

2019-20 Newsletter e-Blasts

October 3, 2019

Spotlight Program—South Sioux City High School

Neb. students gain real-world experience in concrete construction

More than 30 South Sioux City High School students in Nebraska are working with the City of South Sioux City in the designing, building and selling of concrete homes as part of a house construction project. "We're building a real home, for real people, using a real labor force," said South Sioux City Schools Superintendent Todd Strom.

 [KTIV-TV \(Sioux City, Iowa\) \(9/20\)](#)

October 8, 2019

Check out this article about an apprenticeship program in Columbus!

The following article focuses not only on Behlen Manufacturing plant in Columbus, but more importantly how they have helped students in the Columbus area. The company has been participating with the state's Registered Apprenticeship system, which allows high school students to not only get on-the-job training and do paid work, but also receive college credits.

Here the entire article at this link:

<https://plattevalley.newschannelnebraska.com/story/41132999/governor-tours-columbus-plant-recognizes-manufacturing>

October 9, 2019

CTE Month® Products

One way to promote your CTE program is to purchase products to give to students, teachers, administrators, etc. or just hang in the room.

CTE Month is in February and will be here before you know it.

Spread Awareness with CTE Month Products

As you plan your CTE Month® activities for February, celebrate with products that show off your support for career and technical education. Choose from mood color-changing pens, pencils and bracelets, balloons, lanyards, reflective zipper pulls and more.

October 9, 2019

In Case You Missed It—Girls Try Out Tech Careers

Girls try out tech careers in school partnership

Grand Island Public Schools' Academy of Engineering and Technology in Nebraska is working with a local business to introduce high-school girls to tech career options. Only 10% of students at the academy are female, and officials at the business, Chief Industries, says fewer than 20% of its own IT roles are filled by women -- numbers both institutions hope to change through the partnership.

 [KSNB-TV \(Hastings, Neb.\) \(9/24\)](#)

October 12, 2019

Greetings from Your ACTEN President

The Board and Division Representatives at the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska are extremely thankful that you have joined our professional organization. ACTEN was established in 1946 and we still live the original mission, to support and lead high quality CTE programs across the state. ACTEN is an affiliate of the Association of Career & Technical Education and we advocate at the local, state and national level on issues important to career & technical education. Now is an amazing time to be part of career and technical education in Nebraska, as CTE teachers across the state work to grow their programs, partner with businesses and postsecondary institutions, and prepare students to be career and college ready.

ACTEN needs your help to make our organization even better for you, and better for the students of Nebraska. Our fall board meeting will take place in Grand Island in October, and we welcome anyone that would like to attend to join us, and help ACTEN continue to provide leadership to CTE in Nebraska.

We thank you for being a member and hope that you will encourage others to join our association. Our role here is to support the CTE efforts across the nation, so please let us know how we can help you grow your program and help drive Nebraska Career & Technical Education.

Daniel Phillips
Director of Innovation for
College & Career Readiness
Grand Island Public Schools

October 14, 2019

ACTEN e-Newsletter

Thank you for being a member of ACTE/ACTEN. As a valued member, you receive many benefits from your membership in ACTE/ACTEN.

Benefits of Joining ACTE/ACTEN:

§ Techniques Magazine—award-winning publication that delves into CTE trends, case studies and in-classroom innovations

§ Networking and Professional Development—CareerTech Vision, Best Practices, Region V Conference, NCE Conference

§ **Advocacy**—for funding affecting CTE programs

§ Cutting-edge CTE news—weekly e-news updates

§ Instant access to CTE colleagues through social media networks

§ Professional recognition/awards program—members are recognized for their extraordinary contributions to CTE programs

§ Complimentary death and dismemberment insurance

§ Professional liability insurance

§ Spotlight of a Nebraska CTE program

As many of you know, we no longer print a quarterly newsletter. To better serve our members, news items are being sent to the members as an e-blast. The board wanted to have the news items reach you in a more timely basis allowing you to receive information at the time when it is the most relevant to you.

If you ever have any questions, please contact me or your division representative.

October 29, 2019

In Case You Missed It—Career Fair and Employment Projections

Neb. students learn about skilled trades jobs

High-schoolers in Nebraska attended a job fair recently, where they learned about careers and opportunities in the skilled trades. Professionals in welding, robotics and other fields were represented.

 [KSNB-TV \(Hastings, Neb.\) \(10/10\)](#)

November 1, 2019

Achieve 100 Award

Make Sure Staff & Your Faculty is ACTE Members by Dec. 31

All faculty members must be active ACTE members as of **Dec. 31** in order for your school to qualify for the Achieve 100 Award. ACTE's Achieve 100 Award showcases an institution's dedication and commitment to CTE and has achieved 100% membership across their CTE staff and faculty. Award winners will receive a special plaque, plate and recognition in *Techniques* magazine and during ACTE's National Policy Seminar. The deadline to apply is **Feb. 1, 2020**.

November 7, 2019

ACTEN Social During CareerTech VISION in Anaheim

You are invited to attend a Nebraska Social on December 5 at the House of Blues in Anaheim. During the conference, we would love for those of you from Nebraska to meet and get to know each other.

When you arrive at the restaurant, please check in with their host. He/she will escort you to our designated area. You are responsible for payment of any drinks or food that you order.

In Case You Missed It—Five Skills Employees Need

The 5 skills employees will need in the future

With an ever-changing workforce, employers of the future will be looking for distinct skill sets, writes business strategist Bernard Marr. Emotional intelligence, creativity, flexibility, data literacy and tech savviness are traits that will make employees valuable, he writes. Forbes (11/4)

November 15, 2019

Voting for ACTE 2020 Board of Directors Opens December 6

ACTE members, be sure to check your email to receive your ballot log in information to vote in the 2020 Board of Directors election! Look for an email coming on Friday, December 6 from noreply@directvote.net to log in and vote!

Welding Project Ideas!

An idea for you welding instructions!

Welding students complete campus projects

Students enrolled in a Tennessee high school's new welding program are working on several cross-campus collaborative projects. That includes constructing bases for bird feeders that will be installed around campus and constructing a tiny home.

The Daily Herald (Columbia, Tenn.) (11/7)

Might be Something Worth Trying During Your Unit on Careers

Digital tool helps students choose majors

A California college career counselor, Brian Donnelly, recently began using a digital personality test to help students choose majors. He and his colleagues also have introduced the tool to area high-schoolers to help them make course decisions as they prepare for college.

EdSurge (11/7)



November 26, 2019

In Case You Missed It—High Schoolers Learn About Career Pathways

Wyo., Neb. high-schoolers learn about career pathways

About 200 students from Wyoming and Nebraska recently learned about career pathways at Wyoming College's Technology Day. Students were invited to attend sessions focused on some of the college's majors, including business, agriculture, welding, criminal justice, cosmetology and barbering.

Star-Herald (Scottsbluff, Neb.) (11/21)

Spotlight School—FCS Program at Columbus High School

During her four years at Columbus High School, Carrie Loseke has taught students the proper way to cook various foods, provided them with insight on the human body and helped them learn what parenthood might entail someday.

This year, her Child Development classes are even bigger and better, mainly because her students can now receive certification through the Safe with You program, a special initiative provided by the Nebraska Department of Education Early Childhood Training Center and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

To read more about the FCS/FCCLA program at Columbus High School, click on the link below.

https://columbustelegram.com/news/new-program-at-chs-provides-new-opportunity-for-students/article_1c7edc6b-cdad-58ed-93fa-10a657fab110.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

December 11, 2019

ACTEN Awards

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

ACTEN Postsecondary Teacher of the Year

ACTEN Teacher Educator of the Year

ACTEN New Teacher of the Year

ACTEN Administrator of the Year

ACTEN Career Guidance of the Year

ACTEN Carl Perkins Community Service Award

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 (for example, be a secondary school CTE teacher if applying for the Teacher of the Year.)

