

The Communique

2012 Nebraska Career Education Conference

Registration is now open for the 2012 NCE Conference

June 5-7th in Kearney.

See page 4

Your Professional
Voice

Region V "Capture the Spirit of the West"



By Jason Speck
ACTEN President

"Capture the Spirit of the West" is just what I did when I attended the Region V ACTE conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Being a first time attendee to a Region V conference, I was not for sure what to expect. What I got was way above and beyond what I ever dreamed.

The conference started Wednesday night with a social where some old friendships were rekindled and new ones were formed. Day One opening session Doug Meyer, Region V Vice-President, welcomed everyone followed by the WACTE Executive Director and President. Keynote speaker Chad Foster entertained us with his powerful message of fully preparing the young people of America with 21st skills for their inevitable entry into the world of work. Chad's message gave us seven skills that he feels that everyone needs to have to be successful in the work force today...

1) Communication Skills - without good communication skills people can not get across what they want or mean, 2) Networking Skills - the saying "its not what you know it is who you know" was brought to life when Chad explained his growth in the business world,

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**Quick link to NCE Conference
Registration and Information...**

<http://www.nceconference.com/>

What kind of member are you?

Turn to page 6 to find out!

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“Capture the Sprit of the West” Continued from page 1 ...

3) People Skills - Chad explained that no matter what you do, sometime or another you will have to work with other people, so being able to get along with them is highly needed skill, 4) Problem Solving Skills – every day you are faced with problems and if you can come up with great solutions to even the simple problems, no matter how big the problem is, you will be able to move forward, 5) Critical Thinking Skills - as with problem solving, critical thinking is important in that if you can not look at a situation and really look into it deeply then finding a great solution may not come as quick or easy, 6) Computer Skills - all CTE educators know that in today’s technology world you will not go anywhere without some kind of computer skills whether it be as simple as using a computer to enter data or using a smart phone to keep in the social loop, 7) Financial Skills - Chad finished his list by saying that everyone needs good financial skills to fully live the life they want.

The morning was finished with breakout sessions and time to visit the exhibitors’ booths. Alton Jamison presented and challenged the attendees to create a positive atmosphere when working with youth and to rise to a higher level and make an impact on young people that will last a lifetime. Alton’s keynote titled “You MATTER” gave us real insight on creating a positive atmosphere when working with young people and taught us some real methods to help them overcome real problems.

Day Two started with some great laughter when Past ACTE President Gary Moore entertained the crowd with “The History and Evolution of the Outhouse”. Gary’s presentation was very humorous but also very informative; and by the end his message left us with three points; 1) We need to educate the public about CTE just as the audience was educated about outhouses, 2) Education can and should be fun, research shows humor enhances learning, 3) Outhouses tend to be invisible - they are out there but we don’t often see them. Do we have students who are also invisible? Gary encouraged us to find and reach the invisible students in our own classes. The day only got better with the breakout sessions and then ended with a great meal and auction raising over \$3200 for the CTE support fund. The conference ended with awards and keynote speaker Jerry Balistreri who told his inspirational true story of how a CTE teacher changed the life of a teen that was struggling.

As with most of the conferences that I have attended over the years, there were one or two new ideas that I have put on my list to implement in my classes. For those who have never been to a regional conference, I would highly recommend it. The 2013 Region V Conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 10-13. If you would like more information about the 2012 conference, or the upcoming 2013 conference, feel free to contact me at jspeck@esu15.org

