

2014 Missouri ACTE Division Presidents

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President's Message

The school year has truly started, we just completed week four and I am about six weeks behind. I wish I would have been more attentive during the time management workshops or learned to say no --- one of these choices surely would have generated more leisure time. Yes, Donna had to send me reminder number two, "your article is due."

Today during my walk around the pasture checking on our small herd of cows and the new calves born in the last few days, I realized my optimism for education and cow wrangling parallel each other. We have experienced three falls of drought in our area. Normally at this time, I am walking around in new fall grass brought on by late August or early September rains — but not during the last three years.

I continue to enjoy and find optimism during my daily walk through the cows and calves even with the parched pasture, low ponds and increased feed cost from buying additional hay. I sometimes find myself and others in our office or the teachers' lounge identifying the drought in education. The cause of our drought can be directed to students, fellow educators, DESE or a variety of other problem-causing entities.

I believe for the past 29, I have continued to stay optimistic about my opportunity to be involved in career and technical education. To remain



Rusty Black
Missouri ACTE President

positive, I chose to identify the challenges I can have an impact upon.

Rusty Black cannot make it rain, but I can manage our resources to maximize the grass and water we have. I cannot change decisions made by others, but I can try to impact the students in my class and maybe influence some policy makers to make those student's lives better, as well. Missouri ACTE is a strong partner in this endeavor. As the combined voice for career and technical education, Missouri ACTE and ACTE try to influence policy makers, educating these folks about the impact their decisions will have on our students and the country's future work force.

My goal as Missouri ACTE President is to strengthen our organization. I again cannot make it rain, I cannot accomplish this goal alone. We can all identify areas that can strengthen Missouri ACTE's voice: membership,

President's Message from page 1)

participation and positive public relations. You can impact each of these areas. Many times all we have to do is ask or educate that neighbor down the hall or road and we can influence their decision to join their division association, as well as Missouri ACTE. Participation - yes, it costs; yes, it takes time; and yes, sometimes it is not easy or convenient. But when we don't, others may believe our organization and profession is not valuable - simply because we did not value it enough to participate. Positive PR: take the time. The rewards to your students, program and career and technical education will be much greater than your effort.

I will enjoy my experience as Missouri ACTE President. My participation in this organization has been rewarding and with each meeting I attend, I gain something to share with my students or fellow educators. I hope each of you will share my optimism for the future of career and technical education.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Rusty



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Region III Report

by Sherry A. Struckhoff RN, BSN

The Region III Conference was held in Peoria, Illinois. The Conference began on June 20th and ended at noon on the 21st. Due to a death in my family, Missouri was represented by Rusty Black and Donna Vossen (thank you!). Dave Bunting, our Region III VP, shared a wealth of knowledge and information from National ACTE and then passed the reins on to Katrina Plese, our new VP from Illinois. The Conference is where we decide our Region III award winners who will go on to represent us at Nationals. As always, this was a wonderful opportunity to network and gain leadership skills to take back to our own states.

Next year's Region III Professional Development Conference will be held in Rochester, MN, beginning at 8am on June 19th and ending at 5pm on June 20th. The registration fees and hotel accommodations will be available soon. There will be a wonderful get together on Thursday night with lots of networking/leadership

opportunities. Make plans to attend this wonderful leadership opportunity.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization. One of the jobs of the Region III representative is to be a stable, continuous presence on the Executive Board, while other members move through the chairs of President Elect, President and Past President. I hope that I have been that for our members. If you have any questions or concerns that I can help you with, please feel free to contact me. Have a great school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry A. Struckhoff RN, BSN

Region III Representative

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The Reporter is a quarterly publication of the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education (Missouri ACTE).

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Missouri ACTE Legislative Day

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

*State Capitol Building ♦ Third Floor Rotunda
Jefferson City, Missouri*

- 8:15 a.m. Meet at the Missouri ACTE Registration Table**
(3rd Floor Rotunda – pick up packets for Legislators)
- 8:30 a.m. Briefing - Gamble & Schlemeier**
(House Chamber)
- 9:00 a.m. Networking with Legislators & Visits to Legislator's Offices**
(3rd floor Capitol Rotunda)
- Time TBA Proclamation presentation for CTE Month**
(Governor Nixon's office – Room 216)



Mark The Dates!

February 12, 2014

Legislative Day
Jefferson City, MO

December 4-7, 2013

ACTE Conference
Las Vegas, NV

July 22-24, 2014

Missouri ACTE
Conference
Springfield, MO



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Congratulations!

Kristi Hodson



Kristi Hodson is the 2013 recipient of the Missouri ACTE Professional Development Award, a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Missouri ACTE member pursuing career and technical education. Kristi is a Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Carthage High School and is working towards a Master of Science in Teaching with an ESOL emphasis through Pittsburgh State University in Pittsburgh, KS.

Gina McLachlan



At its 2013 Summer Conference, the Missouri ACTE membership elected Gina McLachlan as President-Elect for 2013-14.

Missouri ACTE Summer Conference 2013 in Review



MACS, MSCA, and MSNA

Our Summer Conference was another stellar learning experience for everyone who attended. MACS, MSCA and MSNA came together at the Opening Session with speaker Andy Masters giving us ideas on how to balance our stressful careers, family, and activities by controlling our schedule with prioritization, delegation and balance. Our industry tour this year was a visit to Kraft Foods, Inc., or a session on A.L.I.C.E. - Response to Armed Intruders. Both events were educational in ways to work with our students and faculty.

Our Tuesday evening was a fun-filled Division Social at the Oasis. We had "Minute to Win It" games and prizes for those attending. A big thanks to Midwest Technical and Linn State Technical for sponsoring our Social.

Wednesday was a full day of breakout sessions for our divisions. There are always new and different ideas and methods we can use to assist our students and even parents to become successful students, graduates and employees. Our feedback reports of the Conference were very positive this year. There were many compliments for our presenters and the topics covered. A couple of comments we should consider for next year were about greeting and assisting our new professionals and first time attendees. More should be done to help them work through the "who, what, when, where, and how" of our Conference. If you have ideas on helping, please let Frank North, President of MACS know, we always are looking for ways to make this Conference better.

At our membership meeting on Wednesday, the slate of officers for 2013-2014 were presented. They are:

President – Frank North;
President-Elect – Eric Lark;
Secretary – Wendy Berndt; and
Treasurer – Stacie Wild.

Congratulations to those elected.

The Missouri Special Needs Association (MSNA) and Missouri Association of Career Services (MACS) have been in discussion for several years about merging the two organizations as there are some vocational schools and career centers combining the two jobs which have left each respective organization with declining membership. After some discussion, it was moved and passed to form an ad hoc committee to oversee the absorption of MSNA members into MACS. This is to be accomplished mostly by having the MSNA members simply join MACS, but some bylaw changes must be addressed to be able to accommodate a scholarship now overseen by MSNA.

Contact Information:

You should be getting email from Frank North on a regular basis concerning legislative information from Missouri ACTE and upcoming events for MACS. If you are not, please email fnorth@hannibal.k12.mo.us with your contact information and we will get you on the email list. And as always, if you know someone who is not a Missouri ACTE or MACS member, encourage them to join. We are a stronger organization with more members.

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MoEFACS

“FCS and Human Services: Foundations for Career Success” was the theme for the 2013 Summer MoEFACS Conference held in Springfield, MO at the Howard Johnson Hotel and Convention Center July 23-25. Four pre-conference sessions were offered on Monday, July 22. The sessions covered a broad range of topics including Missouri Connections, New and Returning Teachers workshop, Developing a Working Curriculum, Ounce of Prevention, and FCCLA Boot Camp. The pre-conference offerings provided opportunities for professional growth in areas of instructional practices and curriculum.

Following the Opening Session of Missouri ACTE on Tuesday morning, MoEFACS members returned to the Howard Johnson Hotel and Convention Center and opened the Division Conference with a business meeting, followed by an Awards and Recognition Reception.

Andy Masters, award winning author and international speaker, was the Opening Keynote speaker at the business meeting. His topic, “Time Management & Work-Life Balance for the Busy Education Professional,” provided strategies to implement spending MORE time on the items which are MOST important in your career and your life.

Awards and recognition were presented for Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher, Teacher of the Year, College and High School Scholarships, and retiring teachers from the division. Dr. Cynthia Arendt, Director of the Family and Consumer Sciences Division at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was recognized for 25 years of service to the organization.

Larae Watkins and Michelle Conrad, Co-Directors from Missouri Center for Career Education, opened the Joint MoEFACS Division Meeting on Wednesday with “Common Core 101: The Basics of the Standards.” Twenty-four concurrent sessions, as well as sessions for the Hospitality Cluster-Culinary Arts and Early Childhood Programs were offered over the course of the Conference. Topics in the Culinary Arts and Early Childhood areas included tours of local business in Springfield. The concurrent sessions covered a range of topics including Technology, Personal Finance, Curriculum, Instructional Practices, Classroom Management, Assessment, and Leadership.

A Special Function Luncheon on Wednesday provided members an opportunity to hear Dr. Larry Michaelson’s presentation about Team Based Learning. Dr. Michaelson

shared his experience with team-oriented activities, giving students an opportunity to learn from their peers. These activities also help them develop important life skills such as better interpersonal communication and accountability.

“Advocating from the Inside Out” was presented by Mr. David Luther, Jefferson City Public Schools at the Closing Session on Thursday. Carousel Sessions followed the Closing Session with members choosing four 25-minute sessions to attend for information on various topics. Approximately 257 MoFACS members attended this year’s Summer Conference. The 2014 Conference is scheduled for July 22-24 in Springfield.

For more pictures from the Missouri ACTE Conference, see pages 7 and 8.



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A Walk Down Memory Lane





Awards



↑ Sarah Topp, Gamble & Schlemeier, receives her Certificate of Appreciation from Missouri ACTE President Rusty Black.



↑ Darell Hawley receives her Diversity Action Committee Award from Missouri ACTE President Rusty Black.



↑ Senator Brian Munzlinger (left) receives his Legislative Recognition Award from Missouri ACTE President Rusty Black.

Grand River Technical School



↑ GRTS was the recipient of the Outstanding Ag Education Program Award. Pictured, from left: R. L. Bennett, Award Sponsor Representative; Rusty Black, GRTS Representative; and Lance Martin, GRTS Representative

The Grand River Technical School was recently recognized with the Outstanding Agriculture Education Program Award for their accomplishments during the Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (MVATA) Conference in Springfield, Missouri, this summer. The Outstanding Agriculture Education Program Award is given to the top agriculture education program for their teachers' involvement in professional activities and meeting the educational needs of their students. The award also takes into account community service projects, FFA chapter and student successes, and the positive influence the agriculture program has on the school and community. The George Clarke Missouri State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (sponsoring organization) who presented a plaque and a cash award recognized the recipients at the MVATA banquet. MVATA is a professional agriculture education teacher association that has 486 members serving 327 schools.

Saline County Career Center



↑ Jason Davis, MVATA Northwest District President and Callie Dobbins

At the annual Missouri Vocation Agricultural Teachers Association conference in Springfield this summer Callie Dobbins, teacher at Saline County Career Center and representing the Central District Association, received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2013 MVATA Awards Luncheon.

Saline County Career Center



The Saline County Career Center's FFA Chapter was named one of the Top 10 Model of Excellence Chapter for the second year in a row. This is a prestigious accomplishment because they are one of 10 chapters out of almost 7,500 chapters, nationally. In October they will be traveling to Indianapolis to attend and compete at the National FFA Convention and hopefully be named the No. 1 Chapter in the Nation. They have been named #1 in the state the past two years and top-ten in the nation for the past two years as well!

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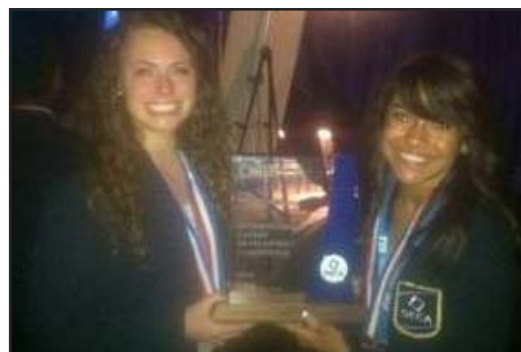
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2013 Saline County Career Center FFA Chapter President Abrea Mizer (pictured right) was selected as the State FFA President for this coming year



SCCC's DECA chapter members earned the organization's highest honors at DECA's 67th annual International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, CA on April 24-27, 2013. Seven students qualified for Internationals and received the Award of Excellence. Samantha Huston & Jasmine Tapia, (pictured below) under the leadership of Kathi Oster, placed 3rd at Internationals with their Fairy Prom Mother's Creative Marketing Project.



