The COVID-19 pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities for career and technical education (CTE). As another academic year draws to a close, we are at the time is right to reflect on lessons learned and how evidence can guide us moving forward.

This guide, produced by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), describes challenges for CTE during the pandemic, and recommendations on how CTE leaders can embrace lessons learned and better prepare a postpandemic workforce.

The work of the Network member projects is supported by the Institute. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Institute or the U.S. Department of Education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted workforce preparation and practices, and even before the pandemic, a number of disruptive shifts had complicated workforce preparation. These shifts include changing job market conditions with spikes in unemployment and new automation challenges, and an increasing need for workers’ resilience and adaptability. Experts from the American Institutes for Research, a lead partner in our network, conducted a series of analyses to better understand the challenges facing the U.S. workforce and the path forward.

This brief from ACTE examines online learning, in-person learning, and blended learning models. It provides evidence-based recommendations for designing and delivering career pathways at community colleges through an equity lens.

A new WWC practice guide provides evidence-based recommendations for designing and delivering career pathways at community colleges and reports data to strengthen career readiness policy and practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light gaps in our data ecosystem. Network members presented three papers on improving data access and measures of exposure to CTE and outcomes. If you missed our session at the American Educational Research Association 2021 Annual Meeting, the presentation slides are available to view and download online.

Practice guide: Designing and delivering career pathways at community colleges

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