

Inside this issue:

Image is Everything 1

Notice of Nominations 2

Annual Convention Review 3

Literacy Skills 3

Divisional Reps 4

Integrating & Collaborating 5

ACTEN Board 6

NCE Conference 8

ACTEN Officers 8

Scholarship Golf Scramble 9

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Image is Everything

DeLayne Havlovic,
ACTEN President

Wikipedia defines image as “*something one remembers or imagines.*” Our students often seek for ways to identify themselves that help them create their own image – an expression of their developing self existence. Career Education’s image is critical as enrollment in many of our courses hinges on how others feel selecting one course over another. Also, how our courses are perceived by Administration, Guidance Counselors, Parents and Community Members is equally critical.

Over the past decade plus, CTE educators have shed the “vocational” stigma while we embraced “careers” and the idea of “technical” skills. We have made progress but the path ahead of us still continues.

In early November, I had the opportunity to represent ACTEN in a two-day Career Readiness Summit sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with the Department of Labor, Partnerships for Innovation and FutureForce Nebraska. At the introduction of the summit, Scott Swisher, Deputy Commissioner of Education, Rich Katt, Career Education Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Education and Catherine Lang of the Department of Labor all spoke on defining what career readiness and

college readiness really is and left the group of over 70 education, business and community leaders to work together to define this.

The combination of business, government and education leaders brought up many topics we need to ponder and define. Some felt Career Education was the wave of the future and that all education is essentially career education training; while others still stuck with the mentality that career education is the vocational trade training, similar to theories of job training during and after World Wars I and II. Obviously, how Career Education is perceived around our state varies, depending on who you are and what experiences were had.

The following questions came to light during the Summit:

- What is a *Career Ready* person?
- What attributes should a *Career Ready* person hold?
- What is the difference between college ready and career ready?
- What are the most important trends or themes in the world by 2015?

There are no clear answers to these questions. A full dialog and documentation of the Career Readiness Summit can be found at <http://ne-career-readiness.com>.



DeLayne Havlovic, President

Later in November, Career Education Career Field Organization leaders, including many of your ACTEN board members met to debrief the Career Readiness Summit and carry out discussions on moving Career Education forward. ACTEN and Partnerships for Innovation are working together to strengthen the bonds of career education and to better link business and industry.

ACTEN is committed to strengthening the image of Career Education in Nebraska and will work towards building relationships across the state this year and in the years to come. The Nebraska Department of Education Career Education Department and the Partnership for Innovation both have already committed their time, people and resources to strengthening the definition of Career Education in Nebraska. I, along with members of your ACTEN Board look forward to how we can partner with the Nebraska Department of Education and Partnership for Innovation to strengthen Career Education even further in Nebraska.

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ACTEN-Election of Officers and Representatives for 2010-11

The following positions will be listed on the 2010 election ballot:

Officers:

President Elect

Secretary

Discipline Representatives:

Administration

Family & Consumer Sciences Education

Health Sciences Technology Education

Engineering and Technology Education

Trade and Industrial Education

Special Populations

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dave Gee at dgee@esu10.org.

Catch the Rhythm of CTE—Annual ACTE Convention

DeLayne Havlovic, ACTEN President

The 2009 National ACTE Convention was held November 19-21 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. The convention was filled with exciting keynote speakers, knowledgeable breakout presenters and a large variety of exhibitors at the trade show.

Chef Jeff Henderson, honored as one of the top African-American chefs by *Black Enterprise* magazine opened the conference with an inspiring message. He discussed how he overcame adversity to become one of Las Vegas' most successful culinary experts.

The second day general session included a panel of education and industry experts who discussed CTE's role in education reform. Bill Daggett of the International Center for Leadership in Education led the panel discussing trends and objectives that must take place in the next decade for career education to continue strongly.

The closing general session was highlighted by Steadman Graham, known

worldwide for his success as an author and businessman, spoke on maximizing leadership, achieving success and embracing diversity.

