



The Communiqué

Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska

PO Box 89 ■ Waverly, NE 68462 ■ 402.480.9577 ■ actenebraska@gmail.com



Involvement

By Kelly Means, ACTEN President

Involvement means something different to all individuals. For some it is synonymous with membership, but for others it means more. A definition of involvement has a direct relationship to the reason for being involved. As my term as ACTEN president comes to an end and I sit to

write my final president’s message, I reflect on what INVOLVEMENT means to me. Why did I choose to get involved?

Two main reasons for getting involved in professional organizations come to mind:

- 1) Enhancing your network – This includes the opportunity to grow professionally through the development of professional relationships. Organizations allow for that safe environment of like-minded individuals to share ideas, ask for advice, experience leadership, be mentored, or be a mentor. The network of individuals is a constant reminder and igniter of the passion that got us into education to begin with.
- 2) Expanding your knowledge – Professional organizations provide access to a large amount of resources. Whether it is publications, communications, or current trends and issues, these resources are all from the perspective of field experts in a particular area of interest. Often professional development opportunities allow members to gain experiences in various topics or address personal areas of need.

I never thought I would one day be president of the organization; however, through this opportunity I have certainly enhanced my network and expanded my knowledge. For these reasons, I believe I am a better educator and I thank all of the ACTEN members for their support and continued involvement in their professional organizations.

Inside this issue

- President’s Address
- CSO Legislative Day
- MBA National Teacher Advisory Network
- Nebraska FFA Member Named Star Finalist
- ACTE Research Project
- Assembly of Delegates
- National FCCLA Youth Conference
- Mrs. Obama’s support of CTE
- ACTEN Career and Technical Awards
- Nebraska FBLA National Awards
- New and Reactivating Members



President – Kelly Means passing the gavel to President-Elect Stephanie Miller

Newsletter Editor – Stephanie Miller – smiller@heartlandschools.net

Webmaster – Denise McNeel – demcneel@ginorthwest.org

CSO Legislative Day 2015

Nebraska Career Student Organization (CSO) state officers met with government officials to share key information and data about the importance of career education at the third annual CSO Legislative Day on January 26. State officers from Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Future Educators of America (FEA); FFA; Future Health Professionals (HOSA) and SkillsUSA met for a day of learning about the legislative process as well as advocating for the CSOs.

Senator Kate Sullivan from District 41 hosted the day and spoke to the officers. Rich Katt, Director of Nebraska Career Education, also greeted CSO student leaders followed by a presentation by lobbyist Jessica Kolterman from the Nebraska Farm Bureau. Jessica shared the process for passing a bill by using real examples as well as explained the lobbying process.

After greeting state senators in the Rotunda, the officers observed the Unicameral in action during the legislative session.

During the afternoon state officers visited the senators' offices to share information on Nebraska career education. The day concluded with the observation of committee hearings on topics ranging from Banking, Commerce and Insurance to Education.

Career Student Organizations are a vital component of Nebraska's Career Education System and this annual event helps to educate legislators about their unique value.



Nebraska Career Student Organization State Officers participating in the third annual CSO Legislative Day assembled in the State Capitol Courtyard to commemorate the event.



FBLA State Officers AnnaLee Christensen and Brittany Blaser meet with Senator Paul Schumacher.



Senator Bill Kintner shares an idea with Cole Talbort, FCCLA Vice President of National Programs and Trevor Lockman, FBLA State Vice President.



FCCLA: Nebraska State Vice President of Development Connor McManigal with National 1st Vice President Sarah Smith speaks with District 15 Senator David Schnoor.



FEA State Officer Halston Belcastro meets with District 31 Senator Rick Kolowski.

MBA National Teacher Advisory Network

Dawn Friedrich has over 20 years' experience teaching business education, serving at Wausa (Nebraska) Public School since 1997. She is an FBLA Advisor and a Board Member for Nebraska FBLA. She served as the Nebraska State BEA President and is currently its Webmaster. As the only business teacher in her school, Dawn teaches a wide range of classes from accounting to personal finance to information technology. She has been named a Gold Star Teacher for three years under Wise, the Financial Literacy Program. We welcome her to our National Advisory Network!

Teachers from throughout the nation were named to the **MBA National Teacher Advisory Network** this spring and will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2014.

The *MBA Advisory Network* counsels the organization's staff regarding work to support high school and college business and marketing education nationwide. Advisers provide both structured and informal feedback on a wide range of national initiatives designed to ensure that local programs align curricula with needs of the business community with the ultimate goal of ensuring that high school and college graduates develop key skills critical to employability.