Teaching Kids How to Take Excel to the Next Level with Pivot Table

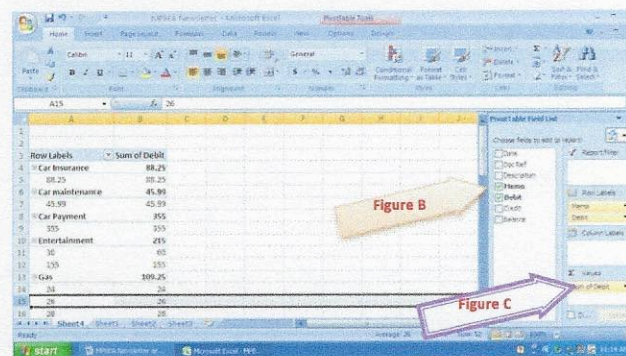
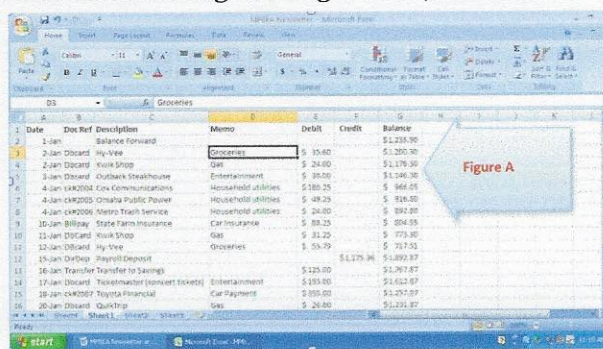
By
DeLayne Havlovic

We all want to encourage our students to get the most out of their education. It can be one of the highest praises for a technology teacher when a student takes basic knowledge about a software application and applies it to a real life scenario.

It is very easy for technology students to get bored with Microsoft Excel. Creating charts and graphs can be a little exciting, but often kids get caught up in data entry rather than learning about data analysis. Pivot tables are often an overlooked, but extremely useful tool in Microsoft Excel.

To set up and use a pivot table, follow a few simple steps:

1. Have a spreadsheet developed that contains information. For the purposes of this article, I created a sample checkbook register for one month, similar to what students may do if they tracked personal or household expenses for one month. My spreadsheet has the following headings: Date, Document Reference, Description, Memo, Debit (or withdrawal), Credit (or deposit), and balance (see figure A). Since pivot tables will allow you to compile information by type, it is very helpful for students to have multiple items in each category (such as multiple grocery and household utilities categories).
2. Create the pivot table
 - a. In Office 2007, select the Insert ribbon then click on Pivot Table (If you are using Office 2003 or lower, it is under the data menu)
 - b. Select your data range – in this case, all of the spreadsheet data will be used. Sometimes, a user only wants a range of data, so in this step you can select accordingly.
 - c. Next, a Pivot Table Field List will appear on the right side of your screen. Your input information will be in a separate table as the pivot table creates a new table for you to analyze the information. You can go back and look at and adjust your original data table, as necessary. For this example, Select Memo and Debit – this will allow you to see how the money was spent by your memo description or category (See Figure B).
 - d. If you want to create totals of each category, this can be done either by auto-summing a group of numbers in one or all of the categories, or you can have the pivot table do the calculation by clicking debit from the field selection area and drag it into the values box. The default setting will be “count” which will count the number of entries in each category. While a count could be useful, many times you want a total for the category. To change this, click on the arrow next to count of debit, choose value field setting, and select sum (or whatever function you wish to carry out) (see Figure C). The best way to learn the capabilities of a pivot table and the different ways to sort is to simply explore



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“Pivot Tables” Continued from page 3

Other uses for Pivot Tables:

In the Accounting Classroom: While I feel it is very important for beginning level accounting students to learn, analyze and place debits and credits in the proper places and to go through the process of journalizing and posting, pivot tables may be a great extension activity for more advanced accounting students, especially beyond the first year. Consider having your students create their own journal of transactions in a blank spreadsheet, then have them do pivot sorts by account number or even account name. Ultimately, with good background knowledge, a student could create their own income statement or balance sheet by having just an input sheet and the set up in place. A shell of a financial statement could be created in a third Excel workbook (aside from the data table worksheet and the pivot table worksheet). Instead of typing the amount of each financial statement balance into each cell, they could use a series of cell references that go back to the sorted pivot table information. With this method, one addition to the data input spreadsheet will later impact the pivot table worksheet and the overall financial statement. What business manager wouldn't be impressed with an entry-level accountant that could do this?

Use Pivot Tables as a teacher management tool: If you are FBLA or BPA adviser and you keep track of student eligibility through a point system, this would be a great way to track and sort out which students have done what activities. It also can prove useful for keeping track of fundraising details when multiple students are selling products and turning in funds.