Candidates should submit their applications on the [ACTE Awards Portal](#) by March 1, 2020.

For more information, contact Murleen Bellinger, ACTEN Executive Director, at actenebraska@gmail.com or call 402-525-8742.

The award application process is really very simple. Please consider applying. We have so many wonderful CTE teachers. I want them to be recognized. Award winners do receive complimentary dues for the next year.

Nebraska Perkins V State Plan—Please Review for Input

In 2018, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) was reauthorized by Congress as the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). Perkins V went into effect July 1, 2019. Annually, Perkins V provides federal funding for Nebraska secondary and postsecondary CTE programs. Nebraska must submit a four-year State Plan identifying how the new provisions of the law will be implemented, which includes statewide performance targets. Nebraska utilized fiscal year 2020 (beginning on July 1, 2019) to develop this State Plan and transition to the new requirements of the law.

Planning and development of the Nebraska Perkins V State Plan was an in-depth process that involved over 1,000 Nebraskans – including partners and stakeholders from across the state representing broad diversity of education and workforce programs, business and industry, communities, and learners.

Please visit the **Perkins V State Plan website** to view and provide input on the proposed Plan. Please contact your division career specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education for any suggestions that you might have. Comments will be accepted through February 9, 2020.

ACTE 2020 Board Directors Election

On December 6, you should have received an email providing you login information to access the 2020 ACTE Board of Directors ballots.

The ACTE election is open through January 6, 2020, 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, USA.

Please take time to vote for the 2020 ACTE board.

Candidate information is available on the online ballot.

For technical support (available Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Central Time, USA, excluding holidays), please call 952-974-2339 or <mailto:support@directvote.net>

For other questions, please call 703-683-9321.

December 17, 2020

In Case You Missed It—Gering High School Adds Agriculture Program to Career Pathways Program

Neb. district adds agriculture to career program

A Nebraska school board voted recently to add agricultural studies to its career pathways program. Officials say they plan to work with leaders in the agriculture industry to develop the curriculum.

KSNB-TV (Hastings, Neb.) (12/16)

December 18, 2019

National Policy Seminar

For those of you who want to promote CTE on Capitol Hill, attending the National Policy Seminar is a great way to do that. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. Once I have the list of all attendees, I will contact our state representatives in DC to set up a meeting. Murleen

Amplify Your Support for CTE on Capitol Hill

Advocate on behalf of the CTE profession and increase our collective impact by participating in ACTE's annual National Policy Seminar this **March 29–April 1** in Arlington, Virginia. This year's event features:

- Dedicated time on Capitol Hill to meet with legislators and advocate for your CTE programs
- Sessions on policy and advocacy strategies to help you strengthen support for CTE
- Updates on legislation and policies impacting CTE
- Guidance to aid in Perkins V implementation
- An all new Innovation Summit on **April 1**

December 26, 2019

In Case You Missed It—Middle-schoolers visit NCTA

Agriculture college hosts students for tour


Middle-schoolers in Nebraska recently visited the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture to learn about potential careers in agriculture. Rashida Vaziri, a teacher, says the effort is aimed at introducing students to a variety of career pathways.

North Platte Telegraph (Neb.) (11/9)

December 27, 2019

Tenn. STEM teacher offers hands-on lessons

Phillip Lewis, an elementary-school teacher in Newport, Tenn., is a former magician who offers hands-on lessons for students learning STEM subjects. Examples include turning the classroom into an escape room and illustrating the dangers of vaping by creating "lungs" using balloons and cups.

 WBIR-TV (Knoxville, Tenn.) (11/21)

December 30, 2019

In Case You Missed It—Good News for Construction Industry in Nebraska

Omaha, Neb., leads US as fastest-growing construction market

During the 12 months ending in October, Omaha, Neb., added 5,900 construction jobs, a 20% increase that makes the city the fastest-growing construction market in the US, according to AGC. Contractors are bringing in workers from out of state, and high schools and colleges are responding to growing demand with courses in the trades.

Omaha World-Herald (Neb.) (11/24),  WOWT-TV (Omaha, Neb.) (11/22),  KETV-TV (Omaha, Neb.) (11/22)



January 2, 2020

More Creative Teacher Ideas to Help Students Learn

AP students learn physics with flying pigs

Students taking Advanced Placement Physics at a Portland, Maine, high school have been using flying toy pigs in their study of circular motion and centripetal forces. Teacher Rosalee Lamm said students are encouraged to apply their math skills with their knowledge gained from life and what they learn in class to understand more about the physical world.

 WGME-TV (Portland, Maine) (11/27)



Students can add details to maps with Earth tools

Google Earth recently added tools that allows users to add lines, shapes, place markers and text to maps. Social studies teacher Josh Williams, who used the tools with students on a migration project, says the tools engage students in active learning rather than being passive in the classroom.

EdScoop (11/26)



3rd-graders engage in STEM with turkey-themed lesson

Teacher Ellen Martin recently challenged students to get creative for a turkey-themed STEM lesson. The third-graders could use almost anything in the classroom to construct traps for turkeys -- paper drawings attached to a disposable plastic cup -- an exercise designed to put their problem-solving skills to the test.

The Winchester Star (Va.) (11/29)



January 8, 2020

ACTE 2020 Election Results

ACTE Announces Board of Directors 2020 Election Results

January 8, 2020/in Press Releases 2020 /by jnagurka@acteonline.org

ACTE Announces Board of Directors 2020 Election Results

Alexandria, VA – The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is pleased to announce the results of the recent election for several spots on its Board of Directors. The election was open to ACTE’s membership of roughly 25,000 educators, administrators and other CTE professionals. The following members were elected:

Brian Law, President-Elect

Mr. Law is a CTE Director/Counselor at Brooks County High School in Quitman, Georgia. His one-year term will begin in July 2020 and will be followed by one-year terms as president and past president, respectively.

Richelle Krumsiek, Engineering and Technology Education Division Vice President

Ms. Krumsiek is an Instructor at Tulsa Tech in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She will serve a three-year term beginning July 2020.

Eric Ripley, Administration Division Vice President-elect

Mr. Ripley is the Executive Director of CTE at Grand Forks Public Schools in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He will serve a three-year term beginning July 2021.

Teresa “Gibby” Gibbons, Counseling and Career Development Division Vice President-elect

Ms. Gibbons is a School Counselor at Roanoke County Public Schools in Roanoke, VA. She will serve a three-year term beginning July 2021.

Kristina Ropos, Postsecondary, Adult and Career Education Division Vice President-elect

Ms. Ropos is a Learning and Development Manager at Illinois Tool Works in Troy, Ohio. She will serve a three-year term beginning July 2021.

Additionally, the vice president-elects whose election occurred last year will join the Board as vice president in July 2020. Ross White will assume the position of Region IV Vice President and Carrie Scheiderer will assume the Position of Region I Vice President. Two candidates did not apply for the Trade and Industrial Education Division vice president position. Per ACTE Bylaws and the Board Policy and Procedure Manual, if there are not two candidates for a vice president position, the office shall be declared vacant by the board of

directors. The respective policy committee reviewed the candidate to recommend for appointment. The ACTE board of directors voted to appoint Danny Camden as the Trade and industrial Education Division vice president. The term for this position is July 1, 2020–June 30, 2023.

ACTE congratulates the winners, and thanks all of the candidates for their willingness to serve and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Association. ACTE also thanks all of its members who had their voices heard by voting in the election.