The 2014-15 agenda for the Network includes:

- Perceptions of MBA Research** (July)
- MBA Curriculum Builder** (August)
- Badging** (September)
- School/District decision-making processes** (October)
- LAP instructional modules** (November)
- Accreditation of exemplary programs** (December)
- MBA Learning Center** (January)
- National Business Administration standards** (February)
- MBA Research web site** (March)
- Local business engagement** (April)
- MBA Research online store** (May)
- Assessment and certification** (June)

Teachers selected for the network were screened on the basis of professional qualifications, including experience with contemporary business curricula, active support of an appropriate student organization such as BPA, DECA, or FBLA, engagement of the local business community, and proof-of-learning activities such as testing and realistic project work.



Nebraska FFA vice presidents, Andrea Wach (middle) of the Hayes Center chapter and Blair Hartman (right) of the Imperial chapter spoke with Senator Dan Hughes (left) about the importance and effectiveness of agricultural education in Nebraska.



State Senator Tyson Larsen met with Paige Dexter, FFA State President and Shane Asher, HOSA State Secretary.



SkillsUSA State Officers Anthony Connot and Emily Sysel visit with District 3 Senator Tommy Garrett

US Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education

Know a CTE student that deserves recognition

Contact: Executive Director Simone Olson at (202) 205-8719 or Simone.Olson@ed.gov for further instructions.

Continued from Page 3

To maintain their positions in the network teachers will undergo annual training and orientation, and participate in a variety of distance-based activities including conference calls, webinars, and survey work.

In exchange for their participation in the unpaid advisory network, advisers' schools will receive a number of direct benefits, including free access to the online MBA Learning Center, professional development activities for the adviser, and free use of various proof-of-learning assessments used nationally.



Dawn Friedrich, FBLA Advisor at Wasau Public School

MBA Research, the sponsoring organization for the advisory network, is a not-for-profit association of thirty state education agencies. Based in Columbus, Ohio, this "consortium of states" supports the teaching of various career-oriented business courses (e.g., accounting, marketing, and entrepreneurship). The organization's mission is focused on helping local teachers implement rigorous, contemporary business administration curriculum and ensuring that student learning is documented in ways that will support college and career interests.

Nebraska FFA Member Named American Star Finalist

BY National FFA/Bryce Doeschot
Courtesy of Nebraska Rural Radio Association

The National FFA Organization has selected four students from throughout the United States as finalists for its 2015 top achievement award: American Star Farmer.

The American Star Farmer Award represents the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. Recognized are FFA members who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs; earned an American FFA Degree, the highest level of achievement the organization bestows upon a member; and met agricultural education, leadership and scholarship requirements.

The finalists include:

Dylan Kale Massa of the Liberal FFA Chapter in Missouri
Logan Peters of the Pender FFA Chapter in Nebraska
Thomas Wayne Glascock of the Pilot Point FFA Chapter in Texas
Austin Wippel of the Westfall FFA Chapter in Ohio

Logan Peters is currently a UNL Student majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship. His operation deals with beef cattle and alfalfa production. Peters says that he has worked on this project since he was a freshman in high school.

"I'm passionate about what I do and so it is easy to tell stories, easy to share the facts about what I do with my operation. I'm excited to meet the other finalists and to stand on the stage on October 29th when they name the winner" Peters said.

ACTE Fellowship Program is an instrument to provide **professional development, policy knowledge, and leadership development.**

Applications due November 1, 2015.

Go to the awards portal on ACTE online.

Continued on to Page 6

ACTE Kicks off Multi-step Research Project on High-quality CTE

Alexandria, VA - The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) today released the first component of a multi-phase research project that seeks to identify and share best practices in high-quality career and technical education (CTE). The paper, titled "[Defining High-quality CTE: Contemporary Perspectives on CTE Quality](#)," identifies commonalities among the many voices in the national discussion of high-quality CTE, and lays the groundwork to fuse their ideas into the development of a singular framework that could guide leaders from the education and policy communities in developing the next generation of CTE learning.

"I'm thrilled that ACTE is now leading the way through research that will identify and evaluate strategies from across the country as a means to find the best path forward for CTE programs," said ACTE Executive Director LeAnn Wilson. "By conducting this important work to define high-quality CTE and engage with stakeholders who can make these ideas a reality on the ground, we can strengthen the CTE enterprise and improve outcomes for students."

The research examined a broad range of documents to incorporate information from a variety of sources, ranging from white papers and national organization positions to organizational standards and rubrics. Findings from the research indicate that these guiding frameworks mirror ongoing trends in successful CTE programs, while still containing a broad diversity of tactics for implementing high-quality CTE programs of study. This diversity of scope and structure among frameworks sets the stage for conversations to establish clarity and consistency related to high-quality CTE.

The release of this paper marks the first step in the project's initial phase, which focuses on defining high-quality CTE programs of study. Within this phase, the next steps will expand on this research's findings for use in the development of ACTE's own high-quality CTE program of study framework, which will then be piloted to test the tool's success. Later phases of the project will focus on evaluating and recognizing CTE quality. The paper is available to download here: <http://actete.ch/1GYaIsF>.

About ACTE

The [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\)](#) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.



Continued from Page 4

Each star finalist receives \$2,000 from the National FFA Foundation.

