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Ms. Eleni Papadakis
Executive Director
P.O. Box 43105
Olympia, WASHINGTON 98504-3105

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WORKFORCE TRAINING AND
EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Dear Ms. Eleni Papadakis,

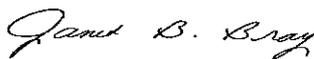
The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has released a new issue brief entitled "Career and Technical Education's Role in Adolescent Literacy." The brief explains how career and technical education (CTE) can increase adolescent literacy engagement and achievement. CTE teachers are integrating content-area reading and writing strategies and a number of enrichment activities to help students gain and apply higher-level literacy skills, which will help students prepare to enter postsecondary education, training opportunities and the global economy.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 35 percent of seniors are considered "proficient" in reading and can demonstrate overall understanding of texts, make inferences, draw conclusions and make connections to previous experiences. Although the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress writing exam scores did improve since 2002, the results show only 24 percent of high school seniors scored at the "proficient" level or higher. To improve students' reading and writing scores and literacy skills, CTE programs have identified and are incorporating these key instructional strategies into the curriculum.

The Issue Brief highlights a variety of ways programs are raising literacy skills including motivating students to read and write content related to their interests; increasing the amount of time students read news articles, relevant literature and trade publications; and providing opportunities for students to engage in technical and professional writing, vocabulary development, research projects, and internships and other work-based learning activities.

ACTE looks forward to working with you as you continue to create education and CTE policies.

Sincerely,


Janet B. Bray, CAE
Executive Director