

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act was originally authorized in 1984 and was most recently reauthorized in 2006 as the Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, expiring in 2012. The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education of the Education and the Workforce Committee, recently held a hearing to begin discussion of reauthorization of the Act in 2014. In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chair Todd Rokita referenced Wisconsin's Gateway Technical College as a shining example of how career and technical education (CTE) is helping to prepare students for high-demand jobs. Gateway offers CAAHEP accredited Medical Assistant and Surgical Technology programs. Congressman Rokita specifically recognized the Medical Assistant program for offering real-world clinical, administrative, and laboratory training.

Like similar discussions related to the HEA, this hearing indicated that Congress is focused on stimulating collaboration, innovation and accountability in the education system in order to achieve affordability and accessibility for students. We can only anticipate what affect this legislation will have upon the mission of CAAHEP and its Committees on Accreditation, but we know that change is in the air.

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the fall meeting of the [Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors](#)(ASPA). CAAHEP co-sponsors a breakfast at ASPA meetings that brings together leaders and staff from the [Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions](#) (ASAHP), The [National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges](#)(NN2), and CAAHEP to discussion current issues in allied health education. This year's topic was inter-professional education. On behalf of CAAHEP, I would like to congratulate ASPA on their 20th anniversary which they celebrated at this meeting.

Speaking of anniversaries, CAAHEP will be celebrating our 20th at the 2014 Annual Meeting April 27-28 in San Antonio, Texas. Please make a special effort to join us for this celebration. [Reservations](#) are open now for hotel accommodations, so be sure to secure your hotel room early. Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio.