



The Communiqué

Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska

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Your Professional Voice



Do Something Different

By Stephanie Miller, ACTEN President

Do something different! As the holidays approach, and the mundane long winter months will pass before us, it is necessary for us to do something different. Maybe that something is to work out more, eat healthier, or try to finally take a breath. When we are constantly doing the same routine, we get burned out, we lose the desire to be great. Our students need us to do something different; they need us to continue to be great.

We are CTE! We get to do the best job in the world! We get to push kids to be better; better students, better children, better citizens.

The skills that we teach are skills that will live with the students for years to come. What we do is relative to the proverb, “give a man a fish, and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime.” When we work with our students, we get the privilege of seeing that light bulb go on as they complete projects or begin to understand how everything is connected. They get the hands-on experience and can see the necessity of our objectives.

Our knowledge, enthusiasm, and hands-on environment for our specific subject are what keep the kids coming back. When we teach the kids how to measure for their projects or calculate how much concrete will be needed for an area, we are teaching them real-life math. When we teach our students how to balance a checkbook, or budget their income, we are teaching them much needed financial skills for their future.

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We are CTE! Our classes are cognitive, technical, and emotional. Students look to us for guidance and assistance. We don't have to know every answer we just have to be willing to help find the answer. Students are watching us and learning from us. We begin a ripple affect. If we are excited about a project or competition, it will rub off on to the students, which in turn will rub off on to the next generation. Are your actions in such a way that you would be proud of seeing your students following?

Frequently, we get stuck in a rut. We've gone through the trials and tribulations of student teaching, followed by the half sinking adventures of our first few years. As we struggled through these times, we found what would work for us, and often kept the same tactics but forgetting that each student is different.

This generation of students does not learn the same way that most often we were taught. They are of a technical age, where phones are basically attached to their hands, and music is constantly strumming in their ears. If you are not of the same generation or mindset, you may have trouble connecting with your students. In CTE connection with the students is of the utmost importance. How will you help these students?

What will you do different?

ACTEN 2015-2016 Officers



President –
Stephanie Miller

smiller@heartlandschools.net



President Elect –
Anne Schmall

anneschmall@sbps.net



Secretary –
Kristin Vest

krivest@kearneycats.com



Treasurer –
DeLayne Havlovic

delayne.havlovic@ops.org



Past President –
Kelly Means

kelly.means@ops.org

CareerTech VISION2015

New Orleans, Louisiana

The 2015 CareerTech Vision was held November 19-22 in New Orleans, Louisiana. LeAnn Wilson, the Executive Director of ACTE, provided many highlights about the conference. A significant highlight was the attendance. A total of 3,840 attended this year's conference.

Ms. Wilson also shared that ACTE worked diligently to improve the 2015 CareerTech Vision with the following new initiatives and processes:

- The VISION conference was held in New Orleans for the first time since 2001
- Staff reached out to Tim Johnson and Louisiana education and industry leaders to spread the word about VISION to an untapped audience of CTE educators in Louisiana
- Attendees were able to earn CEUs at VISION
- The NASDCTEc Career Clusters Institute was merged with VISION
- The number of postsecondary sessions doubled over last year's offerings (from 20 to 40)
- The National Academy Foundation (NAF) and National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) partnered in the conference

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CareerTech VISION2015

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New Orleans, Louisiana

- The number of pre-VISION workshops nearly doubled from last year (from 6 to 11)
- 100 sessions were added over last year's conference (from 209 to 281 in just division specific sessions)
- Expanded Career Pavilion over last year (from 7 to 38 companies)
- The VISION website was restructured and formatted to be more user-friendly with expanded and continually-updated information
- Marketing started earlier and information was sent out to many newly acquired lists

Sixty-nine Nebraska CTE teachers attended the conference. In addition to the positive improvements that the ACTE conference committee initiated for the success of the conference, Nebraska had several of our own present at the conference. Those Nebraskans who presented were Allison Kreifels, Anne Schmall, Kristen Vest, Staci Turnbull, and Joshua Hogrefe.

On Thursday evening, the Nebraska delegation attended a social at Harrah's. Those in attendance were able to connect with and meet CTE educators from the state of Nebraska. The social was a great way to relax and visit with our fellow educators.

The 2016 CareerTech Vision will be held November 30 to December 3 at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Make plans now to attend this outstanding conference.

ACTEN Board Seeking Nominations

ACTEN is seeking nominations for several board positions for the 2016-17 school year. Positions that will appear on the 2016 election ballot include:

Officers:

President-elect (nominee cannot be from Family and Consumer Sciences)

Secretary (2- year term)

Discipline Representatives: (3 year term)

Administration

Engineering and Technology

Adult Workforce Development

Special Populations

Health Science Technology

Trade and Industrial Education

New and Related Services

Terms for all positions will start on October 1, 2016. No prior board experience is required. If you are interested in running for an office or discipline representative position, please contact the Nominating and Awards Committee Chairperson, Kelly Means at kelly.means@ops.org.

You may also contact the ACTEN Office at 402-480-9577 or actenebraska@gmail.com for more information.

2016 ACTEN Election Process

The 2016 election ballots will be processed electronically. In April all voting members will receive a message from the ACTEN office that contains a link to the ballot for their discipline on Survey Monkey, along with their member ID number. Members will need to use the link to access their ballot and vote.

ACTE Election Results

The election for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 ACTE officers was held in December. The new Board members were elected by members of the Association during its annual election process.

The results of the election include the following:

- **President Elect** - Gina Riggs. Gina is the EMS Director at Kiamichi Technology Center in Poteau, OK.
- **Region I Vice President-Elect** - Jon Quatman. Jon is the Vice President at Great Oaks Career Campuses in Cincinnati, OH.
- **Region II Vice President** - Brian Law. Brian is a School Counselor at Valdosta High School in Valdosta, GA.
- **Business Education Division Vice President** - Kelli Diemer. Kelli is a Business/Marketing Education Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education in Des Moines, IA.
- **New and Related Services Vice President** - Anesa Hooper. Anesa is the District Marketing/Public Information Coordinator at Indian Capital Technology Center in Muskogee, OK.
- **Trade and Industrial Education Vice President-Elect** - Dean Baker. Dean is the Precision Machining/Computer Numerical Control Instructor at Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City, OK.
- **Region IV Vice President-Elect** - Christine Holecek. Christine is the CTE Education Specialist II for the Education Service Center Region 12 in Waco, TX.

Also joining the Board in July 2016 are Lorri Carlile, President; Rachel Gonzalez, a FACS Teacher at Lakeridge Jr. High School in Orem, UT, who will serve a three-year term as the Family and Consumer Sciences Vice President; and Cindy Stover, who will serve a three-year term as Region III Vice President. Stover will represent Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

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4 Questions Nebraska Educators Should Ask Before Retiring

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

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



Brian Luther

National Planning Corporation

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Southwest community college

www.southwest.edu/programs

John Shaw (right), a student in SCC's Motorcycle, ATV & Personal Watercraft Technology program on the Lincoln Campus, placed second in the Motorcycle Service Technology category at the National Leadership and Skills Conference last summer. His second-place finish earned SCC a CVO™ Softail® Deluxe motorcycle, donated by Harley-Davidson Motor Co. SCC will use the bike as a training aid.



BEATRICE

LINCOLN

MILFORD

Welcome to New Members

New and Reactivating Members for 2015-2016 Winter Issue

Agriculture Education

Bethany Blackburn
Amanda Brader
Andy Osten
Justin Rafferty
Sara Smith
Tara Smydra
Tyler Splinek
Kassie Starkey
Russell Stoker
Amanda Struble
Emilia Woeppel

Engineering and Technology

Anthony Hilsinger
Matt Spawn

Business Education

Jacqui Garrison
Michelle Hennig
Kathleen McCune
Greg Oxley
Adam Zlomke

Family and Consumer Sciences

Lana Bushousen
Laura Gaulty
Holly Hesse
Kenzee Kucera
Elyssa Lueck
Stacy Luedtke
Sara Policky
Shannon Shearer
Sarah Smith

Health Sciences

Linda Munderloh

Cooperative Education

Dana Burman





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ACTE 2015 Annual Report to Members

PUBLIC POLICY, ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

IT WAS A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR CTE POLICY. ACTE STAFF REPRESENTED YOUR INTERESTS in debates on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Higher Education Act (HEA), federal funding and many other bills, as well as the administration's implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

As is often the case, our advocacy activity early in 2015 focused a great deal on the FY 2016 budget and appropriations process. For the first time in a number of years, Appropriations Committees in both the House and Senate approved their Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bills. Both bills cut education funding overall significantly, but maintained funding for the Perkins Basic State Grant, which is a big victory for CTE! Unfortunately, bills stalled due to larger debates about overall spending caps and priorities and Congress was faced with a decision about whether to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government operating as this report went to press.