If you haven't used pivot tables, give them a try. While it can take a bit to get used to how they work and what all they can do, once you become a proficient user of them they can provide you invaluable data analysis with just a few mouse clicks. Consider how they could benefit your students as well.



2012 NCE Conference

Join hundreds of career educators from across Nebraska and plan to attend the 2012 Nebraska Career Education Conference to be held Tuesday, June 5 through Thursday, June 7 at the Younes Conference Center at the Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska. This conference is full of learning, networking and professional development opportunities. From keynote speakers, breakout sessions, exhibitors to social events and entertainment, you are guaranteed a great time!

Conference Registration Fees:

- Preconference only: \$80.00
(includes workshop and lunch)
- Conference only: \$160.00
(includes two lunches and materials)
- Preconference and Conference: \$190.00
(a \$50 savings)
- (Late fee after May 3: \$25.00)

Pre-service NCE teachers may be provided complimentary registrations (excluding professional organization meals and activities).

Registration opens April 1. For more detailed information, please visit our website www.nceconference.com.

Sumo Wrestling Returns to NCE Conference 2012

Proceeds raised will go towards the several scholarships sponsored by the Career Education Foundation of Nebraska





Mountain-Plains Business Education Association

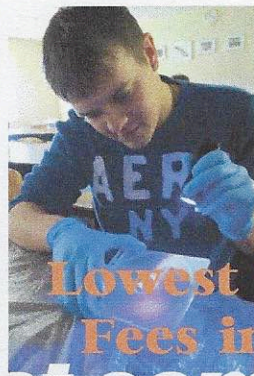
Nebraska Will Host 2013 M-PBEA

Get ready Nebraska Business Educators! Nebraska is again slated to host the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association Conference. For 2013, Omaha will be the host city and the conference will take place at the Omaha Marriott Regency Hotel. The dates of the conference will be Sunday, June 9 – Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Plan now to attend in 2013!

An exciting program is certain to be planned. Keynote speakers, breakout sessions, professional tours and exciting social events are yet to be planned – Omaha has many exciting offerings that will be certain to please.

The conference will be held the week following the Nebraska Career Education Conference in Kearney and will end just in time for the start of the NCAA Men’s College World Series. The Marriott has agreed to offer the special convention hotel rate three days beyond the end of the conference so that attendees can enjoy the beginning games of the Series.

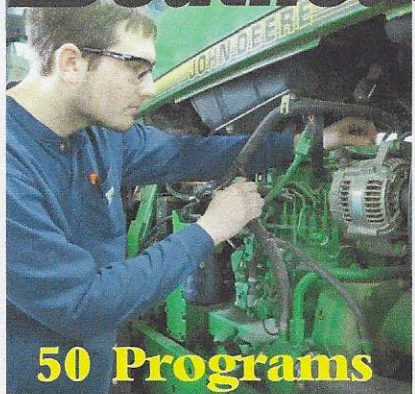
The Program Committee is in need of your help. DeLayne Havlovic will be serving as the overall Convention Director, along with Kelly Means and John Schultz as Program Directors. Numerous positions still need to be filled and we would be excited to have new to conference planning members on our committee! If you are interested in helping, please contact DeLayne via e-mail at delayne.havlovic@ops.org or by phone at 402.557.2610.



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www.southeast.edu



50 Programs



Beatrice, Lincoln, Milford

Welcome New ACTEN Members!!

New Student Members

Family and Consumer Sciences Education

- Carrie Mullendore
Brittany Dietrich
Jordan Engel
Brianna Irvin
Kelsey Pratt
Kristen Raabe
Michaela Tigani
Ryan Wolfe
Anne Daly
Linda Edson
Angela Hansen
Bethanie Miller
Jonella Yrkoski

Business Education

- Chip Bryant
Clay Carlton
Nate Dobson
Ally Gilin
Allison Goodman
Michael Hoxmeier
Dan Johnston
Levi Loofe
Taylor Schlautman
Jill Vescio
Erin Wacker

Health Science Education

- Dane Eisenmeyer

New and Related Services

- Eric Burenheidi

Engineering and Technology Education

- Michael Bos
Jake Curl
Grant Engel
Jeff Maas
Jason Seckman
Matt Bova

Trade and Industrial Education

- Greg A. Anderson
Landonn Mackey
Kaleb Finch
Dexter Dodson
Matthew Jongeling

Agriculture Education

- Kris Spath

New Professional Members

Agriculture Education

- Ben Robison
Leslie Dugan
Whitney Davis
Stacey Agnew

Trade and Industrial Education

- Robert Rautenberg, III

What Kind of Member are You???