A panel of judges will interview finalists and select one winner for the award at the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 28 -31, 2015, in Louisville, Ky. The winner will receive an additional \$2,000 and be announced at the convention and expo's third general session, as part of the Stars Over America Pageant on Thursday, Oct. 29. The Stars Over America is a special audiovisual presentation featuring the star award finalists funded as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Visit <http://www.FFA.org/stars> for more information about the American Star Awards.

Continued from Page 1

As educators we constantly encourage our students to be involved. Studies show that students involved in clubs, organizations, or athletics are often more likely to succeed in future endeavors and perform at a higher level in school. But as educational professionals, do we practice what we teach? Are we involved in a way that provides additional opportunities in our professional arena, as well as assist us in performing at our highest level? Take a moment to think about your professional involvement. What does it mean to you and what could it mean for Every Student, Every Day?



Michael Connet, Senior Director of Programs and Communication accepts a token of appreciation from President – Kelly Means

Assembly of Delegates

The ACTEN Assembly of Delegates took place on June 3, 2015, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Minutes from the 2014 Assembly of Delegates and the Treasurer's Report through March 31, 2015 were presented and approved. Michael Connet, ACTE Senior Director of Communications, was in attendance at the Assembly of Delegates and throughout the conference. Michael brought greetings on behalf of ACTE and expressed his anticipation of what was to come in learning about Nebraska Career Education. ACTEN President Kelly Means presented Michael with a gift to express our appreciation for his attendance and participation at the NCE Conference.

Nominating and Awards committee chair, Brad Andreasen, announced the results of this year's election of officers and discipline representatives. Stephanie Miller will begin her term as President on October 1st and Anne Schmall (Family and Consumer Sciences) will serve as president-elect. DeLayne Havlovic was re-elected to serve as ACTEN Treasurer. Carmen Warner was appointed by FCSTN to the remainder of Cheryl Gustafson's term due to retirement. Melissa Hansen was elected to represent Guidance and Career Development. Brittany McPhillips was re-elected to represent Marketing Education. NAEA members were scheduled to be elected during the week's activities.

ACTEN 2015-16 president, Stephanie Miller, and president-elect, Anne Schmall, will both represent ACTEN at ACTE Assembly of Delegates that will take place during CareerTech Vision 2015 in New Orleans, LA. Brad Andresean opened the floor for nominations for the third delegate position and one alternate delegate. Nominees included Suzanne Neefe, Katie Frenzen, and Kristin Vest.

Continued from Page 6

Ballots were cast and counted and it was announced that Kristin Vest will serve as ACTEN's delegate and Suzanne Neeffe will be an alternate delegate.

Committee reports were brief and written reports were provided in delegate folders as necessary. Katherine Ballobin reported that the 2014-15 financial records were audited and approved. Budget committee chair, DeLayne Havlovic, gave an overview of minor changes in the proposed budget to accommodate dues increase and Executive Director travel. The budget was approved as proposed.

Program of Work committee chair, Stephanie Miller, reported the continued focus for the upcoming year will be on the recruitment of new teachers for all Career and Technical Education areas. She will keep this in the forefront as it is a specific need throughout the state and nation.

As the meeting continued, ACTEN president, Kelly Means, recognized outgoing division representatives Thomas Dux, Cheryl Gustafson, and Daphne Hall as well as outgoing CEFN President, Kathleen Kennedy, and past-president, Brad Andreasen, for their work as part of ACTEN. Kelly remarked on her professional growth, expanded horizons in CTE and increase in the network of people during her year of service.

Stephanie Miller expressed her eagerness to assist CTE teachers in making sure their students are career ready.

Adjournment of the meeting occurred at 7:45a.m. by Stephanie Miller.

FCCLA National Leadership Conference Draws Record Number of Youth Leaders from Across the Country

More than 8,000 students and advisers converged for inspiration, training and opportunities to make a difference locally and across the country

July 13th, 2015 – Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) brought more than 8,000 of its student leaders, members and advisers to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. July 6th-9th to participate in its National Leadership Conference. Nebraska was well represented by over 300 students, advisers, and guests.

The conference provided opportunities for students and advisers to come together for fun and to listen to inspiring speakers, as well as to expand leadership skills, sharpen talents and explore career pathways. The theme of this year's conference was "Together We Are Healthy" and attendees were challenged to explore the fitness of body, mind and spirit that is a product of healthy attitudes and habits; and to pursue this whole health through the conference's great learning and networking opportunities.

Notice: Fall ACTEN Board Meeting – October 17, 2015

Where: Grand Island Northwest High School

Time: 9:00am

Continued from Page 7

Nebraska delegates not only participated in sessions and competitive events but led the way in both. Two State Officers, 1st Vice President Courtney Russell from Medicine Valley and Secretary Luis Cuevas from Elkhorn South presented sessions on membership to packed audiences. Also, Justine Bauer from Elm Creek shared information on the best ways and steps to take to create an exceptional community service project.