The greatest congressional progress in 2015 was made on the reauthorization of ESEA, with both chambers approving bills in the summer and beginning conference committee negotiations. Throughout the process, ACTE worked to strengthen the integration of academic and CTE instruction within the bill, including through accountability, professional development, and career guidance and counseling provisions. We had a number of amendments included in the Senate bill in particular, and we are now working with Congress to ensure those provisions are maintained in any final law.

As ESEA activity shifted to the conference negotiations, both the House and Senate turned some of their attention toward the next bill up for reauthorization, HEA. ACTE staff closely tracked the hearing process and submitted comments in response to committee requests for information. In addition, we worked on a number of individual bills related to our CTE priorities, such as increasing access to financial aid for short-term programs.

In late summer, we also finalized our positions for the pending reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and we submitted comments on draft legislation to the House Ways and Means Committee. We weighed in on the reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, as well, supporting an exemption for school-based enterprises from the competitive food rules. And, while Congress' focus has not been on Perkins reauthorization, we continue to engage in conversations with congressional offices, as well as other education, workforce and business groups, on ACTE's reauthorization priorities. We are well positioned for the next steps in the process.

On the regulatory front, we closely followed efforts to implement the new WIOA. We responded to several federal register notices with official comments, participated in meetings with administration officials and developed resources for CTE stakeholders to promote their active engagement in WIOA activities. For example, in June we partnered with the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium and the National Skills Coalition on a webinar and fact sheet on CTE and WIOA alignment.

We also continued to track CTE policy efforts on the state level in an effort to identify trends and share best practices among CTE stakeholders. Last January, we jointly released our second annual state policy paper, "State Policies Impacting CTE: 2014 Year in Review," and we participated in a corresponding webinar.

ACTE 2015 Annual Report to Members

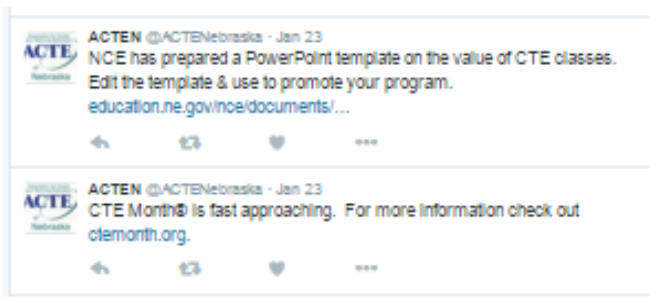
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To provide the research and data necessary to support both state and policy work, we continue to develop new resources and publications, including expanding our line of sector sheets focusing on how CTE contributes to meeting skill demands in critical career sectors, such as transportation, hospitality and financial services, and updating current fact sheets and infographics to ensure the latest information is available for advocacy work. We produced a new issue sheet on CTE's role in rural education, as well.

ACTE continued its focus on data quality through work as a partner with the national Workforce Data Quality Campaign. We participated in several presentations, including a briefing on Capitol Hill, to highlight our efforts to increase the availability of data and information on student credentials, particularly industry certifications. Our efforts on industry certifications also included providing leadership and support for the Certification Data Exchange Project—an effort to expand and improve data exchange between industry-certification organizations and state longitudinal-data systems. In addition to this project, we have joined several other certification-related efforts to ensure the CTE community is represented in these discussions.

Finally, last year we launched our High-quality CTE Initiative, a multi-step project to identify a comprehensive, research-based quality CTE program of study framework, test the framework and integrate it into our efforts to recognize and disseminate information on best practices within CTE. The first phase of the broader project focuses on defining high-quality CTE, and in July, we released "Defining High-quality CTE: Contemporary Perspectives on CTE Quality." This paper examined a broad range of documents from a variety of national sources to analyze trends in the CTE quality conversation, and it will be used as the foundation for the next phase of the project.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE TWEETING



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AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTORS LOBBY FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON D.C.

By Shane Hennessy and Murleen Bellinger

East Butler Agriculture Instructor, Shane Hennessy, and Katie Frenzen, Agriculture Education Instructor at Amherst High School, recently spent four days in Washington D.C. at the Association for Career and Technical Education's (ACTE) 2016 National Policy Seminar. At this seminar, Hennessy and Frenzen learned about three key pieces of legislation that will affect not only agriculture education, but other career and technical education courses.

The Carl Perkins Act, which was last authorized in 2006, is up for reauthorization in 2016. Perkins provides funding to schools for career and technical education. The purpose of the funding is to provide individuals with the academic and technical skills needed to succeed in a knowledge- and skills-based economy. Perkins supports CTE that prepares students both for further education and the careers of their choice.

The second piece of legislation is the Higher Education Act (HEA), which is designed to make college more affordable for students who are seeking a degree in a skilled/technical career field, such as welding. As a lobbyist for CTE, the Association for Career and Technical Education has three recommendations for the reauthorization of the HEA. The first recommendation is to reduce barriers to higher education for all students. The second recommendation is to support CTE teacher preparation programs and alternative paths to certification. The third is to evaluate data collection requirements to reduce burden and ensure program integrity.

The last piece of legislation that was introduced at the conference was the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is replacing No Child Left Behind. ESSA is more efficient at critiquing schools in terms of student achievement and opportunity. ESSA includes some key CTE provisions to promote activities that integrate academic and CTE content in the classroom—including specialized professional development opportunities, expanded college and career guidance programs, improved availability of CTE student performance information, and recognition of CTE as a core component of a well-rounded education.

Hennessy and Frenzen were also instructed on how to lobby on behalf of career and technical educators while visiting Capitol Hill



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AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTORS LOBBY FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Some interesting information they learned was that only 5% of all funding provided from the federal level actually makes it to a classroom. “The reauthorization of the Perkins Act is designed to cut the red tape and get more of the funding where it should be,” Hennessy stated.

Hennessy and Frenzen were accompanied by Murleen Bellinger (ACTEN Executive Director) to Capital Hill on March 1 to meet with three of our members of Congress from Nebraska about the legislation. The CTE group from Nebraska met with Representative Jeff Fortenberry, Representative Adrian Smith, and Senator Deb Fischer. “It was a great opportunity to showcase the great opportunities career and technical educators across the state are providing to students and to vouch for the need for federal funding for schools everywhere

Recently, the Illinois Governor proposed a budget with \$0 for agriculture education. Their state is very similar to Nebraska in that 1 of 3 jobs are directly tied to agriculture. With state budgets tightening everywhere across the country, the need for federal funds in education is paramount. We have a skills gap that needs filled and filling this gap is reliant on providing students with the newest technologies and opportunities,” said Hennessy. “I am glad I got to go show the congressmen what I do on a day to day basis and show off the opportunities I am providing at East Butler, but we need more. My students are learning life long skills that will benefit them, whether they choose an agriculture career or not. I want to provide them with the newest and most innovative learning opportunities for the six years I get to influence them,” Hennessy continued.

For more information on the legislation you can go to this site, <http://www.careertech.org/perkins>. ACTE is the strongest advocate you have for your CTE program. However, as a CTE educator, you should be aware of the legislation affecting your CTE program. Be your own advocate by showcasing your program to your local, state, and national leaders. Let them know the good work that our teachers and students do in the classroom for the betterment of our students.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the

2016 NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Join hundreds of career educators from across Nebraska and plan to attend the 2016 Nebraska Career Education Conference to be held Monday, June 6 through Thursday, June 9 at the Younes Conference Center at the Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska.

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Sue Enquist holds more National Championships (11) than anyone in the history of softball. She is UCLA Softball's first athletic scholarship, All-American, National Champion, and Hall of Famer. Off the softball field, Sue is a dynamic communicator and has gained the reputation as a highly sought after international speaker. She equips leaders to connect with students at the heart level and bring out the very best in them. Read more at sueenquist.com.

Dr. Tim Elmore is a leading authority on how to understand the next generation and prepare tomorrow's leaders today. He is a best-selling author, international speaker, and president of [Growing Leaders](http://growingleaders.com), a nonprofit that helps develop emerging leaders under the philosophy that each child is born with leadership qualities.

Tim and his team provide public schools, universities, civic organizations, and corporations with resources that foster the growth of young leaders who can transform society. For over 30 years, he has taught leadership through the power of images and stories that enables young adults to influence others in a positive way. Read more at <http://growingleaders.com/tim-elmore/>.

Plus dozens of career field experts presenting informative sessions!

MONDAY & TUESDAY PRECONFERENCE SESSIONS INCLUDE:

Microsoft Training
 Habitudes for Career Ready Students Teacher Training
 Engage - A Middle School Career Development Curriculum
 Literacy in the CTE Content Area Training
 Worked Based Learning/Employer Engagement Training
 Career Field Specific Professional Development Experiences
 NCCR Training
 Project Lead the Way Mini-Conference
 Much more!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:

Preconference Monday: \$80.00 (includes workshop and lunch, additional materials fees may apply)

Preconference Tuesday: \$80.00 (includes workshop and lunch, additional materials fees may apply)

NCE Conference Wednesday-Thursday: \$200.00 (includes two lunches and materials)

(Late fee after May 10: \$35.00)

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

Registration opens April 15. More detailed information will be available February 15 on our website, www.nceconference.com.

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