Saline County Career Center



↑ Team members, left to right: Brandon Blalock, Jesse Corkill, Shelby Dawson (front), Jasyn Dailing (rear), Rowan Hynick, Roy Castrellon

On June 24th, 2013, a team of six students left the Saline County Career Center with their advisor for the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference and Competitions. Through the support of several businesses, organizations and individuals in the Marshall area, they were able to spend the week in Kansas City attending SkillsUSA events and competing in the Chapter Business Procedure contest, a contest challenging their ability to handle items of business, make proper motions, and conduct orderly meetings according to Parliamentary Procedure.

After scoring quite high on a written test from the National Association of Parliamentarians, (five of the six team members are now eligible for membership in the NAP!), the team proceeded into actual demonstrations of their abilities. In the preliminary round of competitions, they defeated many other teams from states all across the nation and progressed into

the finals, putting them among the top nine teams in the nation!

In the finals, they competed against teams that were returning for their 2nd or 3rd year to the National competitions, so SCCC's 1st year team had their work cut out for them. The competition was difficult, with many problems thrown in by the contest designers, and the judges admittedly being very strict about every aspect of the contest. Our team performed very well and walked away as the 7th highest ranking team in the nation!

Their advisor, Tom Hendrix, said of the team and their performance, "I could not have asked for any better students or any better devotion and effort from a team of students. They worked very hard and achieved more in their first year than many teams achieve in their 2nd or 3rd year of competitions. I am extremely proud of each and every student on this team and they should be very proud of their representation of SCCC and the state of Missouri."

Lake Career and Technical Center



↑ Jacqueline Wilson

Culinary Arts Instructor, Jacqueline Wilson has been selected as one of seven finalists for 2013-2014 Missouri Teacher of the Year. The finalists are chosen, based on their written application, by a selection committee appointed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Jacqueline Wilson, is a Culinary Arts instructor at Lake Career and Technical Center and was the 2012 Teacher of the Year for the Camdenton R-III School District. Chef Wilson teaches students in grades 9-12. Students can take a three-hour Culinary Arts class, a two-hour Restaurant Service class or a one-hour Culinary Careers class each day.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year program recognizes the efforts of effective teachers throughout the state who provide a quality education to their students. Preparing, developing and supporting effective educators is a primary goal of the Department's Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for

"Awards" >p12

Cass Career Center

Cass Career Center has been selected as an Outstanding Technology Centers That Work (TCTW) Center. This award is based on the success of center leaders and teachers in improving center practices and increasing the quality of experiences provided to students. The award was presented by Dave Spence, president of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), at the 27th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Wednesday, July 17, 2013.

Spence praised the center for its achievement, pointing out that it takes dedication and hard work on the part of technology center leaders and teachers to make progress in preparing students for college and careers in an increasingly competitive world. He presented the award before an audience of 4,700 educators from across the nation attending the HSTW Conference.

Cass Career Center was one of only nine TCTW centers in the nation to receive the 2013 Outstanding Center Award. To be recognized as an Outstanding TCTW Center, a center had to be nominated by the TCTW state coordinator or by an SREB director for a noteworthy accomplishment such as improving achievement, improving graduation rates, improving college and career readiness, improving the quality of CTE offerings and robust assignments, fully implementing the TCTW design, implementing a signature feature, or extensively implementing the Gates' Literacy Design Collaborative and/or Mathematics Design Collaborative.

"This center has shown what can be accomplished to improve student



performance and readiness for college and careers by deeply implementing the TCTW model for strengthening curriculum and instruction," said Gene Bottoms, SREB senior vice president. "The center illustrates the spirit of change that Technology Centers That Work advocates and supports through assessment, staff development and technical assistance."

TCTW was established in 2007 to assist shared-time career/technology centers in improving student achievement and producing graduates who can excel in high-demand, high-skill, high-wage career fields. The TCTW design is based on the High Schools That Work design, with modifications that address the specific needs of shared-time centers. More than 190 centers in 18 states participate in activities to promote increased academic performance.

The largest SREB program, High Schools That Work is a national, comprehensive school improvement design based on the premise that most students can master rigorous academic and career/technical studies if school leaders and teachers create a school environment that motivates all students to make the effort to succeed. The HSTW initiative is the nation's first large-scale effort to engage state,

district and school leaders in partnership with teachers, students, parents and the community to equip all students with the knowledge and skills needed to graduate from high school and succeed in college and the workplace. More than 1,100 high schools in 30 states and the District of Columbia participate in the HSTW school improvement initiative.

