: Manufacturing, Engineering

Local 502 Plumber Pipefitter HVAC: Construction

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Local 502 Plumbers Pipefitters Service Technicians: Construction, Manufacturing

Local 502 School Education & Training: Education & Training

Local 70 Iron Workers: Construction

Local Chambers of Commerce: Business & Marketing

Logan Aluminum: Manufacturing

Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau: Business & Marketing

Louisville Metro Police Department: Law & Public Safety

Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport: Transportation

Louisville Water Company: Manufacturing

M

Magna: Manufacturing

Manion Stigger, LLP: Business & Marketing

Marathon Petroleum: Manufacturing

Marion C. Moore High School: Education & Training

Mason & Hanger: Engineering

Mercy Health: Healthcare

Messer Construction: Construction

Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD): Engineering

Michael Baker International: Engineering

Middough: Engineering

Miller Electric: Engineering

Morehead State University: Education & Training

Mortimer Bibb's Public House: Family & Consumer Sciences

Murray State University: Agriculture, Education & Training

N

Nelson County Government: Law & Public Safety

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2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

New Vista: Healthcare

Next Generation in Trucking: Transportation

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES): Education & Training

Northern Kentucky University: Education & Training

Northern Kentucky University – College of Education: Education & Training

Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center: Law & Public Safety

Norton Healthcare: Healthcare

P

Pegasus Industries & Packaging: Manufacturing

Pine Branch Mining, LLC: Manufacturing

Poultry Industry: Agriculture

Prichard Committee: Education & Training

Procter & Gamble: Manufacturing

R

Raytheon: Manufacturing

Reborn Studios: Media Arts

Rocky Mountain ATV/MC: Transportation

RossTarrant Architects: Engineering

Russell County Schools: Education & Training

Russell Independent Schools: Education & Training

S

Senneger Plumbing: Construction

Shelby County Schools: Education & Training

Sherwin Williams: Family & Consumer Sciences

South Central Rural Telecommunications: Computer Science

SRC of Lexington, Inc.: Manufacturing

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2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

Staggs & Fisher Consulting Engineers: Engineering

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.: Engineering

Stober Drives, Inc.: Manufacturing

Stored Value Solutions: Business & Marketing

Strand Associates, Inc.: Engineering

Super Soul: Media Arts

Swope Design Group, Inc.: Engineering

T

Team Modern: Business & Marketing

Ted Lolley and Associates: Business & Marketing

Texas Roadhouse, Inc.: Family & Consumer Sciences

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky: Manufacturing, Engineering

Toyota Tsusho America, Inc.: Business & Marketing

U

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Engineering

Union Commonwealth University: Education & Training

United American Energy, LLC: Engineering

United States Air Force: JROTC

United States Army Cadet Command: JROTC

United States Marine Corps: JROTC, Law & Public Safety

United States Navy: JROTC

University of Kentucky: Education & Training

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension: Agriculture

University of Kentucky Dietetics & Human Nutrition: Family & Consumer Sciences, Healthcare

University of Kentucky Police Department: Law & Public Safety

University of Louisville: Education & Training

KDE - Office of Career Technical Education

2025-2026 BEAT Affiliations

University of Louisville Health: Healthcare

UPS: Transportation

V

Valvoline Global: Transportation

Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers: Engineering

Versailles Fire Department: Law & Public Safety

Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS): Healthcare, Education & Training

Visum Healthcare Solutions: Healthcare

W

Wacom: Computer Science, Media Arts, Business & Marketing

Walmart Supply Chain: Transportation

Wehr Constructors: Construction

Western Kentucky University: Media Arts, Education & Training

Williamsburg Independent: Education & Training

WKU Professional Educator Services: Education & Training

Woodford County Sheriff's Office: Law & Public Safety

Wright Implement: Agriculture

WSGS 101.1 FM: Media Arts

WYMT-TV: Media Arts

X

XR Terra: Computer Science

Y

Yum!: Business & Marketing