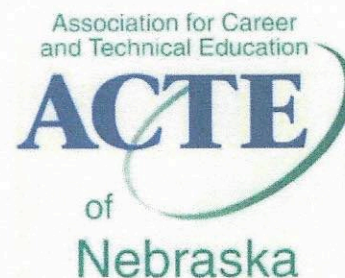


The COMMUNIQUE

Your Professional Voice



Winter 2014

Message from Your President

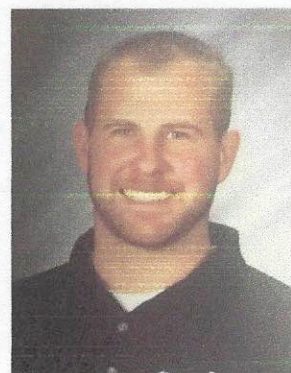
New Year, New Resolutions

For many of us this can be a difficult thing to organize. We celebrate our new year within our programs. I choose to look at each year as an actual near year rather than beginning in August and ending in May. It has been a great practice for me after hearing about it at the CareerTech Vision Conference in Las Vegas this past December. I would like to share with you some of these resolutions, not for me personally, but rather for CTE in our state and nation. Each step that we can do brings us closer to our goals. I have narrowed down two goals that can impact you locally and nationally.

Goal 1: To increase public awareness and appreciation for career and technical programs this year

This goes beyond just listing of how students do in our own programs and in contests. It is an awareness of all career and technical programs. This can be done in a variety of ways but the importance is who is listening and who is presenting.

- ☒ I suggest posting as many interesting career topics around your school that are offered. Collaboration among the CTE teachers can ease the "load" and strengthen the departments.
- ☒ Use correct language when describing career education and use models to demonstrate.
- ☒ Get the message out. Split up your CTE teachers into groups to speak with different organizations. This could include your school board, local clubs, industry meetings, cooperatives and anyone else that you feel should hear our message.
- ☒ Embrace the technical age. If people are trending on Twitter or Facebook, you should be too. If students are doing industry tours, post it. If students are doing projects, post it. If you are doing professional development, post it. It strengthens CTE by showing how much we do to prepare students.
- ☒ Incorporate the core courses in your programs. All teachers of CTE are teachers of core academics. Share this with key stakeholders in your district and state policy makers. Give specific examples of how you are doing this. You are strengthening your school district and CTE by demonstrating the application of the core courses.



- Brad Andreasen,
2013-2014 ACTEN President

In This Issue

- Scholarships & Grants
- Students Earning Credit for Work
- CTE Survey
- Seeking Nominations
- Changes to Excellence Awards
- Activate Your Business Community

(Continued on page 3)



National Policy Seminar

Congress has officially launched efforts to reauthorize the Perkins Act and shape the future of CTE. Make sure your voice is heard in these important conversations; attend NPS! March 3-5 2014, Washington, D.C. Registration now open at www.acteonline.org/nps.

2014 CEFN Scholarship & Grant Programs

The Career Education Foundation of Nebraska (CEFN) provides scholarships to secondary CTE students from Nebraska who plan to continue their career and technical education at a Nebraska postsecondary institution. CEFN also provides grants to career and technical education teachers for professional development activities.

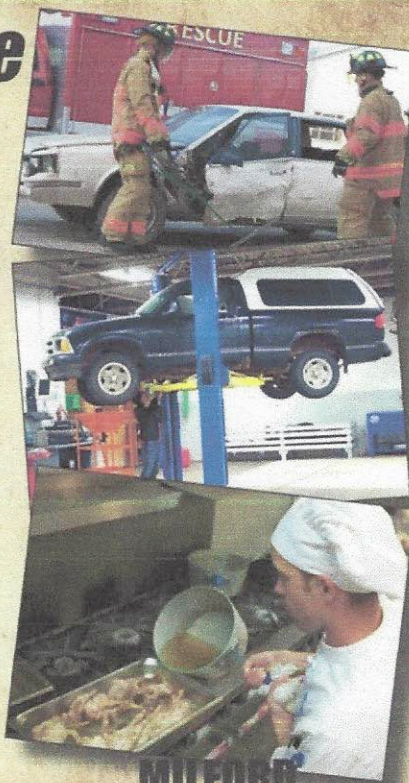
ACTEN members are welcome to nominate a deserving student for a CEFN scholarship or apply for a CEFN grant. The 2014 scholarship and grant application forms are posted on the ACTEN website (www.actenebraska.org - click on the CEFN tab) and on the EducationQuest website (<http://www.educationquest.org/scholarshipquest/>). You may also contact the CEFN office (e-mail to acte.nebraska@juno.com or call 402-423-6786) to request application forms. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2014.

