

December 2025



NEW TEACHER LEADERSHIP DAY !

On December 5th, MassCTE proudly welcomed new educators from across Massachusetts for a full day of learning, networking and professional growth at our first New Teacher Leadership Day. A day which seemingly could have had the theme of "community" as its focus, with the majority of our presenters touching on the importance of finding, building and utilizing your community.

WELCOME - RICK TORRES

Our day was open and closed with words by Past MassCTE President, Rick Torress, who has been a vital friend of MassCTE and vocational education for many years. Rick enthusiastically spoke about the importance of community in education and in making connections within our industries but also with those within the education community. In education we can often feel alone on our own little islands, but by attending networking opportunities such as this, we discover that there are others to share our islands with.

TEACHERS AS LEADERS - KATHY CONOLE

Kathy Conole joined us on behalf of the MAVA Leadership Academy. While her focus was on sharing how the Leadership 1 Academy program helps participants prepare for potential administrative leadership roles, her message really focused on "Teachers as Leaders" and touched on how educators can be leaders in a variety of ways in our buildings. In describing the program, she focused on the connections made and the importance of your network. And in true Kathy fashion, with just one simple introduction exercise she worked her magic and had multiple educators in the room making connections with those from other programs across the state.

MTRS RETIREMENT & BUYBACK- TRACY CAHILL

While many believe that thinking about retirement in your first few years as an educator might be premature, those on the other end will tell you that it is the beginning of your career when you should be planning! Lucky for our attendees, Tracy Cahill, Regional Vice President with Equitable Advisors joined us for an informative session on MTRS Retirement, including knowledge of 403b investing and vocational buyback. Tracy was able to share valuable information and took the time to answer questions, as well as gave all in attendance some food for thought when it comes to making your money work for you in retirement.

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NEW TEACHER LEADERSHIP DAY! CONTINUED...

OVERVIEW OF VOCATIONAL/CTE LICENSURE- JAMES WILKERSON

As educators, we seemingly spend days filling out pages and pages of paperwork and for new teachers, when it comes to the DESE forms needed for CTE Licensure, that paperwork can include a lot of confusion. Thankfully our new teachers got a great overview of Vocational/CTE Licensure from the man in the office himself, Vocational Licensure Specialist, James Wilkerson. Jamie was able to share examples of the expectations, as well as additional routes new teachers may use if the MTELs are just not their thing. Information was shared about the courses needed to be taken for professional licensure, as well as additional insight given about getting credits for courses outside of those seven professional education courses.

SAVE THE DATE!

93RD ANNUAL MASSCTE
LEADERSHIP, CONFERENCE,
& AWARDS BANQUET

MARCH 27TH & 28TH 2026

MAKING THE MOST OF THE MAVA EXTENDED CAMPUS- SHELIA HARRITY

Our last presenter of the day was Sheila Harrity, the MAVA Extended Campus Program Coordinator who talked about making the most out of your professional dollars by using the MAVA Extended Campus courses. As many who have taken courses know, MAVA offers high quality teacher training with a cost savings as programs around the state utilize their network of MAVA educators to deliver the professional education courses required by the state. More information can be found at <https://mava.us/extended-campus-schedule/> as a new semester of classes were just released.

MASSCTE IN ACTION- LEADERSHIP DAY WRAP UP

Rick closed out our Leadership Day programming sharing information about MassCTE in action and how by becoming a member you are becoming a member of a collaborative community who looks to rise by lifting others. Overall a great day was had by all and a special thank you to our event sponsors Equitable Advisors and Ockers Technologies who supported us by providing meals, lanyards and more!

NEED TO CONTACT THE TEAM?

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Eastern: Kerry O'Brien & Jillian Plante

Southeast: Carol Hartnett & Paul Irving

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WHY JOIN MASSCTE?

NETWORKING & COMMUNITY

SUPPORT FOR NEW TEACHERS

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED
FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS