

The Winter Reporter

Winter, 2012

President's Message



Dear Colleagues:

At this time of year, we can get lost in the little things that we are doing and lose sight of the big picture. A college professor once called this "The Gestalt." The American Heritage Dictionary describes gestalt as "a physical, biological, psychological, or symbolic configuration or pattern of

elements so unified as a whole that its properties cannot be derived from a simple summation of its parts." Merriam Webster defines it as "something that is made of many parts and yet is somehow more than or different from the combination of its parts."

The definition is less important than the impact. If we lose sight of the big picture, we isolate ourselves from doing what we need to do.

In our classrooms, we could lose sight of the scope and sequence that served as a guide in August. In our schools, we can get caught up in routine discipline and lose sight of what we're working with every day: young adults needing guidance. In our professional responsibilities, we can easily tell ourselves that it is up to someone else. We're too busy, we need that money for things other than dues, or skipping Summer Conference one year won't matter.

In the past 21 years, I have had those same thoughts, but I always knew what the professional thing to do was – and that's what I did. Was it always easy? No. But it was the right thing to do. The professional dues that we pay provide us with security in the big picture. Without organizations like ACTE – which wouldn't exist without each of us paying dues – we would not have the jobs that we have. That's the bottom line. So, the next time you hear a colleague say they don't pay dues, ask them if they like their job. If they do, then point out what they need to do to keep it.

This graphic provides a visual of the gestalt principle and the theory of visual perception. It was developed by German psychologists in the 1920s to describe how people tend to organize visual elements into unified wholes.



So, how do we keep it all in perspective? We balance everything, much like a juggler. A juggler keeps several items in the air at all times. Teaching is very similar to that. We always have several things going at the same time: concentrating on our students, keeping our family safe and secure, accepting our professional responsibilities, and always striving to better ourselves. At this time of year, we also need the "gestalt" to remind us of the reason for the season.

For each of you, I wish you a Happy New Year.

Janell Allred, Missouri ACTE President

Education Showdown Inevitable

by Sarah Topp, Gamble & Schlemeier

Legislation filed on the topic of education is always in abundance each session. There is never a shortage of ideas on how to improve, alter or create new statutes that govern our educational system. The committee process and the will of the majority narrow the field to a few changes in the education landscape in a typical year. That's what's supposed to happen with laws – they evolve over time to meet the circumstances at hand.

Education debate is no stranger to controversy. All politicians include education in their platform, but viewpoints often vary drastically between factions. The needs of urban, suburban and rural districts have differences. One of the biggest challenges for lawmakers is to devise a school foundation formula that distributes funds in a way to insure all types of districts have adequate funding. The Missouri General Assembly did just that a few years ago. The basis was to arrive at a per-pupil adequacy target and adjust according to variances between districts. It was decided to phase in the new formula so that sufficient funds could be funneled through the formula to meet the calculation of "full funding" each year. In order to be fair – and to get the bill passed – no school district was to receive any less under the new formula than they received under the old formula. These districts, of course, are termed as "hold harmless" districts.

As you well know, a few years into the new formula phase-in, the economy took a downturn and state revenues plummeted. Lawmakers were no longer in a position to increase funds to the foundation formula as the calculation dictated. The law is silent on how this shortage in the increase is distributed. The administration made the decision to spread the shortfall



equally, making "hold harmless" not quite as it was intended. We are now at a stage where the law says the new formula should be fully phased in but the state's revenue situation doesn't allow for anything close to providing increases that would meet full funding.

Another twist is that the adequacy target amount could be adjusted this year, as allowed in the law, causing some districts to come up severely short on funds. For some districts, the impact could be devastating. This is a big problem legislators need to resolve this session.

This isn't the only big problem looming over some districts. The accreditation status of two urban school districts has awakened a sleeping section of law that allows students in an unaccredited district to transfer, at the home district's expense, to a neighboring district. Again, the statute is silent on all the "what ifs" that could accompany this situation. A court decision has supported this section of law, but it's up to the legislature to clarify what is to happen in, say, a situation where the neighboring school doesn't have room for these students. When is the receiving district going to get paid and how much? The law is silent. When will the district know how many students will be transferring? The law doesn't say. And, if an unaccredited district has to pay tuition and transportation costs, how is the unaccredited district going to have the funds to gain accreditation? Legislators attempted to tackle this issue last session, but gridlock prevailed and the law was left unchanged. This session, the pressure is greater to get some clarification as more and more students request a transfer.

With two urgent issues at hand for the future of education – and some districts at a make-or-break juncture, one would think legislators would quickly move a bill along to remedy both of these situations. So what's the hold up? There are just a few little other ideas some legislators want very badly and wholeheartedly believe are needed to improve education.

Education Showdown >p3

The Reporter is a quarterly publication of the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education (Missouri ACTE). *We welcome your comments.*

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 Website: www.MO-ACTE.org



Education Showdown *(from page 2)*

The first in this line-up is the expansion of charter schools. Coupling expansion with more accountability for charter schools seems to be a likely compromise. Middle ground on this subject might be the easiest to find.

Current law only allows charter schools in the urban districts, for those provisionally accredited or unaccredited. The proposal that passed the House last session and was debated in the Senate, would have expanded the option of charter schools to any area of the state. In districts that have accreditation, the local school board would have to opt to have charter schools in the district and could sponsor a charter school. In districts where there was provisionally accredited or unaccredited status, the school board wouldn't have an option. The bill would have expanded what

entities could sponsor a charter school. The accountability piece for charter schools was the linchpin in its progression. But the complications increase with other ideas.

Expansion of virtual schools was added to the mix of discussion. Currently, limited virtual school options are available through a state-sponsored program who, in turn, contracts with private providers. A charter virtual school would leave the state sponsorship out of the loop. Remember, in a charter situation, the public funds follow the student.

Even greater push back will come from the proposal to create a tax-credit funded voucher system for students to attend private schools. A bill like this was debated in the House two years ago and we will most likely see it again this session.

To round out this perfect storm of controversy, phasing out teacher tenure and allowing teacher pay to be tied to student achievement will be added to the debate. The only thing that could bring a more explosive topic to the table would be to modify the public school retirement system. So far, that hasn't been mentioned as a topic to add to the "package" for education this session.

A package deal is what top leadership in the House and Senate say it will be or there might not be anything done to fix the two critical issues facing public education. There is conviction and passion on both sides of this issue, both intending what is best for a chance at a quality education for all students in the state. It is indeed going to be a showdown for our educational system.



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Region III Report



by *Sherry A. Struckhoff RN, BSN*
Region III Representative
 School Phone: (573) 774-6106
 E-mail: sstruckhoff@waynesville.k12.mo.us

Happy New Year! We returned in November from our National Convention held in St. Louis. The Conference was wonderful and the sessions were very beneficial. It is always a wonderful time of renewal and relationships. I so enjoy visiting with other members of Region III and Health Science Instructors.

The opening speaker was Sir Ken Robinson, who is a recognized leader in the development of creativity, innovation, education and human resources. He had a very interesting take on how to improve education and student success.

On Friday, our opening speaker was Ray McNulty, who reminded us that we need to be agents of change; educate the adults, as well as students; and to remember, that it's NOT us against them. He said to think beyond best practice to NEXT practice.

Saturday's closing speaker was Eric Chester, an expert on school-to-work transitions. He is a leading authority on how to manage and motivate post-Generation X'ers.

All were great speakers and the rest of the Conference had wonderful breakout sessions. I always learn so much that I can bring back to my colleagues and students.

Jan Bray, Executive Director of ACTE, told us that this is the last ACTE National Annual Convention and we can expect NEW and EXCITING

things to occur within ACTE. Keep your eyes and ears open for these changes.

My role as the Missouri Representative to the Region III Board is to attend both the Policy Meeting and the Region III Business Meeting and give Missouri a voice. There are six states in our Region and each has equal representation. This is a great opportunity to learn what is and isn't working in other states. Karen Mason officially became the ACTE Vice-President during the Conference and we are so proud of her and the rest of the leaders in Missouri who work on behalf of CTE issues.

The Region III Conference will be held in Middleton, Wisconsin this year. The Conference theme is "Moving CTE Forward" and will be held June 21-22nd. This Conference is a wonderful opportunity to grow our leadership, while networking with other members of the Region. I would encourage each division to consider sending three people from your Board. At this meeting, the Region III Award winners who will go on to represent Region III at Nationals will be determined.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Missouri Representative to Region III. It is an honor and a privilege. Have a great second semester.

Sincerely,

Sherry

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You're Invited ...

Missouri ACTE Membership,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite each of you to attend and participate in the February 15th Missouri ACTE Legislative Day.

This is an important event that will allow you the freedom to roam the State Capitol and discuss important Career and Technical Education issues with your local Senator and House of Representative member. I would urge you to make contact with your Legislative member's secretary as soon as possible and let them know you are going to be in the State Capitol.

Make sure to tell the Legislative member's secretary that you would like to meet with your Legislative member either in their office or in the Senate or House side gallery. It is customary to do so and if possible, ask the secretary if you and your students can be introduced on the Senate or House floor. This is truly an event that will build a personal relationship with your local Legislator.



I look forward in visiting with you on February 15th.

Jim W. Spencer
Missouri ACTE Legislative Chair

For more information: www.mo-acte.org.

**Missouri ACTE Legislative Day
February 15, 2012**

**ACTE National Policy Seminar
March 5-7, 2012**



Join us again in March for the 2012 ACTE National Policy Seminar — beef up your advocacy skills, meet with important Members of Congress and hear from national leaders in education.

Registration is now open!

We are stronger together! With many special-interest groups lobbying for funding, it is imperative that we stand together and speak

out with a strong voice to promote the cause of CTE. We will connect with the decision-makers! NPS offers a unique opportunity to meet our national leaders face to face and share with them the incredible value of CTE in our communities and country. We have the resources you need! At NPS, you will receive the latest news about the budget debates and other federal issues affecting CTE — as well as everything you need to advocate effectively. We can strengthen our future! Together, we can protect the gains we've made and ensure the security of our livelihood.

This year, we've added an advocacy session specifically for NPS veterans to help you strengthen and tailor your messages to policymakers from across the political spectrum. Be sure to check out "Tailoring Your Message for Reds, Blues, Purples and Beyond."

Stand up to be counted for the cause of CTE.

For more information: www.ACTEOnline.org.



Where the Rubber Meets the Road ... Our Committees

It's through the committee structure that our Association reaches its goals. We are grateful to the committee chairs and members for their dedication to Missouri ACTE!

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Division Updates



Missouri Business Educators (MBEA) Making Change

The members of the Missouri Business Education Association held their Fall Conference on November 4-5, 2011 at The Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri.

The Opening Session was held Friday evening with a dinner and members sitting in their districts. This time was given to districts to hold a meeting with those in attendance to get organized for the year and fill any committee positions that needed to be filled. Gina McLachlan, president, gave districts a few things to consider and updated them on decisions made at the Board meeting.

Following the Opening Session, there were two sessions of concurrent workshops for members to attend, followed by a social time to visit with vendors and fellow teachers. Saturday morning, a breakfast was held along with four concurrent workshop sessions. Four of these workshops were live-streamed, so those members not in attendance could view workshops.

At the Board Meeting, several decisions were made concerning the current status of the organization. We decided to buy out the contract for the 2012 Fall Conference with the Lodge of the Four Seasons, as our attendance has been decreasing and we are not able to meet the room allotments. After our meetings, Carla Boulton was able to secure a reasonable contract with The Inn at the Grand Glaize. This Fall Conference will be held on Monday, October 8, with the Board Meeting being held on Sunday afternoon and evening. We also decided to decrease the amount of donations for raffle baskets at the Summer Conference from \$50 to \$25. In addition, we voted to increase the registration fee for Summer Conference. The Summer Conference will be held in July in cooperate with Missouri ACTE at the University Plaza in Springfield. We will have fewer rooms for concurrent sessions, but will have quality workshops for members to attend.

Gina McLachlan, president, and Theresia Brinkley, legislative committee chair, will be attending the NPS in Washington, D.C., in March and Gina McLachlan, president, and Theresa Bynum, president elect attended the ACTE Conference in St. Louis in November and will attend the NBEA conference in Boston in April.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina McLachlan
MBEA President 2011-2012

Look What's New at American Tech



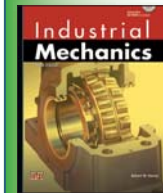
National Apprenticeship Training Program for Cooks defines the core competencies required for certification

from the American Culinary Federation. Ten concise modules provide learners with practical content and applications along with detailed illustrations. The modules also include certification exam preparation questions.



This first edition textbook is a comprehensive compilation of practices and requirements to maintain the efficiencies and

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This new edition presents the latest information on all aspects of mechanical systems, including rigging, lifting, ladders and scaffolds, hydraulic

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Division Updates *(from page 11)*

Family & Consumer Sciences (MoEFACS)

Missouri Educators of Family & Consumer Sciences, MoEFACS, was well represented at ACTE in St. Louis. We would like to thank all who attended, helped, and presented at the Conference. The ideas and information shared at ACTE Conference is just what we need to provide the best possible education for our students. Another benefit of the Conference is to participate in NatFACS and NateFACS meetings and network with FCS educators from across the country.

Our MoEFACS Board is working to plan Summer Conference. I am very encouraged by the energy shown at our Fall Meeting to change-it-up a bit and make the Conference a must-attend event.

Budget cuts in districts all across the state are a reality we will be dealing with for several years. It is strongly recommended that we make our programs stand out. Through our in-

services our instructors are well prepared to implement Programs of Study, prepare students for Technical Skill Attainment exams, and give our students relevant career preparation.

New and returning teachers are prepared for the classroom through new teacher in-service and mentoring opportunities. Experienced teachers are given workshops, conferences, and grant funding to develop their programs.

Lastly we appreciate DESE's support of our student organization, FCCLA, by hiring Gayla Westergaard, as our state leader. FCCLA is not a club; it is an integral part of our curriculum. Students complete projects that benefit the community, the school, and their own leadership skills.

See you at summer conference.

LeeAnn Tomlinson
MoEFACS President 2011-12

Technology Education (TEAM)



The Technology Education Association of Missouri (TEAM) is honored and proud to say that a team of high school students from Odessa High School (OHS), coached by Jason Rathert and Zach Meler, were invited to go to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS; and take part in KU's High School Design Competition on November 8, 2011. This team, made up of Rathert's Engineering I, II, III students and Meler's advanced physics students, went to KU and competed against other schools from Kansas. The Odessa

team was the only team from the state of Missouri to compete in this competition, thus representing the entire state (not much pressure, huh). The University of Missouri found out we were the only team competing and their Engineering Department sent MU Engineering t-shirts for the entire team to wear at KU on competition day and the kids did so gladly (Thank You, MU Engineering).

"Division Updates" >p9

Division News *(from page 8)*

TEAM *(Continued)*

The competition was in two parts, the first was the Rock Hop Jayhawk Challenge. This challenge made the students design, engineer, build and operate a jumping device that would propel itself in various directions (vertical, horizontal and angled) in one fluid motion. Out of 41 teams there, the OHS team went into the finals with a top-five finish in the prelims and then actually ending up 11th overall in the angled jump part of the competition.



The second part of the competition was for the students to design, engineer, build, and program a robot (using Lego Mindstorms kits provided by KU) to complete a course that was designed by KU's engineering students. This challenge had three courses, each one building upon the last course and gradually getting harder as it goes. The OHS team was one of 21 teams to try to complete the courses. They made it through the first two courses fairly quickly and then they came upon the dreaded 3rd course. When asked who designed the course, one of the helpers said, "I did and it took me eight hours to program my robot to complete the course." The students took it upon themselves to try their

hardest to make sure their robot completed the course. After attempting the third course for what seemed like a million times, making little adjustments to the robot and programming, the OHS team sent their robot for what would be their final time (at exactly 2:05 pm, approximately one hour after talking to the designer). We all watched with anticipation in the room. One could have heard a pin drop. It seemed as if time was standing still and things were moving very slowly then all of the sudden the robot made it past the last obstacle and stopped in the box at the end of the course.

The entire team (coaches and members) swarmed each other in a giant group hug celebrating their victory. While that was happening, the entire room was cheering and applauding the effort the students had made. All that was left was for the team to sit and wait to see what would happen.

At the Awards Ceremony, the OHS team found out that in the Lego Mindstorms part of the competition, they received a 1st place for course #1 (fastest time), a 2nd place for course #2, a 1st place for course #3, and then the overall champion award in the Lego Mindstorms portion of the competition.

Overall, the day was a great success, not only for the OHS team but for everyone, from teachers to students. The exposure of a Division I school, Engineering program and College Professors talking to the students gives the kids something to look forward to in the future and as one of the members said on the way home, "Hey, not too bad for a bunch of kids from a small town, huh?"

To see videos of the competition go to the following:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkHJXrzaY88>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yah-SxqCbFg&feature=related>

The Odessa Team is in both videos but shows up more in the Lego Mindstorms video (second link).

TEAM held their Winter Conference at Linn State Technical College on Saturday, January 28th. Topics included everything from drafting to engineering and robotics. After the Conference, the TEAM Executive Board met to discuss plans for the rest of the year and the Summer Conference in July.

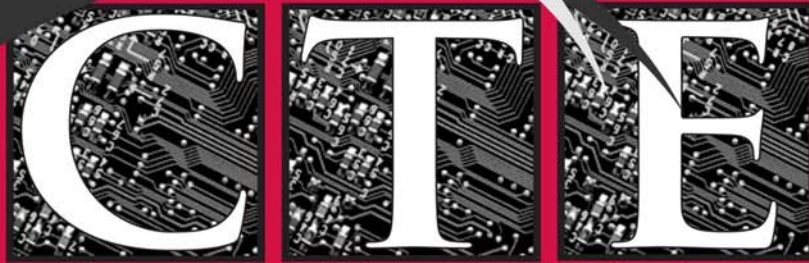
Submitted by,

Jason Rathert
TEAM President, 2011-2012



If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right.

~ Henry Ford ~



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FCSE - Mrs. Billie Perrin bperrin@ucmo.edu

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or enrollment assistance,
please contact:
Cindy Merryfield
(660)543-4452
merryfield@ucmo.edu

Congratulations to Our Colleagues and Students



Leslie Kerns

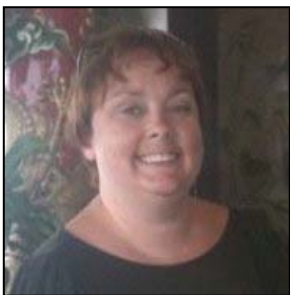
Leslie Kerns, Director of Business, Marketing and Information Technology for the Office of College and Career Readiness was recently named to a three-year term on the National Board of Trustees for MBA Research and Curriculum Center.

Established in 1971, MBAResearch is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization incorporated in the state of Ohio. This national company is organized as a consortium of 37 state education departments and other organizations. MBAResearch strives to align high school and college business curriculum with the employment needs of industry so that students graduate with skills that make them employable, productive, and promotable.

They provide a wide range of curriculum services to ALL educators interested in helping students achieve success in the business world. ALL public school educators in member states receive discounts and free access to State's Connection. Those in non-member states receive not-for-profit pricing for all services and materials offered by the Consortium.

Ms. Kerns will join eight other Trustees who are charged with oversight of research and development, marketing and customer service. She has been with DESE since 2002.

Carla Boulton



Carla Boulton, supervisor in Business, Marketing and Information Technology for the Office of College and Career Readiness was recently named to a three-year term on the National Awards Program Committee for Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL).