Southeast community college How does a student measure value?

At SCC, it's . . .

- Affordable tuition & fees
- A faculty with years of experience in the field, and many have terminal degrees in their area
- A 94-percent graduate employment/continuing education rate
- Employers patiently waiting for SCC graduates, many offering jobs prior to graduation

**Get your hands
on SCC!**



BEATRICE

LINCOLN
www.southeast.edu

MILFORD

2013-14 ACTEN Officers

President:

Brad Andreasen
bandreasen@esu7.org

President-Elect:

Kelly Means
kelly.means@ops.org

Secretary:

Kristin Vest
krivest@kearneycats.com

Treasurer:

DeLayne Havlovic
delayne.havlovic@ops.org

Past President:

Ronita Jacobsen
rjacobse@esu8.org

ACTEN Website:

www.actenebraska.org

Webmaster:

Denise McNeel
demcneel@ginorthwest.org

ACTEN Office

PO Box 22607
Lincoln, NE 68542-2607

Phone/Fax:

402.423.6786

Email:

acte.nebraska@juno.com



ACTEN — 2013 Quality Association Standards Award Winner
DeLayne Havlovic, Brad Andreasen, Kelly Means, Doug Major



The Quality Association Standards provides benchmarks for state associations to determine levels of performance and satisfactory service to their members and prospective members.

New Year, New Resolutions, continued from Page 1

Goal 2: To assure growth in local, state and federal funding for these programs by communicating and working with legislators and government leaders this year.

This is crucial for all CTE programs. Advocacy for programs needs to remain a constant part of being a CTE teacher. With funding priorities changing year to year, establishment of key groups and continuous communication with those groups increase the stability of our programs.

- ☒ Contacts...Contacts...Contacts. Develop a list of local, state and federal leaders that you feel are important. State and federal contacts can easily be saved into a group email list serve for you to send out questions or concerns.
- ☒ Advocacy resources are available from ACTE's website for you to use as you see necessary.
- ☒ Sign up for issue briefs so that you are informed and can quickly reply.
- ☒ Keep it short. After attending advocacy training at National Policy Seminar, the best method is electronic communication and getting to the point. Understand that they are busy, as are we, and keeping to the topic is a must.

These two goals are not new. They are simply part of the mission of ACTE. Just like any goal or resolution it can be easy to put it aside and work on our own program locally. I found that even a small step can help with advocating for CTE. It is as simple as giving a report to your school board or sending a quick email to a representative. I hope that these ideas can become a trend for all CTE programs across the state.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARNING CREDIT AT WORK!

Deb Wolken, Lincoln Northeast High School
2013-14 NSBEA President

Employed Lincoln Public High School students have the opportunity to earn elective credits through their satisfactory job performance. These students have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 20 credits on their transcripts with students earning a maximum of 10 credits per semester (most semester classes are 5-credit classes). An average of approximately 10 work hours is required per week.

Students enrolled in a Work Experience class are students who may be credit deficient for a variety of reasons that vary from extended absences to students who may have missed a semester or more due to foreign exchange programs, etc. It is also evident to the instructors who coordinate this program, in each of the six high schools and the alternative school, that students may struggle in their high school classes, yet are deemed to be excellent workers in their respective employment positions.

In addition to the required work hours, students must meet with their high school teacher on a regular basis and submit weekly work hours in addition to submitting pay stubs. Students also complete on an independent basis a series of assignments designed to help them with the 'soft skills' required in most employment situations. These assignment topics range from getting along with co-workers and supervisors to self-evaluations and reflection paragraphs. Employment visits and employer evaluations are also required for each student.

Improving graduation rates is an emphasis of our school district and the Work Experience program allows students an opportunity to earn "work credits" to help fulfill graduation requirements. For some students their job allows them to "go shopping" more often; but for many students, their job helps them pay their car expenses in addition to supporting family members.