Cass Career Center serves nine sending schools, including Harrisonville, Belton, Lee's Summit, Raymore-Peculiar, Lone Jack, Pleasant Hill, Archie, Midway, and Adrian. In addition to the high school skills training, they have one adult practical nursing program.

Lake Career & Technical Center *(from page 11)*

Jacqueline Wilson *(Continued)*

Missouri to rank among the top 10 performing states in education in the nation by the year 2020.

The winner and the finalists will be honored at a banquet October 21 in Jefferson City. The new Missouri Teacher of the Year will serve as the state's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL)



↑ *Missouri Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Students*

The Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) and Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapters of Missouri attended the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California, at the end of June.

Approximately 400 members from Missouri FBLA and 100 from Missouri PBL attended this Conference. Missouri received many awards: 2nd largest FBLA chapter and 1st largest FBLA chapter in the North Central Region.

While at the Conference, members competed in over 40 competitions.

Missouri prevailed with nine 1st place FBLA winners and 63 finished in the top 10; PBL had eight 1st place winners and 39 finishing in the top 10. Missouri FBLA and PBL combined for total prize winnings of \$14,550!

Several chapters received awards as well. The FBLA Gold Seal chapters were Belle, Carthage, Cassville, Clinton, Crane, Eldon, Ft. Zumwalt South, Fulton, Gainesville, Hermitage, Jackson, Kickapoo, Linn County Area CTC, Otterville, Paris, South Callaway,

Wellington-Napoleon, and West Platte. Eight chapters also received the Outstanding Chapter Award.

In addition, several advisers were recognized for their hard work. Stu Dunlop from MSSU was PBL Outstanding Adviser, Betty Eddy from New Madrid was FBLA Outstanding Adviser. Gina McLachlan and Jennifer Schlender were added to the Wall of Fame. Lisa Hofstetter was appointed to the Board of Directors. Carla Boulton is the National Awards Program Committee for FBLA. Elizabeth Fletcher of Evangel is on the National Awards Program Committee for PBL.

Missouri FBLA and PBL have started off this year with the theme of: Excellence in Action. This fall, all levels of the organization — middle, FBLA, and PBL — will meet for the first-ever Missouri Fall Conference at St. Charles Community College. Many activities and events are being planned by local chapters to make Missouri FBLA shine again at the 2014 National Conference!



↑ *Missouri Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Students*



“If You Haven’t Learned, You Haven’t Lived” — Repair at SkillsUSA



↑ *iFixit team member, Jeff, scores students as they compete during SkillsUSA's national championship.*

People are quick to point out the shortcomings of a beleaguered public education system here in the United States. But after spending a week at the National SkillsUSA Competition in Kansas City, I am hard-pressed to come up with criticism. Amidst slashing budgets, standardized testing, and the ever-changing demands of the 21st century, there is still a beacon of hope for our students.

In my case, the beacon has a name: Jerry Delgado. Although, you don't need his name to find him — Jerry's infectious laugh precedes him. You can hear it from across a room. Like hundreds of other teachers and volunteer staff at Skills USA, Jerry supports the nearly 6,000 high school and post-secondary students who have come from around the nation to show off their career and technical skills at the event.

The students here are the cream of the crop. They have already won regional and state competitions. They are now competing for a national title for in categories that range from commercial baking to welding. Computer maintenance is among the hefty list of programs that focus on repair. (That's why we came.)

Jerry has taught computer maintenance in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for 10 years. Through CTE programs, like those represented at Skills, students learn hands-on repair skills. But to win a national title, repair skills aren't enough. Students have to demonstrate professionalism throughout the competition. They have to write and present a resume and dress to code.

“Skills USA is a means for career and technical students to prove their skills and professionalism, which is needed in the workforce today,” Jerry sums up the program. “Students need to learn these hands-on skills to get a job in today's competitive market.”



↑ *Jerry Delgado, one of many teachers and volunteers, oversees events at the championship.*

Giving students a leg up isn't the only motivation behind Jerry's work: it's about sustainability, too. From the solar panels on his home to the computers in his classroom, Jerry spends a good amount of his time thinking about the long-term impacts consumer goods have on the environment. He teaches students to value repair — not only as a career opportunity, but as a part of consumer responsibility. In an age where technology is designed to last only as long as our ever-shorter attentions spans, such lessons are critical.