The FBLA-PBL National Awards Program (NAP) recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. At the State Leadership Conferences, students compete in events testing their business knowledge

and skills. Top state winners are then eligible to compete for national awards at the National Leadership Conference each summer. Each event is governed by specific guidelines and rating sheets that are developed and then periodically reviewed and revised by the NAP committee.

Ms. Boulton brings 17 years of teaching experience, as well as FBLA chapter management to the position. At DESE, Ms. Boulton serves as the MBEA Conference Coordinator, as well as the staff liaison with Missouri ACTE and the Missouri Business Educators Association. In addition, she schedules technology workshops and handles salary reimbursements for both adult and secondary programs and approves school's applications for 50/50 money. She is also the career technical student organization technology administrator. She has been with the Department since November of 2010.

Angela Jones



↑ Claudia Morrell, Chief Operating Officer - National Alliance for Partnership in Equity (left) and Jeanette Thomas, Career Technical Education Equity Council (right) present Angela Jones with the Career Technical Education Equity Council Myra P. Sadker Award.

Angela "Angie" Jones, Fire Science Instructor at Hillyard Technical Center was honored as the 2010-2011 recipient of the Myra P. Sadker Award from the Career Technical Education Equity Council for her outstanding commitment to equity in career and technical education at the Association for Career and Technical Education's (ACTE) Annual Convention in St Louis, Missouri on November 18, 2011.

"Congratulations" >p12

Congratulations *(from page 11)*

The Sadker Award was created in honor of Myra Pollack Sadker, who pioneered much of the research documenting gender bias in America's schools, to create more equitable and effective schools. This award recognizes a career and technical education teacher who has recognized and reduced gender bias and stereotyping in educational settings (school based and work based learning) to provide an equitable education for all students. Mrs. Jones was nominated for this award by Mimi Lufkin, Chief Executive Officer of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity.

Angie is an educator who has truly broken tradition. In 2011, she was named Missouri Breaking Traditions State Secondary Educator. In 1996, she was honored as the Missouri Secondary Female Breaking Traditions State

Winner while enrolled in the welding program at Northwest Technical School in Maryville, MO. She is the first to earn duplicate honors for Breaking Tradition.

Over the past 15 years, her career focus has been serving her community as a firefighter and EMT. She is a trainer of fire safety and EMS; is a firefighter for the City of Maryville and Polk Township Fire departments; volunteers for various organizations and events; and is a mentor to anyone interested in fire science.

Also attending the award ceremony were Aaron Jones, Charlene Piel, Regenia Briggs, Dennis Merritt, Reba Hebert, Kerry Wood, Jill Huntsman, Jodi Hodge, Dennis Harden, Tom Schlimpert, Janet Reppert and Camille MacDonald.

Alexandra Blodgett



Macon high school senior, Alexandra Blodgett, was recently elected the National Future Business Leader of America, North Central Region Vice-President. Representing the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, Blodgett will serve until July of 2012.

Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) education association with a quarter million students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields.

FBLA-PBL's National Awards Program recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. Through state-based competition at the spring State Leadership Conferences, students compete in events testing their business knowledge and skills. Top state winners then are eligible to compete for honors at the National Leadership Conference each summer.

Alex has been involved with FBLA since her freshman year of high school, serving as her Chapter President, District President, as well as serving on the North Central Region Executive Board. Outside of FBLA, she plays basketball, softball, and runs track. She also participates in numerous other organizations, including Student Council.

As a member of the national officer team, Alex will play a key role in developing the national FBLA program of work, as well as assisting with the National Conference.



Missouri ACTE 2012 Legislative Day February 15, 2012

Agenda

- 8:15 a.m. Meet at the Missouri ACTE Registration Table (*3rd Floor Capitol Rotunda*)
- 8:30 a.m. Briefing - Bill Gamble & Sarah Topp, Gamble & Schlemeier (*House Chamber*)
- 9:00 a.m. Networking with Legislators/visits to Legislator's offices (*3rd Floor Capitol Rotunda*)