ACTEN was highlighted during the State Association Leadership Luncheon as an All-Quality Award winning state. ACTEN board members DeLayne Havlovic, Kathleen Kennedy, Lisa Groth, Mike Rogers and John Schultz were present at the luncheon to accept the award for our state association.

Each session slot offered a variety of workshops and presenters with information suitable for all educators. Each session had sessions specifically targeted to each career field and cluster.

Begin your planning now to attend the 2010 ACTE Conference, scheduled for December 2-4 in Las Vegas Nevada. Check www.acteconference.com in early 2010 to submit a proposal through Call for Papers, if you are interested in presenting.

Helping CTE Students Gain Literacy Skills—Kathleen Kennedy

Improving comprehension skills is vital to building cognitive skills. Reading and literacy skills enable youth to gather information, create knowledge and apply it daily from a variety of sources to the problems in and about their lives.

“..but I don’t teach reading..” may be the first thought of many CTE educators

“It is unfortunate that even today many content texts from fourth grade through high school are written at higher levels than the reading ability levels of many of the students expected to read them.” (Marian Jonjes and Miles Zintz, 2002)

Elements of reading comprehension skills that must be taught:

- ◆ How to read purposefully
- ◆ Learn from those materials
- ◆ Integrate new information with information previously known
- ◆ Differentiate fact from opinion
- ◆ Select materials that are of interest
- ◆ Figure out meanings of unfamiliar words
- ◆ Resolve conflicting content in different texts
- ◆ Recognize the perspective of the writer

There are three basic steps to reading:

1. Preparing to read

A. Many learners need some background knowledge before they know enough to want more. Also, the background has to

have some emotional impact in order for adolescents to make personal connections.

B. Reading aloud for students of all ages and reading capabilities is one of the most helpful techniques for engaging readers and improving reading skills. It also helps readers improve fluency and pronunciation as they hear other readers.

C. Our job as...teachers should be to model reading and thinking about a text, not to dictate meaning.

2. Reading

A. Thinking about the reading process for adolescents is like getting on a metacognitive bus—often, struggling readers spend much of their time with traveling though, daydreaming, people-watching or trying to look as if they are reading rather than actually reading.

B. Research has shown that as effective readers proceed fluently...they continually monitor their comprehension to make sure that material makes sense. If comprehension falters, they employ fix-up strategies to regain understanding.

C. Reading is a difficult task when we read literature, science tests, historical analyses, newspapers or tax forms. This is why teaching students how to read the texts of academic disciplines is a key part of teaching them these disciplines.” (Strategic Literacy Initiative, 1999).

3. Interpreting/Application

A. Reflecting on reading by sum-

marizing main ideas and considering how ideas are related changes prior knowledge and identifies gaps in learning. Reflecting also allows the reader to ask more questions and plan the next action for learning more.

B. Readers use their text knowledge to reflect on personal knowledge. They use what they have ready to reflect on their own lives, the lives of others or the human condition.

A “real world” example is the Foods Class at Conestoga High School. Dianne Ross’s class read *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder* by Joanee Fluke to incorporate more reading into the curriculum.

When students were handed the book and noticed it contained 430 pages, they were apprehensive. Once starting the book, they were drawn into the investigation of the murder. The cookie recipes are included in the novel and the class made the Chocolate Chip Crunch cookies and enjoyed eating them as they continued reading. There are nine cookie recipes the class made for the school Book Fair held in December.

Students were doing some CSI investigating in groups as they read the novel. They enjoyed discussing the characters in small groups as they filled in “Who are the Characters” and tried to discover the murder. The teacher resource that has many instructional lessons is *Recipe for Reading Activities for Incorporating Reading into the FASC Classroom* by Ramona L. Hatch.

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Kathleen Kennedy- kkennedy@esu10.org

Integrating and Collaborating...How does this all Relate?

Sheree Moser

ACTE in Nashville did not disappoint as one of the most valuable national conferences to attend for areas of Career and Technical Education. Why should we bother to invest the time and effort to attend conferences that include ALL of the courses of study instead of those just for our own subject areas? This conference is the ONE for our group to experience how we can connect, collaborate and appreciate why CTE is so important to educators and the success of our students.

Connections—

Common broad concepts are found in all of our subject areas involved in creating relevant learning experiences for students. These include management, problem-solving, labs, experiential learning, career connections, student organization and leadership development...just to mention a few. All of these create an environment that meets the needs of a variety of students but especially touches those who learn best by active participation and REAL life experiences. This is a huge benefit of being a career prep subject area that applies to REAL work! You all have examples of those student whose lives have been changed by what you do.

Collaboration—

Working together for all of Career and Technical Education takes patience and a high level of respect and understanding to get past the feelings of territorialism and ownership within each of our areas. We

do cross over when it comes to content in so many different ways, we need to work together to make sure the standards are guiding that context and the learning experiences we include within our classrooms. Sticking to standards also leads to that “data” needed for us all to support the Perkins connections concerning essential learning and the assessments that will show how our students are achieving.

Take care in what you are teaching. Talk and work together with the other CTE teachers within your district and our state.

“No man is an island,” still applies and with our collaboration, the students will see the connections that will help them become competitive in the workplace. The skills we teach are universal to many jobs and careers and it is our professionalism that will serve as a model students will respect and admire in the future. Emphasizing our connections also shows our students, fellow teachers, administration, community and state the true meaning of professionalism. It shows we are dedicated to the learning and success of our students, not concerned as much with what we think needs to be.

Appreciate—

Appreciation of each other is only going to happen when respect and consideration for each other’s content is valuable, relevant and contributes to the success of our students. Making personal connections takes time and involvement. For those of you who have people

in your buildings or districts who live on that island, it’s going to be a master of taking the responsibility for letting them know you are open to listening to their perspective. We need to try and create some common meanings and accept how each of our classes help students become successful in their career, as well as individual and family relationships.

Working together and truly *knowing* takes time and effort. Even though you may not want to, you may NEED to be the agent for change. We also need to do this with incoming professionals, as well as other uninvolved teachers and administrators. With our replacement of teachers decreasing each year, we also need to make a special effort to reach out to those students with future potential for education majors within college. Make the effort! Do the things we need to pull us closer instead of separating yourself from what we need to draw all CTE professionals together.

I’ve given you some ideas to ponder. See if one of them may fit into the situation you are currently in and the action you take will make the situation better for everyone in your district and/or community. Share how you have been successful at collaborating at our NCE Conference in June and get other teachers within your district to attend with you. My goal is to see many more of you in Las Vegas December 2-4, 2010 as well!!

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ACTEN Board Members

Back Row: DeLayne Havlovic, Dave Horst, Mike Rogers, Dana Hall, Dave Gee, Cathy Kloch, Kathy Gifford and Alicia Beck
 Front Row: John Schultz, Kathleen Kennedy, Denise McNeel, Kathryn Ballobin, Gregg Ratliff
 Not pictured: Cindy Talley, Kori Jensen, Billy Wilson, Tracy Post, Richard Campbell, Andrew Berthold and ex officio members Richard Katt, Lila Kulwicki, Ila Arrants, Bonnie Malcolm, Lisa Groth and Mary Ann Caputo



**CEFN Scholarship Fund
Golf Scramble Set for
June 12, 2010**

The Career Education Foundation of Nebraska (CEFN) will host its second Scholarship Fund Golf Scramble on June 12th at Country Shadows Golf Course in Columbus.

Proceeds from this event will be used to fund the CFEN Scholarship and Grant programs. The registration flier is included at the end of this newsletter. ACTEN members are encouraged to participate in this fundraising event. Please contact Lila at the C F E N office (acte.nebraska@juno.com or call 402-423-6786) if you have any questions or need additional information.

See page nine for registration flier.

