

# West Virginia PTA

## College and Career Readiness Initiative

West Virginia  
**PTA**  
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CCR/ESSA NEWSLETTER - March 2018

## Families Leading Change Day Officially Proclaimed in WV!

Governor Justice and the WV Legislature officially proclaimed February 26, 2018 as Families Leading Change Day!! West Virginia PTA was proud to participate in this educational day of celebrating parent and family leadership and advocacy in our schools. Our College and Career Readiness Team and West Virginia PTA Youth Member Elizabeth Sperry participated in both proclamations in the House and Senate. Our team also provided information to all guests about our College and Career Readiness Initiative and participated in Kids and Families Day at the Capitol!



CCR Team Karen Sherman, Janelle Sperry, Rose Rossana and WV PTA Youth Member Elizabeth Sperry.



## Why We Desperately Need to Bring Back Vocational Training in Schools

*Forbes Magazine: Contributor – Nicholas Wyman*

### It's Time to Set Up Your FREE Presentation about College and Career Readiness!

Email or call us today to set up a FREE workshop at your next PTA meeting! We will bring the food! Our team will also present information to your community, do workshops at your local libraries, or set up information tables at your next parent-teacher conferences!

Email:  
[takeaction@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:takeaction@westvirginiapta.org)  
or contact anyone from our team about setting up a FREE workshop at your school!

"The U.S. economy has changed. The manufacturing sector is growing and modernizing, creating a wealth of challenging, well-paying, highly skilled jobs for those with the skills to do them. The demise of vocational education at the high school level has bred a skills shortage in manufacturing today, and with it a wealth of career opportunities for both under-employed college grads and high school students looking for direct pathways to interesting, lucrative careers. Many of the jobs in manufacturing are attainable through apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and vocational programs offered at community colleges. They don't require expensive, four-year degrees for which many students are not suited. And contrary to what many parents believe, students who get job specific skills in high school and choose vocational careers often go on to get additional education.

Just a few decades ago, our public education system provided ample opportunities for young people to learn about careers in manufacturing and other vocational trades. Yet, today, high-schoolers hear barely a whisper about the many doors that the vocational education path can open. The "college-for-everyone" mentality has pushed awareness of other possible career paths to the margins. The cost to the individuals and the economy as a whole is high. If we want everyone's kid to succeed, we need to bring vocational education back to the core of high school learning!"