Membership in a professional organization is a privilege that too many do not take advantage of and therefore do not receive as much as they should. Those who are members often neglect to get involved. Yes, it takes a bit more of your time and energy, but YOU have great ideas and if you don't share through involvement, no one benefits from your talents.

It is time to consider where you stand. Are you an involved member who just attends the annual meetings, or are you someone who takes on leadership roles in your career field? It takes both types of people in an organization, but leadership roles need to be one thing that changes from time to time. If you were asked today to run for an office, would you? Or would you decline saying you wouldn't know what to do or how to do it. We only learn by experiencing new things. Consider taking the opportunities when they present themselves. Only when we step out of our comfort zone do we learn what we can achieve.

Another way to get involved is to encourage fellow teachers in our field to join our professional organizations. Remember there is power in numbers and in those numbers we find great leaders. When you think of the word MEMBERSHIP, think about the statement listed here.....

Meaningful Experiences
Materialize Because Everyone Realizes Sharing Helpful hints Improves Professionalism

How did you celebrate CTE Month?

By Ronita Jacobsen
FCSTN Past-President/ACTEN President-Elect

After attending the session "Celebrate CTE: Go Big or Go Home" at ACTE National Convention in St. Louis, I decided I didn't want to "go home". Although I was unsure if I could "go big", I decided to at least "go" somewhere. Discussions amongst our CTE teachers (FCS, Ag, Business, Technology, and ITE) led to new ways to focus on CTE and educate our school and community. Here is a description of our efforts:



- An article promoting CTE Month was placed in our local newspaper and on the front page of our school website for the month of February.
- Introduction to Human Services and Education, with the collaboration of other CTE teachers, created career displays using dress forms and related items. Four displays, representing various careers, were placed in the hallways at the high school with new displays every 1-2 weeks during the month of February.
- FCS and Ag made movie trailers and iMovie's of their programs and various activities. They are located on the school website's homepage and their respective activity pages. A "Plainview CTE Program" movie is currently in production.
- A CTE Survey was created and given to all students 7-12. This data will be beneficial when discussing course offerings/programs of study and scheduling.
- A School Board presentation of our CTE programs was held which included information on our course offerings, comparison of our program with 10 area schools and a viewing of our movie trailers. Also presented was a request for permission to charter Future Educators of America (FEA) and National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) programs. The presentation was successful as the board voted to approve the charters of these organizations.

Our efforts this year of celebrating CTE were definitely noticed! Movie trailers and articles can be viewed on our school's website <http://plainviewschools.org> or at FCS Activities <http://plainviewschools.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Activities/Athletics|FCS%20%28FCCLA%29>. More information, pictures and videos can also be found by navigating through my website at <https://sites.google.com/a/plainviewschools.org/ronita-jacobsen/>. If you would like additional information on any of the topics above, contact me at rjacobse@esu8.org



National Technical Honor Society

NTHS is the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. Thousands of schools and colleges throughout the U.S. and its territories have a chapter of the honor society on their campus. These member schools agree that NTHS encourages higher scholastic achievement, cultivates a desire for personal excellence, and helps top students find success in today's highly competitive workplace. NTHS

awards an increasing number of scholarships each year to its members.

MISSION: to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, award scholarships, and enhance career opportunities for the NTHS membership

VISION: to be the international leader in providing recognition for excellence in career and technical education.

Updates from PFI

Greetings!

Spring is always an exciting time of year. The flowers are blooming, students are participating in Career Student Organization competitions, families are looking forward to graduations and students are looking to the future, albeit more education or employment.