January 9, 2020

Submit Your VISION 2020 Presentation Proposals

ACTE invites you to participate as a presenter at CareerTech VISION 2020, the premier event for career and technical educators, business leaders and industry professionals, **Dec. 2–5** at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee. VISION presenters will have the opportunity to:

- Take advantage of more than 300 informative CTE sessions, influential keynote speakers and the CareerTech Expo
- Contribute to the CTE field by sharing best practices, program innovations and successful collaborations
- Receive a speaker discount on the VISION early bird registration rate

January 10, 2020

In Case You Missed It—Nebraska and degrees in agriculture

Neb. programs support agriculture degrees

Students considering careers in agriculture have more opportunities in Nebraska to pursue specialized agriculture degrees, including in sustainable practices and "precision agriculture." Officials say that, as the profession has modernized and become more complex, education programs have had to follow suit.

NET (Nebraska) (12/13)

In Case You Missed It—Digital Inequity in Nebraska

Report: Digital inequity leads to "homework gap"

Lack of broadband internet service in some rural areas of Nebraska is causing digital inequity and a "homework gap" among students who have internet at home and those who do not, according to a report from a Rural Broadband Task Force. The task force recently released a report with recommendations to help close the digital divide.

Omaha World-Herald (Neb.) (12/14)

January 12, 2020

ACTE Offers members another Conference—Teach CTE Teach CTE Conference

The first-ever Teach CTE Summit will bring together career and technical educators and key stakeholders to discuss teacher recruitment and retention, and to form a national strategy. Central to this work will be the use of common data and the opportunity to collaborate on sharing promising and sustainable practices. Happening Feb. 26-28 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., this focused event is limited to 100 registered attendees. [Learn more.](#)

January 14, 2020

Articles that Might be of Interest To You

Report: 6 skills students need for careers

There are six skills that schools should be teaching to help prepare students for future employment, according to the National School Boards Association's Commission to Close the Skills Gap. The skills are critical thinking, decision-making, customer focus, dependability and reliability, adaptability and trainability, and teamwork, according to the commission.

T.H.E. Journal (4/2)



Middle-schoolers need career planning, report says

Career planning is such a priority that it should begin in middle school, according to a road map provided by a coalition of government, industry, education and nonprofit organizations. The report also calls for more opportunities for students to engage in work-based learning, including certifications and apprenticeships.

T.H.E. Journal (5/6)

In Case You Missed It—Effectiveness of Online Classes

How to measure effectiveness of online classes

Research offers colleges and universities a new model for assessing student success in online courses, including looking at engagement with material and how many times students attempt to pass tests. Researchers say their recommendations could help online course designers improve student outcomes.

United Press International (12/28)

January 15, 2020

In Case You Missed It—FFA District Competitions

Neb. event challenges FFA students

FFA students from 18 schools in Nebraska recently competed in a contest focused on agriculture sales, livestock management, welding and floriculture. Winning students will advance to the next level of the competition.

Star-Herald (Scottsbluff, Neb.) (1/8)



January 16, 2020

CTE Month®

The month for officially celebrating career and technical education is February and that is right around the corner. Of course, we know that CTE should be celebrated all year. However, February has been designated CTE Month.

Last year I shared with you the 30 Ways to Share CTE in our schools poster with you. There are so many great ideas on it, I am sharing it again with you. Many of these ideas can be used throughout the year.

The links to the Fact Sheets (Sector Sheets) can be found, as well as other CTE Month® ideas, on the ACTE website.

Have fun celebrating Career and Technical Education in Nebraska!

Meet the Officers for your ACTEN Organization!

ACTEN 2019-20 Officer Team

Dan Phillips is serving as your ACTEN president. Dan is the director of the Innovation for College and Career Readiness for Grand Island Public Schools. (Email—dphillips@gips.org)

Steven Woodside is your newly elected president-elect. Steven is principal at Columbus High School.

Morgan Trausch is your past president. Morgan is an Agricultural Education Instructor at Lawrence-Nelson Public Schools. (Email-- mtrausch@southcentralunified.org)

Emily Anderson is the ACTEN secretary. Emily is an FCS teacher at Omaha Bryan High School. (Email—emily.anderson@ops.org)

DeLayne Havlovic is the treasurer of our organization. DeLayne is a Supervisor for Business, Marketing and Management/Communication and Information Technology, Health Sciences for Omaha Public Schools. (Email—delayne.havlovic@ops.org)

The officers are serving for your organization. If you have any questions for them, please don't hesitate to contact them.

January 28, 2020

ACTEN T-Shirt Available for Sale

ACTEN T-Shirt Form 2020

ACTEN is creating T-shirts for our members. To order the T-shirts, please fill out the order form by clicking on the 'Fill Out Form' shown below. These t-shirts will be available for pick up at the ACTEN membership table during the NCE conference in June, or can be shipped to you. Shirts will be gray and have the ACTE of Nebraska logo on the front. The shirt will cost \$12 if picked up during the June conference or \$15 if you would like them shipped to you. Checks are to be made payable to ACTEN.

We ask that you consider wearing the t-shirts one day at the conference to promote the importance of being a member of ACTE/ACTEN.

Please place your order by May 1 to allow delivery by the NCE Conference. Orders will resume in August if not ordered during this school year.

FILL OUT FORM

February 4, 2020

In Case You Missed It—CPI Students Selected for Internship

Students tour Ford facility, consider careers

First-year automotive students at the Career Pathways Institute in Nebraska recently visited an Anderson Ford sit, where two students will be selected to work as interns in the spring. Ben Kelley, a high-school senior working at the location, says the experience is helping to prepare him for a job after high school.

The Grand Island Independent (Neb.) (1/24)

February 5, 2020

Date Change for NCE Conference

Just an FYI, the NCE Conference has been moved to June 8-11. There was a problem with scheduling with the Younes Center. Please make the change on your calendars.

I look forward to seeing you all in Kearney. Stop by my table and say hello, purchase a split-the-pot ticket, or pick up your ACTEN t-shirt that you preordered. You can also order them at the table during the conference.

Murleen

February 19, 2020

In Case You Missed It—Manufacturing Design Technology Offered at CCC-Hastings

College opens advanced manufacturing facility

Central Community College in Nebraska recently opened a new facility to teach advanced manufacturing design technology. Troy Davis, the advanced manufacturing design technology instructor at the college, said the facility will help prepare students for employment in area industries.

Full Story: [The Grand Island Independent \(Neb.\)](#) (2/6)

February 12, 2020

Ask Your Congressman to Co-Sponsor 2020 CTE Month Resolution

Ask Your Senators, Representative to Co-sponsor 2020 CTE Month Resolution

Please contact your [senators](#) and [representative](#) to ask that they co-sponsor the 2020 CTE Month resolution. The [Senate](#) sign-on deadline is today and the [House](#) deadline is Friday, Feb. 21. [READ MORE](#)

President Proposes Large Increase for Perkins CTE in FY 2021 Budget Request

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 federal budget and appropriations process was finally released and the budget proposal included nearly \$900 million in additional funding directed to CTE. [READ MORE](#)

DC Digest: Feb. 2–Feb. 9

Last week, the Digest covered briefings attended by ACTE, winners of the second round of Catalyzing CTE through Pay for Success competition, recognition of CTE month and more! [READ MORE](#)

February 15, 2020

Partnership with David City Schools, Nebraska Department of Labor, and Timpte Youth Registered Apprenticeship

A new collaboration between David City Public Schools and Timpte Inc. is giving students real-world experience and the company potential employees.

David City High School seniors Kyle Blum and Daulton Krause, as well as junior Tyler Graybill, are the first three students to go through the David City Public Schools/Timpte Youth Registered Apprenticeship that is being made possible through the Nebraska Department of Labor.