The skills students learn in CTE programs helps to prepare them for dynamic on-the-job problem-solving. But, Jerry insists, the programs also push youth to think of the contribution they will make to society as adults.

“Students need to understand what they need to know and learn to figure out how to get that information on their own,” Jerry said. “Working with others is crucial to solving problems in computer maintenance ... nothing these students learn only relates to computers, it is about skills for life.”

And so, like knowledge passed down through generations, repair is passed from instructors like Jerry to students — and into the future.

For Jerry, it's the stories of the students who return years later that matter. He talks animatedly about the kids who have gone on to successful careers. But no matter where the students end up in life, they all start with the same piece of advice. On the first day of school, Jerry tells every single classroom, “Learn something everyday, even if it's not in class. If you haven't learned something today, you haven't lived today.”

Source: <http://ifixit.org/4913/if-you-havent-learned-you-havent-lived-repair-at-skillsusa/> — By: Brittany



Why Obama Will Tout the Missouri Innovation Campus

Reprinted with permission from Web Producer- Kansas City Business Journal

← *Brian Green, a Missouri Innovations Campus student, will introduce President Barack Obama in his Wednesday [July 24, 2013] visit to the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo.*

During President Barack Obama's visit to the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo., on Wednesday [July 24, 2013], 17 students will sit behind him on stage as a representation of a new class of students jumping on board a streamlined path to their career.

Obama plans to tout a new program those 17 students are involved in. It's designed by the University of Central Missouri, Metropolitan Community College and the Lee's Summit R-7 School District, and falls in line with Obama's goal to reduce the costs of education and get students ready for the workforce.

But the Missouri Innovation Campus provides a type of curriculum unlike many others.

It's a venture between the University of Central Missouri, Metropolitan Community College and the Lee's Summit R-7 School District. It began with a conversation between UCM President Chuck Ambrose and local business partners — including DST Systems Inc., Cerner Corp, Saint Luke's Health System, Kansas City Power & Light Co., Black & Veatch and others — about the gap in time it took to get graduates workforce ready.

"Our business partners were still spending a lot of time doing the training for these recent graduates, and they were graduating with a lot of debt," said Elaine Metcalf, director of the Summit Technology Academy. "Now they're helping define the curriculum. Our first degree program, systems engineering technology, was written by Cerner and DST folks. They're the ones that said students need to know these things and came up with more than 300 competencies that students would need to explore before getting their bachelor's."

Metcalf said entry into the program must begin with high school sophomores who are interested in pursuing a career in information technology or engineering. If they meet the GPA and attendance requirements, the first step is getting accepted into Summit Technology Academy, where during their junior and senior years, they'll attend half of the day, and spend the other half at their home high schools. During that half day, they'll take a combination of online and face-to-face courses through the University of Central Missouri

and Metropolitan Community College and earn dual credits, which earn students both high school and college credit. By the time students graduate from high school, they'll obtain an associates degree.

After the high school students' junior year, business partners will invite students to complete an 8-week paid summer internship. Then during their high school senior year, students will continue to work at the companies for two days a week, followed by another 8-week summer internship.

"That model was one that our business partners were insistent upon," Metcalf said. "Most of the time they just had interns there in the summer; Our partners didn't want that big of a gap. By the time they get their bachelor's, they'll have three years of an internship and hopefully be taking on more challenging tasks. By that time, chances are that they will be ready and want to stay in the same company."

After graduating high school while simultaneously obtaining their associates degree, students then move on to the University of Central Missouri, where they'll pay the standard \$213 per credit hour for in-state tuition, or \$426 for out-of-state tuition.

"While we might not be able to eliminate student debt completely, we can cut it at least in half," Metcalf said. "I've been in education a long time and this is the first time I've ever seen a university, community college, a school district and industry partners get together and say 'How can we make this a better route for students?'"

The program already has 16 students enrolled in its second cohort, and is still accepting applications. And the program isn't restricted to those only in the Lee's Summit R-7 School District — Metcalf said even homeschooled students can attend.

"It's not an easy path," Metcalf said. "It takes a bright young mind."

The campus is still putting out RFQs for developers to construct a building to house the Missouri Innovations Campus, and though it initially sought to find one by mid-March, it's still looking.