Career and Technical Education Talking Points

* Minnesota is pleased to see a federal emphasis on technical preparation.
	+ Community college initiatives
	+ Retraining within the proposals for reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act
	+ Minnesota response is FastTRAC, an initiatives supported in part by Joyce Foundation funds that links efforts of Adult Basic Education, workforce development programming through the state’s WorkForce Centers, and Perkins Programs of Study.
* Minnesota has implemented a unique-in-the-nation consortium structure that includes:
	+ Building on collaboration between secondary and postsecondary systems
	+ A single local funding application from secondary and postsecondary partners.
	+ Retaining the best of Tech Prep in the application.
	+ Addressing the needs of rural Minnesota and CTE programs that attract high numbers of students through a reserve allocation formula.
* Program of Study/Career Pathway Development using the Career Clusters model:
	+ 16 Clusters
	+ 81 Pathways
	+ Grade 9 through grade 14 model
	+ Seamless pathway between secondary and postsecondary (grades 11-14).
* Technical Skill Attainment
	+ Core skills identified in five pilot Programs of Study.
	+ Valid and reliable assessment instruments being identified for each POS where core skills are identified.
	+ Implementation of assessments statewide within pilot POS beginning 2010-2011.
	+ Process begun to add 6 additional POS for technical skill attainment in 2011-2012.
* Parent Information
	+ Pathways to Success parent guide with multiple printings in four languages and now posted on Minnesota CTE web site (http://www.cte.mnscu.edu/).
	+ Enthusiastic response from school guidance personnel.
* Site Visit
	+ We would encourage you and be pleased to assist you in making a visit to one of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in your district.
* Career and Technical Education included in the state’s Race To The Top application
	+ Standardized technical skill assessments in five Programs of Study linking secondary and postsecondary CTE programs.
	+ Perkins consortium structure that brings secondary and postsecondary partners together for common planning and programming.
	+ STEM Equity Pipeline to promote STEM careers for women and girls.