For more information: https://columbustelegram.com/community/banner-press/news/timpte-district-paying-it-forward-apprenticeship-program-aims-to-offer/article_9ae9b651-9b26-5933-9ad0-c432149b6e7b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share
February 16, 2020

February Issue of Techniques: Perkins V

Techniques: Perkins V

It's been 18 months since H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), was signed into law. Where are we now? And what's next? The February issue of Techniques paints a realistic picture of states' efforts to navigate the changing landscape of CTE since the passage of Perkins V. [Read Technique](#)

February 28, 2020

Call for Proposals for VISION 2020

VISION CFP Deadline Extended to March 6!

ACTE invites you to participate as a presenter at CareerTech VISION 2020, the premier event for career and technical educators, business leaders and industry professionals, **Dec. 2-5** at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. We are seeking presentation proposals that cover a variety of high-quality secondary and postsecondary CTE in all program areas along with stories of successful education and business collaborations. Sessions are typically 60 minutes in length, and presenters receive a speaker discount on the VISION early bird registration rate.

March 4, 2020

Scholarship Opportunities for your CTE Students

The Horatio Alger Association is now accepting student applications for its CTE scholarships until **April 15**. This year, the association will award 1,020 scholarships at up to \$2,500 each depending on the length of the CTE program at an accredited postsecondary institution and the need of the student.

March 13, 2020

CTE Paying Way for Jobs

This article was published in the Waverly newspaper, The News, on March 12, Of course, you already know the value of CTE in our schools. However, maybe there is something in the article you can use to promote your program to your students, teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, community, etc.

https://www.wahoo-ashland-waverly.com/waverly/eedition/page-a/page_577e11f3-c844-5715-aba2-9dede9e744d3.html

March 24, 2020

In Case You Missed It—UNK and CTE Students' Event

University holds CTE event for high-schoolers

The University of Nebraska held an event for high-school students to introduce them to career and technical education pathways at the Lincoln Extension. More than 400 Kearney High School students participated in the Connecting the Dots event.



Full Story: [KHGI-TV/KWNB-TV \(Kearney, Neb.\) \(2/27\)](#)

Are Schools Prepared for Remote Learning?

Are schools prepared for remote learning?

A recent survey of teachers and administrators, primarily in the US, finds many schools may not be prepared to adopt virtual learning plans in the event of a coronavirus-related closure. At issue, results from the PowerSchool survey found, are lack of existing plans and concerns that students do not have access to needed technology at home.

Full Story: [T.H.E. Journal \(3/5\)](#)

March 29, 2020

Call for President Elect of ACTEN

I have a wonderful leadership and professional opportunity for you. The ACTEN Board is seeking an individual to serve as the 2020-21 president-elect. Our meetings are in June during the NCE Conference, October, and January. Your term would be three years and start October 1, which is the beginning of our fiscal year. Anyone who is a member of the Administrative Division is not able to run for president at this time as our bylaws requiring alternating divisions.

As per our Leadership Handbook, I have included the duties of the president-elect.

Duties of the President Elect
(As set forth in the ACTEN Bylaws)

The President-Elect shall:

- Be chairperson of Program of Work Committee.
- Assume the duties of the President when the President is absent.
- Serve as a member of the Bylaws Committee.
- Serve as ACTEN delegate to the ACTE Assembly of Delegates.
- Assist the President in carrying out the Program of Work.
- Provide articles for the ACTEN e-newsletter.
- Participate in the NCE Leadership Cadre to represent ACTEN.
- Serve on the Budget Committee.

If you feel this is something you would like to do, please let me know. As the executive director, I prepare an agenda for the president with his/her approval. I am responsible for most of our communication with the members. As you see from the list of duties, the most time consuming duty is preparing a Program of Work and as president, presiding at meetings. What ACTEN really needs from you as the president-elect and impending president is your passion and advocacy for CTE!

I hope you consider running for president-elect of the Association for Career and Technical Education.

March 30, 2020

In Case You Missed It: GI Chamber of Commerce Supports CTE

Commentary: CTE prepares students for the workforce

Cindy Johnson, president of the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce in Nebraska, writes in this commentary that the state needs to focus on preparing students for high-demand careers. "Career and technical education play a role in building a stronger American workforce as American workers utilize technology and training to do their jobs even better and faster than they do today," she writes.

Full Story: [The Grand Island Independent \(Neb.\) \(2/29\)](#)

April 1, 2020

Spotlight Division—Agricultural Education

The Agricultural Education Division's mission is to prepare students for successful careers and a lifetime of choices in the global agriculture and natural resources systems. We embrace partnerships with organizations, such as the National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Association of Agricultural Education and others, to ensure a continuous presence of the agricultural sciences in a variety of educational settings. We invite anyone interested in this area to get involved with the Agricultural Education

Division by adding this Division to your membership and learning more about our knowledgeable Agricultural Education Vice President Scott Stone!

April 2, 2020

Spotlight School--Congrats to PLVS ProStart Team

Kristin Vest shared the following--

Congratulations to ProStart educator, Louise Dornbusch from Papillion-LaVista South High School and her students for an outstanding Culinary Arts competition season! Their team was preparing to represent Nebraska during the National ProStart Competition in Washington D.C. next month when the event was cancelled due to coronavirus.

Always one to provide positive learning opportunities for her students, Louise was able to work with a local Omaha TV station for a story about their team and the event.

While we are disappointed we are unable to cheer for our Nebraska team, we are so proud of you and your students!

Here's the news story: <https://www.wowt.com/content/news/Culinary-competition-canceled-for-Papillion-team-due-to-COVID-19-569303041.html>

Thank you for all each of you to support your students during this difficult time.

April 8, 2020

Link to Free Resources Shared By ACTE

Here is a link from ACTE listing free resources to help members address their instructional needs through distance learning: <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/opportunities/distance-learning-resources/>

Hope you find this helpful.

Thank you for all you are doing for your students. I know the CTE educators are stepping up to the challenge.

April 9, 2020

Submit a Story for *Techniques*

Techniques: Now Accepting Submissions for 2020–21

Start the presses! Managing Editor Lia Milgram has returned from maternity leave, and *Techniques* is now accepting submissions for **2020–21** based on the following issue themes:

- ACTE's CareerTech VISION
- Postsecondary Transitions
- The Future is Emerging
- Techniques Turns 25
- Inspiring Facilities & Innovative Equipment
- It's All Fun & Games
- Health Sciences Education
- Representation Matters

Articles are accepted for publication on a revolving basis; interested parties are asked to develop a brief proposal detailing subject matter, intent and value the article would present *Techniques'* readership. With questions or to submit a proposal, contact [Lia Milgram](#), *Techniques* managing editor.

April 14, 2020

Innovative Ways to Teach Lessons to Your Students

Educators feature animals, toys in teaching videos

Some teachers in Ohio are recording videos of themselves reading and teaching lessons for students who are learning from home during school closures. Agriculture education teacher and FFA adviser Nathan Sailor recorded a video of himself reading a book with dairy cows and posted the video on his district's YouTube channel, while another educator utilized puppets for a video about poetry.

Full Story: [Sidney Daily News \(Ohio\) \(3/25\)](#)

Spotlight Division—Business Education

ACTE Division Spotlight: Business education

The Business Education Division is a diverse group of members including business education teachers, applied academic teachers, administrators, school-to-career coordinators, local and state supervisors, and others, dedicated to educating today's students for tomorrow's business community. We invite anyone interested in this area to get involved with [Business Education](#) by [adding this Division](#) to your membership and learning more about our savvy Business Education Marketing Vice President [Annika Russell-Manke](#). [Learn more.](#)

April 15, 2020

COVID - ACTE Working for you During this Difficult Time

COVID-19 resources, laws, updates for CTE programs

ACTE is working diligently to represent you before Congress and the administration as important decisions are being made about funding and federal legislation related to coronavirus (COVID-19). ACTE has produced a running thread of COVID-19 resources, laws and updates that may be useful for career and technical education (CTE) professionals. Read more.



In Case You Missed It—Deadline Extended for Trophy Design Student Contest

Deadline extended for student trophy design contest

With many teachers adjusting to delivering instruction in an online environment, we have extended the deadline for the student trophy design contest to June 30. The winning trophy design will be 3D-printed by Stratasy and presented to the 10 national award winners at the 2020 ACTE Awards Gala on Dec. 2 in Nashville, Tenn. Learn more.

ACTEN T-Shirt Sales

As you know, ACTEN was designing and selling t-shirts for our members. Unfortunately, with the closing of schools and the reformatting of the NCE Conference, ACTEN is no longer able to supply the t-shirts for this year. The good news is that we are postponing the delivery of the t-shirts for the NCE Conference in June 2021. You are certainly still able to order t-shirts, but they will not be available until the Spring of 2021.

Stay safe, stay home, and stay healthy! Thanks for all you do for the education of our CTE students.

April 19, 2020

In Case You Missed It: CTE Distance Learning

CTE Distance Learning: Hands-on Learning at Home

Posted: 10 Apr 2020 04:42 AM PDT

We know that CTE educators are creative professionals, so it's no wonder that many of you are getting creative to maintain student learning during school closures. In particular, CTE professionals are exploring how to continue hands-on learning when instructors can no longer demonstrate skills up close and students can no longer access campus facilities, equipment and technology that are difficult and sometimes impossible to replicate at home.

The following ideas have been shared by your fellow CTE educators through ACTE social media and our COVID-19 needs survey:

- Ask students to videotape, or take step-by-step photos, of themselves performing a task they can do at home, such as preparing a recipe, working in a garden, practicing knife skills on Play Doh or performing an injury evaluation
- Have students complete online training modules for industry certifications
- Ask students to complete a relevant online course from a legitimate training provider and send you a screenshot showing their proof of completion
- Use online simulators and exploratory sandboxes (these tools can be particularly relevant for health care, IT, business and marketing programs)
- Have students write self-reflections about how well they have performed tasks they can do at home or online
- Give quizzes through your district or institution's learning management system (LMS)

Some of the more creative ideas shared combine multiple aspects of learning into one project. For instance, an instructor shared on the [ACTE Facebook page](#) that he is having students make a garden out of recyclable household materials. This project incorporates students writing out step-by-step instructions, developing a budget and recording their progress.

There are several concerns that CTE professionals are balancing as they try to encourage hands-on skill attainment at a distance:

- Do students have the resources at home to complete the project? Instructors are worried about students going to the grocery or hardware store to buy supplies. Some educators are looking at how they can prepare a kit of materials that could be delivered by school bus drivers, using disinfection protocols. Other districts are talking about whether they can safely have students come one at a time to campus to complete required lab hours.
- Can students perform an at-home project safely? Even if students are likely to have materials at home, such as cooking implements or basic hardware, instructors are concerned about student safety. According to Andrew Wermes, a CTE educator with decades of experience in safety training, now is a great time to ensure your students have completed [OSHA 10-hour online training](#) in their CTE program area and understand how to conduct a [job hazard analysis](#). Check out his comment on this blog post for additional ideas and links to more resources about CTE safety training.
- Is online video sharing secure and private? If you're encouraging students to post video of their activities, it is best to do so through your LMS or through a private, shared drive or online classroom that has been vetted by your district or institution.

We will continue to share CTE distance learning ideas on this blog. Do you have a CTE distance learning idea to share with your colleagues? Post it on [ACTE social media](#) through April 15 and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card.

In addition, check out ACTE's growing list of [CTE distance learning resources](#) and [ACTE Division webinars](#) on teaching CTE in a time of uncertainty. These live Zoom events will be recorded for later viewing.

[April 23, 2020](#)

CareerTech VISION in Nashville 2020

Join Us in Nashville for CareerTech VISION 2020

The premier event for CTE professionals, ACTE's CareerTech VISION offers unparalleled networking and professional development, provides comprehensive CTE secondary and postsecondary programming, and showcases stories of successful education and business collaborations. This year's event happens Dec. 2 to 5 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. [Register today.](#)

[April 24, 2020](#)

ACTE/ACTEN Membership Dues

Thank you for your membership in ACTE/ACTEN. As a CTE educator, this organization is one of the most beneficial organizations you can join. On the national level, the ACTE staff continually advocates for CTE in programs and funding. They need your support to make that happen. I encourage you to ask other CTE educators in your school to become a member. Strong advocacy can only happen with a strong membership.

Many of you renew your membership dues during the NCE Conference. As you know, the conference has been cancelled and is being revamped into a one-day virtual symposium. Since you are unable to renew your dues during the conference, I am attaching a form for you to fill out and return to me with your dues payment.

Of course, the easiest way to renew your dues is online at [ACTE](#). If you have any questions, please let me know.

[April 28, 2020](#)

A New Normal for Education

The following article was written by the president of the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association, Jean Condon, who is also a member of ACTEN. You will find the information in the article relates to all disciplines. You have all been 'thrown' into this new remote learning situation. A huge kudos to all educators!

What is our new normal today in Business Education?

By Jean Condon, M-PBEA 2019-2020 President

"Because of COVID-19 most teachers and students suddenly find themselves forced to use technology as they teach and learn. Educators have had to act quickly to transition face-to-

face classrooms to fully online classes or remote learning for the remainder of this school term. This is not new to Business Educators like you. You have been using technology since the first time you stepped into the classroom. You are also being asked to assist those teachers and students who have not used technology to deliver or receive learning. Thank you all for all you do for education, colleagues, students, parents and Business Education! By the time you read this article you have already been teaching online or remotely for several weeks. Maybe some of these suggestions have already been in your wheelhouse but maybe they can make you think of other possibilities.

Communicate—be present. Maintain a consistent online or remote presence—verbal and orally. Communication is essential in the online classroom environment. Introduce yourself and get your students to also introduce themselves - help bring humanity and warmth into your classroom that online classes can easily lack. Make sure your students know the best methods and times to contact you. Not having an educator physically in front of them can make some students nervous. Try to ease this by answering questions in a timely manner and providing plenty of instruction and feedback.

Be resourceful—give choices. Your students may not be physically in front of you and may not be online at the same time so it's very important that you plan. Gone are the days where you "just wing it" and it's important to understand that your virtual students are different. Find methods that will encourage learning and provide choices for your students.

Try new approaches—motivation can play a big part in the learning process. Think of ways to motivate your students to get the most out of your class. This may include giving extra points for discussions and deadlines may also help push forward your more unmotivated students. Your goal is to find ways to help your students get the most out of your class without the benefit that a physical presence brings.

Learn from others—ask for help and feedback. Your student can provide you with valuable feedback that can help you enhance your remote teaching. Besides your students, also seek out and connect with other educators. *Education is a "sharing" field and so connecting with other educators can be invaluable to your online development and success.* We may all have to adjust to a new normal, but I know all of you have this! I hope that you and your students are safe and able to find support during these unprecedented times. Thank you again for all you do for Business Education!"

Published by permission of President Jean Condon. 2020 Spring Issue of Notes and Quotes, a publication of the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association.

Thank you for all you do for Career and Technical Education!!!

May 4, 2020

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week

From the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska, we wish you a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week. During this stressful time educating our youth, you are appreciated every day. Thanks for all you do for all students and career and technical education.

Stay safe and healthy!

In Case You Missed It: Three Sources for Remote Learning

These ideas might be a little too late, but might be worth saving to your future lesson plans-just in case they are needed in the future.

CTE distance learning: Hands-on learning at home

CTE professionals are exploring how to continue hands-on learning when instructors can no longer demonstrate skills up close, and students can no longer access campus facilities, equipment and technology that are difficult and sometimes impossible to replicate at home. [Read more.](#)



CTE Distance Learning Resources

In an effort to help career and technical education instructors as they transition to distance learning, iCEV is offering complimentary pilot program access for teachers and students for more than 100 CTE courses. Online resources include pre-made lesson plans, multimedia lesson presentations and automatically graded interactive coursework. **Request Access.**

How STEAM teachers can develop remote lessons

STEAM teachers should focus on process and purpose when designing lessons to create meaningful learning, whether in school or at home, writes Susan Riley, founder of The Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM. In this article, she describes a six-step process STEAM teachers can follow, including selecting a focus, having students conduct a discovery phase and applying solutions.

Full Story: [District Administration magazine online \(4/24\)](#)

May 6, 2020

In Case You Missed It: At-Home SAT

College Board announces plans for at-home SAT

The College Board announced Wednesday a plan for at-home SAT exams -- similar to its plan for Advanced Placement exams -- if school closures continue into the fall. If by fall schools reopen, then the College Board will hold makeup exam dates for canceled spring tests and, if safe, will resume monthly SAT test dates in August through the end of the year.

Full Story: [CNN](#) (4/16)

May 7, 2020

Congratulations to Carol Erwin—Region V Teacher Educator of the Year



Association for Career and Technical Education

May 5 at 2:15 PM · 🌐

Let's celebrate Carol Erwin as the ACTE Region V Teacher Educator of the Year!

Carol Erwin is an Associate Professor at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. Carol graduated from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 1999 with a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education and earned her Master's Degree in 2004 in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College. Carol completed her doctorate in Adult and Higher Education Administration from the University of South Dakota in 2018. Carol taught for 12 years in the 7-12 FCS classroom and advised FCCLA Chapters at Rock County Public School, Stuart Public School, Coleridge Community School, Laurel-Concord Public School, and Randolph Public School. After great experiences and lots of awesome students at the 7-12 level she took a position at Wayne State College teaching the Foods and Nutrition classes and working with the Family and Consumer Sciences Education majors. She has grown the FCS Education program at Wayne State College about 120% from 16 majors in the 2012-2013 year to 35 majors in the 2018-2019 year.

Congratulations Carol!

May 12, 2020

Division Spotlight—Counseling and Career Development Division

The division of Guidance and Career Development has been newly named the Counseling and Career Development Division. This article provides more information about the division. Encourage your school counselors to join ACTE/ACTEN under the Counseling division.

Division Spotlight: Counseling and Career Development Division

The Counseling and Career Development Division mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for school counselors, career development personnel and other guidance professionals. We invite anyone interested in this area to get involved with the Counseling and Career Development Division by adding this division to your membership and learn more about our encouraging Counseling and Career Development Vice President, Nicole Cobb! Read more.

May 14, 2020

2020-21 ACTEN Elections

Just a reminder that Friday is the deadline to vote for the 2020-21 ACTEN elections. If you need your ACTE membership ID, please let me know. If your division is not listed, you will access the ballot via the General Election Ballot.

General Election Ballot--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3DW2WJ>

AGR Ballot--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PMWFT22>

FCS Ballot--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PB5VLKZ>

Trade and Industrial Education Ballot--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3DW2WJ>

New and Related Services--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRXYQGB>

Business Education Ballot--<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3DW2WJ>

May 17, 2020

Techniques Magazine Article

“Professional Development Tips and Goals”

By Denise Paley

The above article, published in the May 2020 edition of *Techniques* (pp. 8-9), provides tips and reminders for “owning” your professional development. The abbreviated list is as follows:

1. **Learn from other teachers**—observe other teachers, be a mentor, or gain new ideas from a practicum teacher.
2. **Learn from students**—students may have experiences we don’t as well as new ideas for solving problems.
3. **Join a professional organization**—we all know the benefits of joining our professional organizations are numerous.
4. **Be a lifelong student**—enroll in a class, sign up for a workshop, attend a conference, etc.
5. **Assist the state education department**—volunteer to write standards or update curriculum for courses in your area.
6. **Read books**—read books that help you gain insight about useful educational or behavioral topics.
7. **Participate in social media**—share ideas online or use for social support.
8. **Set SMART Goals**—we can always gain by setting goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely.
9. **Ask questions**—don’t be afraid to ask others for assistance. “Everyone knows something you don’t.”

Begin thinking now about your professional development as you look forward to the 2020-21 school year.

May you all have a blessed summer! After the stress you may have endured these past few weeks, you are certainly deserving of a relaxing summer.

May 26, 2020

CTE Learn

Nebraska will be soon be added to the list of states offering CTE Learn. This is a great way to obtain the professional credit points you are required to get by your school district. Some of the courses/workshops are free to members. Other courses are at a reduced rate for members. You might even check with your administration to see if the course qualifies for movement on your pay schedule.

50% off Entire Collection of Credit Courses

As we approach the **May 31** conclusion of our free access to “Delivering Online Instruction” courses, ACTE is pleased to offer the CTE community 50% off the entire collection of 150+ credit courses from **June 1–July 31**. Simply use VIP Code CTE50 to make your purchase on CTE Learn or any of the state portals within the CTE Learn network.

May 27, 2020

Spotlight Division: Information Technology Education

Support for Information Technology Education

The Information Technology (IT) Education section's primary purpose is to provide awareness and support for a broad-based group dedicated to the use of IT, teachers of IT and today's IT students. Specific areas of study and careers in the IT Education section include:

- Information Support and Services
- Interactive Media
- Network Systems
- Software Engineering

We invite anyone interested in this area to get involved with the IT Education section through the Engineering and Technology Education Division, by adding the Engineering and Technology Education Division to your membership!

July 7, 2020

Congratulations to the 2020 ACTEN Award Winners



ACTEN Business Teacher of the Year and CTE Teacher of the Year

Jodi Dierks, Business Marketing Information Technology Education Instructor at Omaha Central High School

Jodi Dierks serves as an instructor and the Business Marketing Information Technology Department Head at Omaha Central High School. Jodi continually strives to implement high-quality CTE programs and is constantly encouraging the BMIT programs to evolve and change as needed. While department head, the BMIT Department has added new class offerings such as Personal Finance, Honors Introduction to Business, Advanced Digital Design, and Cyber Security. Her involvement in community partnerships created a Hudl class for the school. Students use a variety of technology resources including the Hudl sports management software to investigate management issues involved in planning, organizing, leading, and controlling a team. Through a partnership with Ameritrade, Ms. Dierks was able to start a new program in the school for girls, Girls Rock the Street, Wall Street. Rock The Street, Wall Street is a financial literacy program designed to spark the interest of high school girls into careers of finance.

Ms. Dierks is an active member and leader in state and regional organizations. She has served as a District Representative for the Nebraska State Business Education Association (NSBEA), treasurer of the Mountain-Plains Business Educational Association (M-PBEA), and presented professional learning sessions at the National Business Education Association (NBEA) annual convention. A colleague writes, "A passion for students is what sets Ms. Dierks apart from other educators. She has the ability to balance the individual needs and interests of the student with a high expectation of achievement." A supervisor states, "Jodi is an excellent representative of her school and career and technical education. She is looked up to by her peers, colleagues, and those with whom she works. She is a strong teacher and a great instructional leader."