One of the culminating activities of Work Experience is requiring students to write about things they learned on the job that they likely would not have learned in the regular classroom. Allow me to share a few students' writing quotes:



I have ups and downs at my job but I have learned and improved so much. I look forward to continuing to learn about different types of management skills.

At my job I get to experience different things every day. It's never the same. I would choose this over a regular classroom any day because I get to do many things at once, and it is always hands on.

On the job it's different—you interact with complete strangers every day, in the classroom it's the same people. On the job you are faced with new activities to do every minute, something a classroom setting would not allow.

. . . I love my co-workers like family something school cannot compare to.

I learned that you have to do things that you don't want to do, but does pay off in the end. I have learned to stick to my obligations.

Other things I learned are to accept others' opinions because they can end up opening your mind to new ways to do things.

I learned the real meaning of constructive criticism and that it does help you to be a better employee.

. . . I learned to keep my control under pressure and speak kindly to others even when they are not kind to me. I understand that it is important to be professional because my company name is at stake. . . . Finally, I learned to work hard for the company and represent the company in the best way I can.



Have You Completed the Survey?



ACTEN along with the Nebraska Career Education Department are looking for ways to better meet the needs of CTE teachers across the state. We have worked together to create the Nebraska Career and Technical Education Survey.

Please go online and take the CTE Survey at <http://tiny.cc/ctesurvey2013>. Or, you may read the QR code to the left to link directly to the survey. The survey will take less than five minutes to complete and will provide valuable information. Please take the survey only once as it will be made available through this newsletter, career area list serves, and at the NCE Conference in June.

ACTEN Welcomes New Members:

Jane Blum - Business Education

Otis Pierce - New and Related Services

Amanda Thonen - Engineering and Technology Education



ACTEN Membership Pins

ACTEN's new membership pins were distributed to members at the 2013 NCE Conference. To encourage members to wear their ACTEN pins, we will have a drawing for a "Pin Prize" at this year's NCE Conference. Stop by the ACTEN table in the lobby at Younes Conference Center to show your pin and your name will be included in the drawing.

Members who did not receive a pin last year are encouraged to stop at the ACTEN table to pick up their pin and enter their name in the drawing.

2014 Nebraska Career Education Conference

June 3-5, 2014

NCE
Kearney, NE

ACTEN Board Seeking Nominations for 2014 Election

ACTEN is seeking nominations for several board positions for the 2014-15 school year. Positions that will appear on the 2014 election ballot include:

Officers:

- President Elect (nominee cannot be from Business Education)
- Secretary (2 year term)

Discipline Representatives: (3 year term)

- Agriculture Education (will be elected by NAEA members in June)
- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- New and Related Services

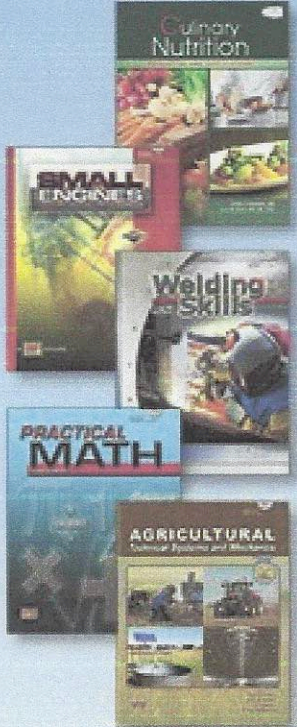
All positions will start on October 1, 2014. No prior board experience is required.

If you are interested running for an officer or discipline representative position, please contact Nominations Committee Chairperson Ronita Jacobsen at rjacobse@esu8.org. You may also contact the ACTEN Office at 402-423-6786 or acte.nebraska@juno.com for more information.

2014 ACTEN Election Process

The 2014 election ballots will be processed electronically again this year. In April, all voting members will receive a message from the ACTEN office that contains a link to the ballot for their discipline on Survey Monkey, along with their member id number. Members will need to use the link to access their ballot and vote.


Your Partner in Learning




Take your students to a higher level with print and digital learning materials from ATP. We publish a broad range of products that build confidence by focusing on the skills and applications necessary to succeed on the job site and in the classroom.

