

NSERVE BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Via Google Meet

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Amy Kastory called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

II. Roll Call

Present

Dr. Pete Bavis
Mr. Ryan Bretag
Ms. Christine Gonzales
Dr. Shawn Messmer
Dr. Chimille Tillery
Ms. Amy Kastory
Ms. Julie Matthews

Absent

Dr. Alauna McGee

III. Election of Officers - President, President Pro Tempore, Secretary

The Board of Control officers are elected annually. The following appointments were made:

- Dr. Shawn Messmer for Board President
- Mr. Pete Bavis for President Pro Tempore
- Ms. Julie Matthews for Board Secretary

All were in favor.

IV. Oakton update

A representative from Oakton was not present to provide an update at this time.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda:

The Board was asked to approve a consent agenda of:

- Joint Board of Control/Admin. Council Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025
- Financial Reports for May, June, July, and August 2025

A motion was made by Dr. Shawn Messmer and seconded by Ms. Christine Gonzales to approve the consent agenda. All were in favor.

VI. Collaboration Time

Dr. Shawn Messmer mentioned that Maine 207 started utilizing Subject.com for student credit recovery and had a pleasant experience with them over the summer. Christine Gonzales shared that Niles also had a positive experience with the platform for summer school and that student feedback was favorable as well.

Dr. Chimille Tillery asked the group if their districts offer any core Dual Credit classes with Oakton. Dr. Shawn Messmer replied that they offer Comp 1 & Comp 2 with Oakton. Christine Gonzales added that their Senior English course offers dual credit through NEIU. Dr. Tillery also asked the group about parents' involvement with Dual Credit and course selection. Dr. Messmer offered that selecting the correct Dual Credit or AP course comes down to academic counseling and the student's next steps after high school.

VII. NSERVE's Grant and Financial Status

FY26 Grant Approved and FY25 audit review:

Amy Kastory announced that the FY26 grant has been approved and explained the current freeze status, which is a state issue rather than an organizational one. She mentioned the necessity of amending the JAB due to a shortfall in Perkins funding and encouraged participants to reach out with any FY25 audit questions.

VIII. FY26 Updates

- Updating NSERVE Policies & Procedures - Amy Kastory shared that she and Julie Matthews will be updating NSERVE's Policies & Procedures to align with the IGA that was revised in 2023. A draft of the document will be provided to the BOC in December.
- CTE Connect Day - Amy added that she will be connecting with Jason Boumstein to plan the next CTE Connect Day which will take place at New Trier during the second semester. More details to follow.

- ISBE WBL Train the Trainer and LNA- Amy highlighted the challenges of ISBE's previous training model and introduced a new train-the-trainer approach from ISBE, allowing districts to submit participants for training. She also outlined the requirements of the Local Needs Assessment (LNA) under the Perkins V plan, which necessitates stakeholder consultation and a review of CTE plans every two years.
- New CTE Teacher Spotlight and CTE Teacher Mentor Design Team- Amy discussed ISBE's new CTE Teacher Spotlight feature, but found some flaws in the application. More details to come. She also shared that she was personally selected to participate in the development of ISBE's CTE Teacher Mentor Program — a recognition of her expertise and leadership in the field. She is excited to contribute her ideas, collaborate with other educators across the state, and help shape a program that supports and empowers new CTE teachers.
- ISBE Budget Written Testimony - Amy shared a link to a document and asked the AC to consider submitting a written testimony to ISBE in favor of increasing the CTEI operating line by 10% (\$5,930,000) in FY27
- ISCS Review - Amy informed the AC that she will be reaching out to their District Schedulers to complete the ISCS (Illinois State Course System)
- Annual Report Part 1 - Amy announced that the first part of the Annual Report was submitted to ISBE

IX. NSERVE Summer Recap

Amy Kastory summarized the summer's accomplishments, including sponsoring 10 individuals for the Region 3 conference and conducting a training session for CTE teacher leaders at Illinois State University. She noted the interesting aspects of the Rivian plant tour, particularly their approach to employee training. Julie Matthews announced her pregnancy with a baby girl due in December, which was met with excitement from the group.

X. Other Items for Consideration

Amy Kastory discussed several educational initiatives, including a regional Lake Cook team-based challenge in computer science and education, which is a collaboration between Ridgewood High School and Triton College. She highlighted opportunities for teachers, such as a workshop and a program focused on solar energy for students. Additionally, she mentioned an innovation challenge from NIU that could qualify for team-based challenges in CTE programs. Links to all programs/events were provided.

- Apprenticeship Illinois — Upcoming Opportunities & Resources
- 25-26 CTE Conferences and Training, National and IL
- Ed Systems Illinois Model Programs of Study Guides
- Lake/Cook Team-Based Challenges — Computer Science and Education
- NIU Innovation Challenge (Team-Based Challenge)

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 am.