ACTEN Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

Janet Stalder, Business Instructor McCook Community College

Janet Stalder currently serves as a faculty member at McCook Community College. Throughout her career, she has taught a variety of subjects including Accounting/Business, Business Technology, and Computer Science. Mrs. Stalder serves as co-adviser of the local Phi

Beta Lambda organization and was named to the National Phi Beta Lambda Adviser Wall of Fame in 2005 and the Nebraska Phi Beta Lambda Adviser Wall of Fame in 2017. Janet has participated in numerous “Put the Teacher to Work Initiatives” and has interned in a wide variety of practical business settings to gain insights that she can share with her students to better prepare them for the workplace and their careers.

Mrs. Stalder was instrumental in creating and implementing a College Placement Agency and a Temporary Employment Services Agency. The Temporary Employment Services Agency allowed local business temporary office assistance. This exposure for the students proved to be invaluable as the students experienced first hand what happened in the business setting and allowed them to bring back a wealth of knowledge to the classroom. Through Phi Beta Lambda, a College Placement Agency was created to assist students in obtaining employment upon graduation.

Janet’s department chair states, “She is an outstanding professional, mentor, teacher, and colleague. She is an outstanding leader of career and technical education at the college, community, and state level. Janet is one of the finest examples of a true professional in higher education.” A former student writes, “She is a truly exceptional educator who is ceaselessly passionate about her career as a professional in the classroom and in the community. She is a wonderful leader who does an incredible job of guiding career and technical education students not only at the college level but also at the state level.”



ACTEN CTE Administrator of the Year

Brandy Thompson, Secondary Principal Sutton High School

Ms. Thompson joined Sutton Public Schools in Sutton, NE in 2010 as Secondary Principal. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master’s degree in Educational Leadership from Doane University in Crete, and is currently working towards an Educational Specialist degree also through Doane University.

She has leadership experience as a teacher, an Assistant Principal whose duties also included the titles of K-12 Curriculum Coordinator and District School Improvement lead, and is in her 10th year in her current role as Secondary Principal where in addition to her many hats, is also the CTE Coordinator for her district.

Her CTE staff writes, “The impact she has had on teachers and students has been outstanding. Her commitment to professionalism, energy, and ability to lead us at Sutton has made it a joy to work with her. Career Education is Ms. Thompson’s passion. With Ms. Thompson’s lead and guidance, we have established the Sutton Career pathways Program at Sutton Public Schools.”



ACTEN New Teacher of the Year

**Miranda Bright, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Teacher
Crete High School**

Miranda Bright is the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Crete High School. She is committed and passionate about teaching FCS education and advising FCCLA. Her philosophy of teaching centers around experiential learning through engaging strategies. While teaching, she demonstrates innovation via technology and gamification. Highlights include modifying popular games to increase student engagement and achievement. Ms. Bright was instrumental in creating a FCCLA chapter at Crete. As a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska public relations committee, she actively highlights members, promotes the achievements, and shares classroom activities of Nebraska FCS teachers on social media.

In her classroom, she demonstrates innovation via technology and gamification. With the Pear Deck for Google Slides Add-on, she added the magic of Pear Deck’s formative assessments and interactive questions to her presentations. Her students use Webquest to learn the most up to date information. She modified Guess Who and Jenga games to increase engagement and motivation to achieve student success. When teaching ServSafe, she has adapted the Pokemon Go game called ServSafe Go to encourage students to pass assignments and “catch” pathogen badges, which she created for the students.

Her principal writes, “Miranda has high expectations for her students. She is willing to work outside of class with students who seek extra help. Miranda has the ability to break down tough concepts in a manner that even struggling learners can understand. Miranda’s passion and dedication has helped develop our culinary arts program.”



ACTEN Member of the Year

**Kathleen Kennedy, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher
Central Valley High School, Greeley**

Kathleen Kennedy is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Central Valley High School in Greeley, Nebraska where she also serves as the FCCLA Adviser. Kathleen has been a strong leader in Family and Consumer Sciences Education by her involvement in writing standards and contributing lesson plans and ideas with her fellow FCS teachers. She has served as a District Adviser and District STAR Competitive Events Coordinator for Nebraska FCCLA.

Mrs. Kennedy has served as the FCCLA adviser for the past 29 years. She served on the Nebraska FCCLA Board of Directors for six years. She has also served on the ESU 10 CTE Coordinators Advisory Council for 15 years. Kathleen is a long time member of Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska in which she has held many leadership positions.

Kathleen has been a strong supporter and advocate for the career and technical education, family and consumer sciences, and FCCLA. Her dedication and commitment to the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska during the past 15 years is commendable. She has served as the president-elect, president, past president, and FCS Division Representative for ACTEN. She currently serves as the Nebraska Career and Innovative Education Foundation representative to the board. Kathleen has received many awards including the ACTEN Carl Perkins Community Service Teacher of the Year, FCSTN Teacher of the Year, and Advisers Committed to Excellence Award for Nebraska FCCLA.

June 9, 2020

ACTE Region V Conference

I just finished a Zoom meeting with a few executive directors in the Region V area of ACTE. As many of you know, the Region V conference scheduled in Lake Tahoe in April was cancelled. They had moved the conference to October 27-30. They are now moving to a one-day virtual conference on October 29. However, they are pushing back other conference sites. Lake Tahoe will still host the conference possibly April 13-17 in 2021. North Dakota is now moved to 2022 and Hawaii in 2023.

I'll keep you posted as I hear more about the conference details for the one-day virtual conference on October 29.

June 16, 2020

Press Release from Region V: Award Winners

Congrats again to Carol Erwin!

ACTE Announces 2020 Region V Excellence Award Winners, National Award Finalists

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Region V Excellence Awards:

- ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year—**Kitti Wheeler** - Lakewood, WA
- ACTE Region V Career Guidance Award—**Nora Zollweg**– Bremerton, WA
- ACTE Region V Administrator of the Year—**Aron Schmidt**– Vail, AZ
- ACTE Region V Postsecondary Teacher of the Year—**Nicole Hampton**– Flagstaff, AZ

- ACTE Region V New Teacher of the Year—**Lori Merrill**– Willcox, AZ
- ACTE Region V Carl Perkins Community Service Award—**Rachel Aszklar**– Sumner, WA
- ACTE Region V Lifetime Achievement Award—**Lisa Doll**– Chandler, AZ
- ACTE Region V Teacher Educator of the Year – **Carol Erwin**– Wayne, NE

The Region winners were announced virtually in May 2020.

The ACTE Excellence Awards promote merit in career and technical education (CTE) by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CTE, programs that exemplify the highest standards and organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand CTE programs. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to ACTE: they embody the core values of serving students and being committed to CTE. Find more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards [here](#).

The Region V winners will progress as national finalists in their categories. The national winners will be announced at the ACTE Awards Gala, a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country, which will take place on December 2, 2020 during ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2020 conference in Nashville, TN.

ACTE continues to monitor the rapidly changing situation related to the spread of COVID-19. We understand the concerns for health and safety. Absent federal travel restrictions and/or local, state, or regional decisions to close venues, ACTE is proceeding with an in person event at this time. If there are any changes, we will provide information as soon as possible.

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, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals 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.

June 18, 2020

NAEA Award Winners

Congratulations to the following NAEA members who were recognized as this year's award winners.

Teacher Turn the Key - Catherine Chmelka, David City High School
 Outstanding Early Career Teacher - Katie Arp, Bishop Newman High School
 Outstanding Program - Pawnee City

Outstanding Post Secondary Program - NCTA - Curtis
Outstanding Teacher - Joel Miller, Hampton High School
Teacher Mentor - Craig Frederick, Seward High School

Update on ACTE Region V Conferences

This past week I participated in the Region V business meeting via Zoom.