In addition to the many learning and networking experiences offered at the conference, more than 30 Family and Consumer Sciences related events, also known as STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events were offered, providing competitions in such areas as Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Sports Nutrition, Career Investigation, and Fashion Construction for more than 4,000 event participants. Nebraska came home with 90 Gold medals, 62 Silver Medals, and 9 Bronze medals and had multiple individuals and teams score in the top 10 nationally. Addy Vinton and Liddy Vinton of Mullen placed 1st in the nation in Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation for their project in which they planned a restaurant and created a website to feature the highlights of their business.

Remarks by the First Lady at Reach Higher Champions of Change Event

This is a transcript of a news briefing that Mrs. Obama gave on CTE support and awareness

MRS. OBAMA: Hello, everyone! How are you all doing? Please rest yourselves.

Let me start by thanking Jacob for that wonderful introduction and for sharing your story. It is amazing. It's inspiring. It is the reason why we do what we do. . . .

I also want to thank the educators, the philanthropists, the public and private sector leaders that are here today. Hello to all of you. Welcome.

But most of all, I want to thank all the students that are here

But not just the students in this room, but there are thousands of young people who are joining us remotely from national conferences for the Technology Students Association as well as the Future Business Leaders of America. So hi out there to all of you as well. (Applause.)

And really it's the students across the country who are studying and learning and dreaming big -- you all are really the reason why we're here today.

We're here because we believe in you. We do. Absolutely we believe in you. We're here because we want to make sure that you get all the skills and the tools that you need to reach your dreams. And those dreams are amazing and they're big and they're huge, so you need all the support you can get. We're here because we know that one of the best ways to do that is through career and technical education -- CTE.

And I don't know how many people know about CTE, but more people should, because in today's world, a high school diploma just isn't enough. I can't say that enough. A high school diploma is not enough to be able to compete in today's globalizing economy.

Continued from Page 8

If you want to learn cutting-edge skills, if you want to prepare yourself for college and a good career, if you want to go into the culinary arts like Jacob, or start your own business, or work in a hospital, or go into 3D printing -- whatever it is, it's important for students to realize that a four-year university is not your only option. It is not your only option. We talk about four-year universities all the time, but when we talk about Reach Higher, we talk about completing high school and going beyond in whatever way, shape or form, and it's not always a four-year university.

In fact, for many young people and their families, CTE can be the best option because you can get all the professional skills you need for a good job in a high-demand field and you can do it at a fraction of the time and, more importantly, a fraction of the cost as compared to a four-year university.

More importantly, these are high-quality programs that push students academically and challenge students to sharpen their critical thinking, their problem-solving, their communication skills -- as we can see with Jacob, who had all that going on all at once. And increasingly -- and this is very important -- there's often a job at the end of it, a paycheck waiting for you right there when you graduate. And not a lot of college graduates can often say that.

So Career and Tech programs make a whole lot of sense. And that's why across the country, schools and businesses are working together to develop curricula, which is exciting, so that students can get tailor-made courses for the positions that companies actually need to fill. This is why high schools are partnering up with community colleges so that young people can earn college credit and sometimes even leave high school with professional credentials in hand. And I speak at high school graduations all around the country, and I'm always impressed when students come up and say that they're already ready to launch into their field. It's quite impressive.

And every day, students are getting hands-on experience through these opportunities at hospitals and businesses, schools and just about everywhere else. My staff tells me that somebody is getting experience on a 65-foot research vessel out in the ocean -- that's happening somewhere. You guys know about this? It's pretty cool, pretty cool.

And these kinds of opportunities are leading to a wave of innovation from our young people. Here at the Innovation Fair today, I understand that we're going to see a four-inch cube satellite that will be launched into orbit to help us study and analyze our atmosphere and soil. Pretty cool. Yes, wow. I agree. (Laughter.)

There's a system of laser sensors that detect a baseball strike zone -- for all you baseball fans, I'm sure that's very exciting. (Laughter.) And a 3D printer that creates chocolate sculptures -- yes, everybody likes that one. (Laughter.) Everybody can connect with that.

So CTE programs like these are good for students because they can learn new skills and find their passion. They're good for businesses because they can tap into a pipeline of skilled talent. And they're good for our country because these programs help us grow our economy, compete with other countries, and unleash the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

And that's why, earlier this year, my husband expanded the United States Presidential Scholars program to honor some of our best and brightest students in Career and Technical Education. And later this summer, we're going to be launching the Reach Higher Career App Challenge because we want to make it easier for students across the country to find a CTE program that fits with their passions and with their goals.

Continued from Page 9

So I know we've got some folks here today from our biggest tech companies, and I want to challenge all of you and people across the country -- educators, career counselors, our business leaders, everyone out there, I want you to put your heads together and think about ways to design a new app so that we'll help students connect with the programs and the jobs they need to realize their dreams.