Partnerships for Innovation has been working with school districts and ESU's on planning career education programs for the future. We have been discussing aligning current programs and courses with economic and labor market needs, using data to make decisions and aligning opportunities with local postsecondary institutions. I would be delighted to work with your school or consortium in the future, just let me know!

Nebraska Career Connections has posted downloadable resources available to schools on the PFI website. Please check those out to assist in the communication efforts of career education and awareness.

Nebraska Career Education Conference registration is now open. We hope you will attend the Conference, June 6 - 8 in Kearney!

Thank you very much for your support of the Partnerships for Innovation. As you have questions, comments or concerns, please know that our 'door' is always open and we are here to serve and meet your needs!

Erika Volker, Director
Partnerships for Innovation



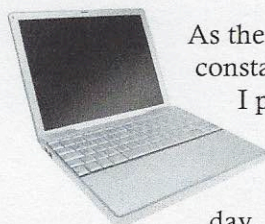
State Model Programs of Study Updated

The CTE State Model Programs of Study have been updated on the [Partnerships for Innovation website](#). The Program of Study Sequence outlines the courses in a visually appealing format. The Courses and Standards are the content taught in each Program of Study. For questions, please call or email [Erika Volker](#) at 402-305-9480.

2011-2012 Standards Revision Workshops	
Human Services.....	June 11-14
Hospitality and Tourism.....	July 16-18
Information Technology & Arts/AV Technology and Communications....	July 9-12
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: Focusing on Engineering; Energy and Research and Design.....	June 11-14

TECHNOLOGY RELEVANCE IN THE CLASSROOM
BY
KATHLEEN KENNEDY, PAST PRESIDENT

Relevance, rigor and relationships are the “new” 3 R’s of education, replacing reading, ‘riting, and ‘rthmatic.



As the 21st century progresses, basic knowledge is not sufficient for success in today’s world. We are constantly reminded we are teaching for careers of the future. What will these careers be? How do I prepare students for what I don’t know?

Students must understand how to apply what they know to predictable and unpredictable real-world situations. I believe the answer lies in encouraging our students to ask us every day, “Where will I ever use what I learned today?” Students have more technology in their hands – cell phones, smart phones, iPads – and the knowledge to use it, than I do. As educators, if we don’t make use of the current technology, we are pretending to prepare kids for a world you won’t even live in.

In partnership with the administration, my lesson plans indicate the days cell phones will be used in class, or their iPads. Most of the technology I can’t do (have a flip phone), but I have a vice-president of technology in each class. Students are ready to share what they know and often share new apps with the class. Who knew – when I graduated from college 30 years ago – I would be using my phone as a calculator, dictionary, stopwatch, unit conversion, Wikipedia, or wolf.ram.alpha (advance math calculations).

Students have been great and no major problems have come up. A serious class discussion with clear, concise expectations, instructions and defined lesson plans have made using the phones in class workable. We still use traditional methods if a student doesn’t have a phone and not every lesson requires technology to complete. I am amazed how time on task has increased – no leaving the room to go to their lockers, their willingness to teach their peers, and laughter has outpaced the complaining. On test days, the phones reside in a basket on my desk – unless the calculator needs to be used.

On a recent trip to the grocery store, group A was calculating the price of groceries needed for a food item, group B was determining the cost of convenience between frozen prepared, semi-prepared and made from scratch, Group C was comparing the cost of advertising between store brand and name brand labels all with the phones out and the worksheet. I overheard two patrons remarking, “I didn’t know a phone could do that!” and “They’re not even talking on it!”

I have a long way to go with embracing technology and understanding everything it is capable of accomplishing in the classroom. Utilizing my phone is pretty small in comparison to understanding Moodle, Voice Thread, Animoto, and connecting with teachers around the world using Twitter – but I am trying and I think my students are appreciative of the effort.

Digital Connections Boot Camp is being held July 25-26, 2012. Western Nebraska Community College, ESU 13 and the Nebraska Department of Education are the sponsors. For more information go to: goo.gl/5KM7W Registration fee is \$10 and the deadline is May 25.



Digital Connections Boot Camp

Bringing teachers together to learn, share, and connect using digital tools.

July 25 and 26, 2012 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center

Scottsbluff, Nebraska