During the board meeting, the status of upcoming conferences was addressed.

This year's conference that was scheduled for April in Lake Tahoe was cancelled. The 2020 conference will now be a one-day virtual conference on October 29.

Lake Tahoe will now host the 2021 Region V conference April 14-17.

The 2022 conference will be in Hawaii, April 6-9. (Might want to mark your calendar for this one.)

The 2023 conference will be in Fargo, North Dakota. A close drive from Nebraska.

Please be watching for additional information on the October 29 conference as well as the 2021 conference.

July 5, 2020

In Case You Missed It: Sessions at VISION for Middle Grades Featured VISION Workshop: Middle-grades CTE

Kick off your experience at ACTE's CareerTech VISION, happening Dec. 2 to 5 in Nashville, Tenn., with "Build Your Junior High CTE Program" -- giving students the opportunity to explore career fields and make decisions to transition to high school, careers and life -- and other preconference offerings for added professional development opportunities. Don't forget to register by Aug. 31 to secure the member early-bird rate. [Learn more and register.](#)

July 7, 2020

In Case You Missed It: COVID Implications for CTE Programs

New Guide Covers COVID-19 Implications for CTE Programs

High-quality CTE: Planning for a COVID-19-Impacted School Year is a comprehensive guide, organized around the elements of ACTE's *Quality CTE Program of Study Framework*, that covers issues important to maintaining career and technical education (CTE) program quality within any of the possible educational environments being considered for the new school year. It is accompanied by a webinar series, noted below, exploring issues from the field about CTE planning for the 2020–21 school year.

July 10, 2020

Math Teacher Using TikTok to Engage Students

Math teacher uses TikTok to engage students

Kimberly Callahan, a math teacher at Fulton High School in Tennessee, has tapped into TikTok, which she had overheard students raving about before the coronavirus pandemic. Her "funny_math_teacher" account now has 30,000 followers, and Callahan says she will continue it even when school resumes in person.

Full Story: WATE-TV (Knoxville, Tenn.) (6/9)

July 11, 2020

Ask Your Representative to Support Perkins Basic State Grant Funding in FY21 **Ask your representative to support Perkins Basic State Grant funding in FY21**

The House Committee on Appropriations plans to begin markups for FY21 appropriations bills, including funding for education programs, so please contact your representative today to continue federal support for CTE. Read more.

July 15, 2020

New Look to Your ACTEN Website

The webpage for the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska has recently been revamped. You can check out our updated website at actenebraska.org. If you have something you would like to see added to our webpage, please let me know. If you see anything that needs to be changed or updated, let me know.

July 18, 2020

Raymond Central Creates School Garden

RAYMOND – It all started with some weeds, and the dream of a pumpkin patch. Last year Whitney Lehn, the agriculture teacher at Raymond Central High School, and Hailee Nelson, current FFA sentinel, wanted to grow a pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch would be part of Nelson's SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience), which provides hands on experience to students.

Find out more about the school's garden:

https://wahoo-ashland-waverly.com/news/raymond-central-ffa-sets-goals-for-school-garden/article_7ad29ca6-c6c1-11ea-9f96-cf37eb1d6518.html

July 27, 2020

Scholarships Available for CTE Students

Scholarships available for your CTE students


The Horatio Alger Association is now accepting applications from students who have completed high school and will be enrolled in a CTE program at an accredited non-profit postsecondary institution in the fall. This year, the association will award 1,020 scholarships at up to \$2,500 each. Applications are due Aug. 15. Encourage your students to apply.

July 29, 2020

In Case You Missed It: Pheasants Used in Teaching

Teacher's pheasants to teach about bird behavior, biology

Josh Miller, a high-school science teacher in Nebraska, has brought 40 pheasant chicks to school to help teach about animal behavior, predators and bird biology. Miller has various plans for the birds, including setting up a camera so students can observe the chicks.

 **Full Story:** York News-Times (York, Neb.) (7/11)

July 31, 2020

In Case you Missed It—Nighttime Light and Teens

Nighttime light linked to sleep, mood problems in teens

Teens living in areas with high levels of artificial outdoor nighttime light went to bed roughly 29 minutes later and reported 11 fewer minutes of sleep compared with those in places with the lowest levels of outdoor light at night, researchers reported in JAMA Psychiatry. The findings, based on data involving 10,123 adolescents, also showed that those exposed to greater levels of artificial nighttime light more likely met the diagnostic criteria for specific phobias or bipolar disorder.

Full Story: HealthDay News (7/8), Healio (free registration) (7/8)

August 2, 2020

Congrats to Lorrie and Jean

M-PBEA Members Named Tops in Region

Two Mid-Plains Community College faculty members have been recognized by the Mountain-Plains Business Education Association (M-PBEA) for outstanding contributions to business education.

McCook Community College instructor **Lorrie Mowry** pictured (below left) has been named the 2020 winner of the M-PBEA Teacher of the Year and MPCC Division Chair **Jean Condon** (pictured below right) was named Administrator/Supervisor of the Year.

August 8, 2020

Lesson Plan Publication Looking at Not Knowing What the Future Holds

New Lesson Plan Publication

The California Department of Education's Career and College Transition Division has partnered with ACTE, CTEOnline.org and the San Diego County Office of Education's Office of College and Career Readiness to continue producing a regular publication highlighting sector-specific lesson plans, webinars and resources as CTE teachers plan for the new school year.

Benefits of Two-Year Colleges

Data show benefits of two-year colleges

Students who enrolled in four-year colleges and universities but took at least 10 credits at a two-year institution were more likely to graduate, according to research from the Community College Research Center. Findings also reveal that such students had higher earnings.

Full Story: [Education Dive \(7/15\)](#)

August 18, 2020

In Case You Missed It: SCC Students Return to Kitchen

Neb. culinary students return to kitchen

After taking a break due to the coronavirus, culinary students at Southeast Community College in Nebraska are returning to the kitchen. The students learned remotely from March through June but returned to in-person instruction this month.

Full Story: [KOLN-TV/KGIN-TV \(Nebraska\) \(7/24\)](#)

High Quality CTE: Planning for a COVID-19 Impacted School Year

Not the kind of information I want to share, but during this pandemic we have to face reality.

Planning a school year with COVID-19 in mind

Don't forget to download the full guide, [High-quality CTE: Planning for a COVID-19-impacted School Year](#), and the key questions to consider document. [Download the guide.](#)

[August 26, 2020](#)

VISION Now Virtual

After thoughtful consideration, ACTE is excited to host, for the first time ever, CareerTech VISION as a fully online, virtual event, happening **Nov. 30–Dec. 4!** We at ACTE believe this is the safest approach for our attendees and look forward to offering you, from the comfort and convenience of your own home, school or office, an immersive professional development experience that addresses timely topics impacting career and technical education (CTE)! Discounted advance rates are available through **Oct. 23.**

[September 4, 2020](#)

Columbus schools continue to enhance their CTE programs. Find out what innovative additions have been implemented.

https://columbustelegram.com/news/local/tpms-certifications-added-to-chs-program/article_151e1dac-7825-52d6-a039-c3fedaec4f46.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1

<https://www.columbuspublicschools.org/article/300331?org=columbushighschool>

[September 23, 2020](#)

In Case You Missed It: Gering Launches FFA Club

Neb. high school launches FFA club

A Nebraska high school recently launched an FFA club, which has already proven popular with dozens of students participating. The club has its roots in 2019, when families pushed for more agriculture opportunities for students.

Full Story: [Star-Herald \(Scottsbluff, Neb.\)\(9/22\)](#)