I want you to help our students see which jobs are in high demand in their communities. I want you to help them see which programs give them the skills that they need. And I also want you to help them figure out how much all of this costs and what their future earning power might be in that given field. I mean, you can imagine for a kid who may not be motivated, if they see a job title and a salary, they can understand the purpose of it all -- which we're always trying to do with our young people. So imagine if all that could happen through an app. There are so many things an app might do for our young people and we want to see what all of you will come up with.

This challenge officially launches in a couple of weeks, but right now you can go to edprizes.com to sign up for updates and to get more information. So I hope you all take up the challenge and see what we can come up with.

But to all of the young people here, I want you all to know that we're doing everything that we can to help you fill your potential, whether that's making it easier for you to find career pathways just by using your smartphone; whether it's everything my husband is doing to bring down the cost of higher education and ultimately make two-year community colleges free for responsible students. That's a hope that we -- (applause.)

We're also, in addition to all that we're doing, we're depending on you as the students to do your part as well. And that means for all of you here, I know you're already doing it, but I can't say it enough -- we need you all to just get it together. To study as hard as you can. To put everything into your studies that you can do. Reach higher for yourselves every single day. There has to be a hunger that you all have that no one can fund for you. There can be no policy written to make you find your -- to prioritize your education. It's on you guys.

And every day you have to come in with that hunger. You got to be ready. You got to be studying. You got to be in class. If you're online, you got to be there. You got to do those assignments, make it all happen. So you've got to finish the job. No one can do that for you. Not the President, not the First Lady. I don't care how much money is out there, if you don't have it here and here (pointing to her heart and head) -- it's not going to happen.

So we want you to complete your education. That is a must. There is no alternative. Finish your education. Whether you do it through one of these fantastic CTE programs, or whether you go to a community college, four-year college -- whatever you do, you've got to finish your education. But you've got to get something. You've got to get a degree, a certificate -- something you've got to have. And if you do that, you'll have the tools that you'll need to fulfill your dreams.

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

Continued from Page 10

And as you work to get your education -- I want to close with what I said at the outset -- just know that we believe in you. We do all of this because we know you have the raw material that it takes to do whatever is in your heart to do. Barack and I know this because we stand where we are today because we had a lot of support and we had something in our hearts and minds that told us that we could do it.

So we believe in you -- all right? If you don't walk away from this with any other message, is that you've got a whole lot of folks who think you can be great, and you've got a country who actually needs you to be great. We're counting on you to be that next generation to take over all that we're doing. So you got to be trained, you got to be ready, you got to be hungry, and you got to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.

So keep up the great work. I hope you have a phenomenal time here at the White House. Ask a lot of questions. Be impressive. Don't be shy. (Laughter.) I don't have to tell that to you. (Laughter.) And just know that we are going to keep working as hard as we can -- not just here in the White House, but beyond. Mentoring you and raising the next generation up to be great is something -- it's a personal goal for me and my husband. So we're only getting started. So we're hoping that you'll be ready to partner with us when we get out of here. Okay? (Laughter.)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING | **CENGAGE Learning**

CAREER PATHWAYS ARE A JOURNEY...
Discover your passion.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

HEALTH SCIENCE

MARKETING

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

NGL.Cengage.com/CTE | 888-915-3276



Examining a part without destroying its usefulness. That's NDT. Graduates from SCC's program earn high wages in this demanding industry. Learn more at www.southeast.edu/NondestructiveTestingTech.

Milford Campus

BEATRICE

LINCOLN

MILFORD

ACTEN Career and Technical Awards

Do you know someone that is an outstanding Career and Technical educator?

Do you know someone that is innovative in the classroom?

Do you know someone who is a leader in Career and Technical Education?

Consider nominating a colleague for a 2016 Career and Technical Award of Outstanding Contributions.

The ACTE Member Awards recognize excellence and dedication within the field of career and technical education among ACTE members. Recipients of these awards are exceptional individuals who have contributed to the success of CTE through the quality of their work and their involvement in the CTE community.

There are seven Member Awards presented:

ACTEN Teacher of the Year and ACTEN Outstanding Teacher by Division

This award recognizes the finest career and technical teachers at the middle/secondary school level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities. Members employed as full-time classroom/laboratory CTE teachers at the middle/secondary school level are eligible recipients of this award.

ACTEN Postsecondary Teacher of the Year

This award recognizes career and technical teachers and teacher educators who have demonstrated excellence and best practices in career and technical education at the postsecondary level. Members employed as full-time postsecondary CTE teachers or teacher educators are eligible recipients of this award.

Continued from Page 12

ACTEN New Teacher of the Year

This award recognizes CTE teachers with 3-5 years' experience (at the middle, secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers. Members employed as full-time classroom/laboratory CTE teachers (at the secondary or postsecondary level) who are relatively new to the teaching profession (with 3-5 years' experience) are eligible recipients of this award.