Welcome New Members

- Doug Babbitt-AGR
- Mark Balaschweid-AGR
- Amy Tomlinson-AGR
- John Vinchattle-TGY

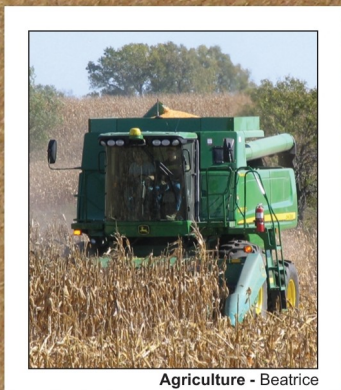
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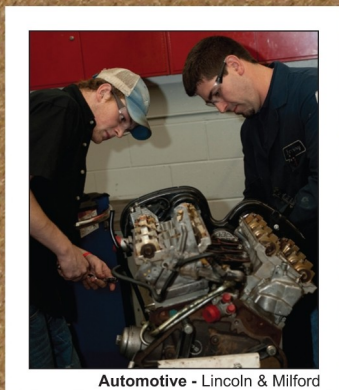
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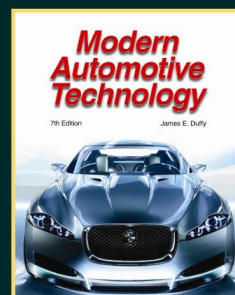
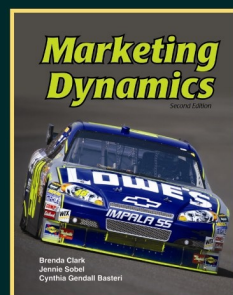
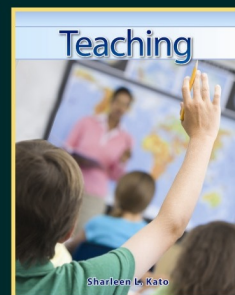
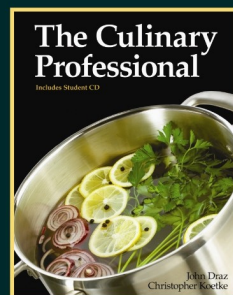
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2010 Nebraska Career Education Conference

Join hundreds of career educators from across Nebraska and plan to attend the 2010 Nebraska Career Education Conference to be held Tuesday, June 8 through Thursday, June 10 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. Registration opens April 1st.

Information on featured speakers, preconference workshops and conference agenda can be previewed at

www.nceconference.com

ACTEN Officers

Past President—David Gee, Northwest High School, dgee@esu10.org

Secretary—Alicia Beck, Lincoln High School, abeck@lps.org

Treasurer—Cindy Talley, Fillmore Central High School, ctalley@esu6.org

President Elect—Kathleen Kennedy, Greeley-Wolbach Public School, kkennedy@esu10.org

President—DeLayne Havlovic, Omaha Public Schools, delayne.havlovic@ops.org



SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF SCRAMBLE

**Saturday, June 12, 2010
9 Hole—4 Person Scramble**

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**Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon
Non-golfers lunch—\$10
Last Date to Register ~ June 5, 2010**

The Scholarship Golf Scramble is sponsored by the Career Education Foundation of Nebraska, a 501c(3) non-profit corporation. All proceeds from the Golf Tournament will be used to fund CEFN’s Scholarship Program for secondary Career Education students.

Please submit your registration by calling Elda Reinhardt at (402) 563-4040 or send an email message to Elda at shadows@megavision.com or complete this form and mail it with your check (payable to Career Education Foundation of Nebraska) to Country Shadows Golf Course, 6767 Shadow Ridge Place, Columbus, NE 68601.

4-Person Scramble Team Members’ Names:



Team Contact person’s name &
Phone # _____

Note: All beverages must be purchased from Country Shadows. **No** beverages can be brought onto the premises!!!

Limited carts available upon request at \$10 per cart.

Number of carts needed _____

We will be limited to 18 teams, so please

Register Early!!!