ATP learning materials feature:

- Effective Instructional Layout
- Field-Related Applications
- E-Textbook Options
- Digital Learning Tools



@ATP_Connect



Your Partner in Learning

AMERICAN TECHNICAL PUBLISHERS
800-323-3471 • www.atplearning.com

EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN 2014

ACTE has made several changes to the ACTE awards program for 2014. ACTE has also created an Awards Portal (separate from the ACTE website) for all members to use to apply electronically for state, regional and national awards. **ACTEN members must use the Awards Portal to apply for the 2014 ACTEN awards.**

We encourage ACTEN members to visit the [ACTE website](#) to review eligibility requirements for the member awards and decide which award best fits you. Then click the link to the [Awards Portal](#) to begin the application process. ACTEN has members across the state who are very qualified and who deserve recognition. You do not need to be nominated by ACTEN or your state discipline organization to apply for an award. Only you truly know the work you have done to have a successful program. Put modesty aside and apply for an award. Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your contributions to this profession and be recognized and admired by members across the state and possibly nationwide.

The deadline to apply for an ACTEN award is **March 1, 2014**. The ACTEN Awards Committee will judge Nebraska members' applications. ACTEN award recipients will be recognized at the Nebraska Career Education Conference (June 3-5, 2014 in Kearney, NE).

Changes to Member Awards

Award categories include:

Teacher of the Year (ACTEN will continue to recognize divisional teachers)

New Career and Technical Teacher

Career Guidance Award

The Outstanding Career and Technical Educator award has been split into two new awards. Apply for the new award that best matches your career role & eligibility:

Postsecondary Teacher of the Year - for individuals currently employed as full-time postsecondary CTE teachers/educators

Administrator of the Year - for individuals currently employed as full-time CTE administrators, program specialists, coordinators, and all other CTE personnel and staff (not employed as teachers or guidance professionals)

Carl Perkins Community Service Award - The Outstanding Teacher in Community Service award was combined with the Carl Perkins Service Award and is now called the Carl Perkins Community Service Award. This award is now open to all members (not just teachers) and is for "all members who have displayed a dedication to the improvement of CTE's impact on the lives of individuals and communities."

Again, we encourage members to consider applying for an ACTEN Award. Please don't hesitate to send a message to Awards Chairperson [Ronita Jacobsen](#) or the [ACTEN Office](#), if you have any questions or need assistance. If you prefer, you may call the ACTEN office at 402-423-6786.

Activate Your Business Community

DeLayne Havlovic, ACTEN Treasurer

Career and Technical Education courses and programs thrive on real-world connections. Many areas test and provide certification to students so that they have a direct link of their knowledge and skills to the professional world; courses are aligned to state standards that have connections to national standards and publications; and students make professional connections through internship and job shadow experiences.

One of the best ways to create a better understanding and have partnerships for these connections is through connecting and activating your local business community. This can be challenging. Schedules do not always mesh between schools and business and industry. Often, business community members want to get involved with schools, but do not know how to make the initial contacts or who to connect with in schools.

Make the best use of your advisory boards: This is a great way to make business connections. Per legislative requirements to receive Perkins grant funding, institutions must have an active advisory board that meets each year. Take a close look at who is involved with your advisory board. If this is an overall advisory board for your Perkins grant, include business and industry representation from all of the career fields and clusters that you have programs of study and courses in your school.

Create smaller, more focused advisory boards: If you have an academy program or one particular area that needs more community support, utilize an advisory board that contains just members from that particular industry. For example, in the Omaha Public School district, the Academy of Finance program utilizes an advisory board with industry professionals from banks, credit unions, insurance companies, the Chamber of Commerce, and postsecondary and education partners from area colleges and universities, and Economic and business education initiatives based in the Omaha community.

For the Omaha Public Schools Academies of Finance and Information Technology, community members from this focus group come together several times annually to provide opportunities for students. The advisory boards produce a conference or activity day for each grade band of students involved. They also work to seek internships and career exploration opportunities across their career field.

2014 ACTE REGION V CONFERENCE

April 23-26, 2014

Bismarck, North Dakota

Conference information including registration form is available at [http://
regionv2014.vcsu.edu](http://regionv2014.vcsu.edu). Early Bird Registration is due March 1st!