ACTEN Administrator of the Year

This award recognizes CTE administrators, program specialists/coordinators, and other CTE personnel who have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective career and technical programs. Members employed as full-time CTE administrators, program specialists, coordinators, and all other CTE personnel and staff (not employed as teachers or guidance professionals) are eligible recipients of this award.

ACTEN Carl Perkins Community Service Award

This award is presented to ACTE members who have used CTE to make a significant impact on a community/humanitarian cause through leadership in programs and activities that promote community involvement. This award was named in honor of the late Congressman Perkins, and is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the same humanitarian concerns exemplified by Congressman Perkins.

ACTEN Outstanding Member Award

To recognize ACTEN members who have made significant contributions to the improvement, promotion, development, and progress of Career and Technical Education at local, district, or state levels in Nebraska.

All candidates are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Accomplishments and innovations that exhibit the quality of the candidate for the award
- Contributions to the CTE community (can include activities within their institutions, communities, ACTE and other organizations)

For more information on how applications are scored, please see the national ACTE Member Awards Scoring Rubric at www.acteonline.org.

Application Process

Candidates begin the application process by nominating themselves (or being nominated by a peer) for their state award. Candidates must hold the appropriate position at the time of initial nomination (eg. be a secondary school CTE teacher if applying for the Teacher of the Year.)

How to Apply

Candidates should submit their applications on the ACTE Awards Portal by March 1, 2016.

Deadlines

On the ACTE Awards Portal select the Nebraska link to view updated deadlines and contact information.

For more information, contact Murleen Bellinger, ACTEN Executive Director, at actenebraska@gmail.com or call 402-480-9577.

Nebraska FBLA National Award Winners Named

More than 300 Nebraska students and advisers recently attended the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference in Chicago.

Nebraska FBLA members competed June 29-July 2 in 70 competitive events. More than 11,000 FBLA members from 46 states, as well as U.S. territories and international chapters attended the conference.

Nebraska members brought home 22 Top Ten awards, including 3 first-place awards.

The Top Ten award winners are:

First Place

- **Banking & Financial Systems:** Catie Theiler, Kami Timm, Trevor Koger, Arlington High School
- **Network Design:** Josh Jones, Nate Brown, Zach Brown, Bellevue East Senior High School
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** Cody McCain and Riley Knust, Tri County Junior-Senior High School; Heather Bentley, Amherst High School; Mia Kegley, Kearney Senior High School

Second Place

- **Future Business Leader:** Brenna Backemeyer, Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- **Word Processing:** Kaitlyn Quiring, Heartland High School

Third Place

- **Accounting II:** Colton Siebert, Heartland High School
- **Banking and Financial Systems:** Eric Le and Jacob Shiers, Lincoln Southwest High School
- **Emerging Business Issues:** Alex Schneider, Allison Penner, Kristin Bell, Aurora High School
- **Partnership with Business Project:** Cristian Perdomo, Madeline Hall, Paige Nelson, Bellevue West Senior High School

Fourth Place

- **Business Presentation:** Claire Vanness, Sam Hennings, Tori Clausen, Wausa High School
- **Local Chapter Annual Business Report:** Callie Zeorian, Brandon Frates, Owen Kunz, Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- **Sales Presentation:** Alyssa Faber, Aurora High School

Fifth Place

- **Business Presentation:** Kendra Alberts, Johnson-Brock High School

Seventh Place

- **Sports and Entertainment Management:** Brandon Keffer and Matt Jensen, Arlington High School

Eighth Place

- **Future Business Leader:** Samantha Teten, Johnson-Brock High School
- **Mobile Application Development:** Edmon Adams, Westside High School

Ninth Place

- **Desktop Publishing:** Claire Kuenne and Makenna Wallin, Chase County High School
- **Emerging Business Issues:** Mirissa Scholting, Naomi Snyder, Natalie Elwood, Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- **Management Decision Making:** Alicia Zeng and Ojus Jain, Lincoln East High School
- **Sports and Entertainment Management:** Ashley Colwell, Sally Brechbill, Tommie Brechbill, Stanton High School

Continued from Page 14

Tenth Place

- **Management Decision Making:** Blake Bracht, Bradie Schmidt, Natalie Schmidt, Arlington High School
- **Network Design:** Austin Shroder, Devin Duren, Thomas Kinman, Grand Island Senior High School

The following students were Top 15 Finalists:

- **American Enterprise Project:** Brenna Backemeyer, Natalie Elwood, Wyatt Story, Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- **Computer Game and Simulation Programming:** Treyten Carey, Grand Island Senior High School
- **Desktop Application Programming:** Jared Frenzel, Auburn High School
- **Entrepreneurship:** Jessica Swantek and Jeffrey Vanderhart, Twin River Senior High School
- **Future Business Leader:** Emily Pawoll, Tekamah-Herman High School
- **Hospitality Management:** Aarsal Aktar, Tim Joe, Cody Wullenwaber, Bennington High School
- **Public Speaking II:** Rachel Shadley, Lakeview High School
- **Sales Presentation:** Makayla Coan, Lakeview High School

Other national awards included:

- 1st Place in Membership Increase in Mountain Plains Region
- 2nd Place in Largest Increase in State Chapter Membership in Mountain Plains Region
- 6th Place in Seven Up Award
- 10th Place in Big Ten Business Achievement Awards (BAA)
- 10th Place in Business Achievement Awards Fight to the Finish

National Business Achievement Awards – America Level (top award in this four-level program)

- Trevor Koger of Arlington High School
- Melanie Slama of Auburn High School
- Lauren Wiegand of Bellevue West Senior High School
- Whitney Aman of Blair High School
- Adrienne Cavill of Kearney Senior High School
- Brittany Blaser of Lakeview High School
- Taylor McHugh of Marian High School
- Cody McCain and William Stokebrand of Tri County Junior-Senior High School
- Jessica Wieck of Twin River Senior High School

National Community Service Awards – Achievement Level

- Trevor Koger of Arlington High School
- Cammi Merklin of Dundy County Stratton High School
- Travis Graffe and Jacob Meeske of Weeping Water High School
- Taylor McHugh and Molly Haddick of Marian High School
- Whitney Laritson of Waverly High School
- Mason Frey of Lincoln Southwest High School
- AnnaLee Christensen and Samantha Young of Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca High School
- Alyssa Faber of Aurora High School

Continued from Page 15

National Recognition Event Winners

- **Who’s Who in FBLA:** Trevor Koger, Arlington High School,
- **Nebraska FBLA Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser:** Jane Blum, Minden
- **Nebraska FBLA National Businessperson of the Year:** Kelly Lammers, Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance
- **National FBLA Wall of Fame Members:** Pat Hinkle, Bellevue West Senior High School, and Shawna Koger, Arlington High School

Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit

- Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- Raymond Central High School
- Bellevue West Senior High School
- Lakeview High School
- Twin River Senior High School
- Arlington High School
- Blair High School
- Minden High School
- Fillmore Central High School
- Tri County Junior-Senior High School
- Dundy County Stratton High School
- Johnson-Brock High School
- Sandhills High School
- Crete High School
- Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca High School
- Gibbon High School
- Bellevue East High School

Outstanding Chapter Award

- Blair High School
- Dundy County Stratton High School
- Elmwood-Murdock Junior-Senior High School
- Fillmore Central High School
- Johnson-Brock High School

Welcome New and Reactivating ACTEN members

Trades and Industry

Trevor Korte

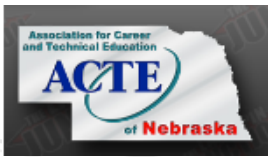
Family and Consumer Sciences

Rose Bernstein
 Maureen Bray
 Sherry Black
 Chelsey Greene
 Denise Haag
 Kay Kruger
 Julie Lokie
 Lisa Micek-Johnson
 Carrie Mullendore-Dilsaver
 Cindy Reeves
 Rebecca Renner
 Julie Stahr
 Cherise Wry
 Stefanie Wenz
 Michaela Vestecka

Agriculture Education

Victoria Armstrong
 Courtney Bahe
 David Barnard
 MaKayla Coufal
 Katelyn DeHaan
 Leslie Dugan
 Taylor Haley
 Tim Hendricks
 Lane Kirby
 Tim Negley
 Morgan Schwartz
 Stacie Turnbull
 Kelsey Wetovick

Follow us on Twitter: @ACTENebraska
 Like us on Facebook: ActeNebraska
 Visit our website: www.actenebraska.org



ACTEN Board goes through Revision Process

This past July, the ACTEN board met in Grand Island to revision the association. We discussed what our true purpose was and looked at our strategic plan for 2015-2016 to see if our plan matched where we feel we should be heading in order to be more beneficial to our students.



ACTEN announces Administrator of the Year - DeLayne Havlovic

DeLayne Havlovic currently serves as the Curriculum Supervisor in the Omaha Public Schools for business, marketing, information technology, and health sciences. He is responsible for district wide implementation and continual development of curriculum and career pathways for these disciplines. He provides instructional coaching, curriculum support, evaluation, and professional development for 125 BMIT and Health Sciences teachers. He assists with staff development, coordination of Perkins funds, chairs many committees, supports CSO advisers, and the list goes on. He is a member of a variety of professional organizations. In these professional organizations he has served as president-elect, president, past president, treasurer, and newsletter editor. He has served on a variety of committees at the national level including, but not limited to the program director for the 2014 National Business Education Association Convention and the chair of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee for NBEA. He has attended and served as a presenter for numerous conventions. As a fellow board member writes, "DeLayne epitomizes quality leadership and dedicated service in his daily responsibilities within Omaha Public Schools and especially in his service to ACTEN and career education in Nebraska."

ACTEN 2014-2015 Officers



President –
Kelly Means
kelly.means@ops.org



President Elect –
Stephanie Miller
smiller@heartlandschools.net



Secretary –
Kristin Vest
krivest@kearneycats.com



Treasurer –
DeLayne Havlovic
delayne.havlovic@ops.org



Past President –
Brad Andreasen
bandreasen@twinriver.esu7.org



Executive Director –
Murleen Bellinger
actenebraska@gmail.com



ACTE Senior Director of Programs and Communication - Michael Connet, award-winner – DeLayne Havlovic, ACTEN President – Kelly Means

ACTEN Post Secondary Teacher of the Year Jean Condon

Jean Condon teaches business and technology courses at Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte Community College campus in a variety of learning venues. She feels it is her responsibility in the classroom to provide a learning environment that will support the student's ideas, discoveries, innovations, opinions, and visions. She believes in giving students tools to be successful in life and to become responsible for their own learning success. Jean has been involved in professional organizations since she began her teaching career. She is a member of ACTE, ACTEN, NBEA, MPBEA, NSBEA, ARBE-DPE, NEA, and PBL. She has not only been a member, but an officer in several of these organizations. She has been the president of DPE and NSBEA and currently serves as the Nebraska Membership Director to the M-PBEA board. Jean has published several articles and presented workshops at conferences for many of these organizations as well. Jean's effectiveness as a teacher is demonstrated through the accomplishments of her PBL students having received awards at the national level. The many awards she has won on the state and national level demonstrate her effectiveness as a professional.



ACTEN Business Teacher of the Year and ACTEN Outstanding Teacher of the Year Patricia Olson

Since 2002, Pat Olson has served as the chairperson for the CTE Department at Blair High School. In 2009, the Blair's CTE Department was recognized as a Nebraska Career Education Outstanding Program under her leadership. She developed a career exploration course, which she has shared with other teachers across the state. She is a Perkins grant author and has secured funding for staff development, equipment, computers, software, and modules. With hours beyond the master's degree, Pat considers herself a life-long learner. Being a life-long learner is essential to be an effective business education instructor with the ever-changing curriculum. She feels the changing business curriculum makes this career exciting, innovative, and challenging. Her goal is to prepare students for what tomorrow will bring. Students must develop marketable skills, embrace change, and be prepared for the challenges they will encounter. Through Blair's very successful FBLA Chapter, as their advisor, the students have won many awards on the state and national level. Pat has held many leadership positions in her professional organizations and has served on the FBLA national and state Board of Directors.



ACTEN Car Perkins Community Service Award Shawna Koger

Shawna Koger has taught business education at Arlington Public Schools for 19 of her 21 years of teaching. She has served as the district's Perkins Coordinator and oversaw the Perkins ESU#3 Consortium for a number of years. Her daily teaching assignment includes three courses that are dually enrolled through Metropolitan Community College and the on-the-job training program. In addition, she serves as an FBLA adviser, is on the school's technology committee, and is the President of the Arlington Education Association. As an FBLA adviser, Shawna has served six years on the Nebraska FBLA Board of Directors. She has advised six state officers and had over 95 students qualify for the National Leadership Conference. Her chapter takes an active role in the Arlington community providing service. Service projects that Shawna has been instrumental in starting or overseeing include running concessions for youth sports, recycling projects, helping with the Blair Memorial Hospital rummage sale, serving at the AHS alumni banquet, and helping with the New Year's Eve Gala.



ACTEN Outstanding Member for 2015

After many years of dedication to ACTEN, Lila Kulwicksi decided it was time to retire. She was a true asset to the organization, and for her years of service she was unanimously voted as the Outstanding Member for 2015.



Appreciation Plaque for a year of service as President is passed to Kelly Means. From L to R: Senior Director of Programming and Communications – Michael Connet, President – Kelly Means, President Elect – Stephanie Miller



Trevor Koger was chosen as the NCEIF student scholarship award winner. Pictured from L to R: NCEIF Executive Director – Heath Mello, Scholarship Recipient – Trevor Koger, NCEIF chair – Kathleen Kennedy

4 Questions Nebraska Educators Should Ask Before Retiring

If you are a veteran educator, 50+ years of age, OR within 5 years of retirement, there are 4 questions you should address!

1. What pension option is right for me?
2. What does my retirement plan look like with my Pension, Social Security, and my own investments?
3. Which of the pension's Service Purchase options are available to me and what would those options mean to my pension?
4. What are the variables of my retirement decision?



Brian Luther

National Planning Corporation

5000 Central Park Drive, Suite 204
Lincoln, NE 68504
402.467.0531



Get Answers from National Planning Corporation

We are offering a FREE individual consultation via email, phone, online, or in person at our Lincoln office. We will also be offering workshops during the school year that you and your spouse may attend in person.

brian@compassfr.us

Securities and advisory services offered through National Planning Corporation (NPC). Member FINRA/SIPC. a Registered Investment Advisor. Compass Financial Resources and NPC are separate and unrelated companies.

