During the annual Leadership Retreat in September, the SDACTE Board members took time to share ideas and goals for the coming year. President Bev Rieck asked each member to state at least two things they would like to accomplish as a board/organization. She then grouped members with similar thoughts to wordsmith the goal, develop an action plan, and report back to the Board. The Board voted to adopt the following three goals with the key personnel taking the lead to see the goals accomplished:

**Goal 1:** Develop policies for increased communication among all stakeholders—Jim Kayl

**Goal 2:** Increase visibility for CTE and SDACTE—Erin Larsen and Annika Russell

**Goal 3:** Offer a Summer Conference with well-rounded professional development and financial stability to SDACTE—Erik Person

Check back with the next SDACTE newsletter for a progress report on the 2013-2014 goals.
Presidents Message

Happy holidays to all of you! The type of weather we are having right now really makes it really seem like the Christmas season. Here’s wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Your SDACTE Board of Directors has heard your comments and concerns regarding last summer’s conference. Now they are paying attention to that, as we make some final decisions on the format for the 2014 conference to be held in Mitchell on July 28 and 29. On Monday of conference, we plan to remain at the Highland Conference Center for the popular roundtables, as well as lunch. This will avoid the time crunch and need to rush to Mitchell Technical Institute. We also plan to offer choices of in depth sessions or tours in the afternoon.

We heard your suggestion for the tours and will heed your advice. Your input was very valuable to help us improve and change the agenda. Thank you!

Some members just returned from ACTE’s Vision 2013 Conference held in Las Vegas. One of the main speakers shared this fact about CTE. Those students who take a CTE course/s in high school have a 90.29 percent graduation rate compared to those students who did not take a CTE course/s and their graduation rate was 74.9 percent. That means the skills we teach in our CTE courses like problem-solving, critical thinking, decision-making, working cooperatively, etc., are so important for the future of our student’s lives, jobs, and careers. Keep up the important work that you do in your classroom!
Holiday Greetings T & I members,

Hope all is well with you and your family during this blessed holiday season. It is hard to believe we are almost at the halfway point in the school year! We (the board of directors) are starting to gather information from our members for potential vendors, presenters, breakout sessions, and tour destinations. Please contact me; joe.dalton@k12.sd.us if you have anyone that would want to present or demonstrate something in our area; STEM, Architecture & Construction, IT, TDL, and Manufacturing. Any idea is a good idea! The board of directors will be having a meeting in early January to discuss conference in depth and narrowing down what will be offered for this coming summer conference in Mitchell. Mark your 2014 calendars early for conference, July 28 & 29.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to all!

Tips in Advocating

Know your audience and tailor your message to fit their need/issue/problem.

Plan ahead. Set up appointments (commonly they will be 30 minutes long).

Dress the part to ensure your entire message.

Be confident in your message.

If the “main player” is out, talk with their assistant because these individuals have “swaying” clout.

Keep “leave behinds” short with your contact information and answer three questions:

*What is the issue?
*What can FCS/CTE do to address it?
*What can they do for you?
*Follow up to thank them for their time. Add a personal note. Share your contact information again.

Social Media

Social media is immediate messaging. Posts, tweets, etc. have the potential to reach many people. The message has the potential to build up those connected to it, or do irreversible damage.

Visit the SD ACTE Facebook Page
South Dakota ACTE
Greetings and Happy Holidays to everyone and here’s hoping that you are staying warm during the beautiful December weather. I just returned from the NAAE and ACTE conferences in Las Vegas and a good time was had by all! While the weather was not very typical for Las Vegas, 40 degrees was much nicer than the below zero temps in South Dakota! Terry Rieckman continues to represent South Dakota and Region 3 very well as he is serving as the Region 3 Vice President of NAAE. Also attending from SD were SDAEE officers Adam Franken, Kelly O’Donnell, and myself. Jamie Brown participated in the first every XLR8 program designed for teachers with 5 to 15 years of teaching experience. Congrats also to Dani Herring and Noelle Rist for being selected to participate in the Teachers Turn the Key Program at NAAE.

South Dakota was also honored at the conference when the late Bill Lehman was posthumously awarded the Teacher Mentor award for Region 3. All of you who knew Bill know that he was an excellent teacher and friend and was well deserving of this honor. We were very happy that Bill’s wife Peggy and their children were able to attend the conference and accept the honor on Bill’s behalf. (Lori, if one of the pictures of Bill’s family will fit here, could we use one?) Next year the NAAE conference will be held in Nashville, TN and will be the week before Thanksgiving and we will not have the typically scheduling conflict with the State Leadership CDE’s so please plan to attend!

I would also like to announce that Lori Christensen has accepted the newly created position of SDAEE Executive Secretary. This position was created as a result of the SDAEE Officer restructuring and Lori will assist with our website, newsletter, compiling minutes, and help with summer conference planning. Lori officially begins her duties on January 1 and we are glad to have her expertise and assistance.

During the SDACTE Summer Conference, our Past President, Brendan Streitz from Flandreau, presented on Google Chrome. (If you would like to present at next summer’s conference, please contact me.)

Google Chrome is a freeware web browser developed by Google. Chrome was created from 25 different code libraries from Google and other third parties such as Mozilla, Netscape, etc. In addition to other open source projects. Chromium OS is now one of the more widely used browsers thanks to the help of extensions and add-ons, a powerful Javascript engine and a rapid release development cycle that keeps it on the competitive edge. Since its inception, it has remained relatively stable. Once downloaded, Google silently upgrades and keeps the browser up-to-date.

Brendan gave participants an overview of web browsers and Chrome’s place among them. He also gave participants guide to Chrome keyboard shortcuts https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/183101?hl=en. Brendan went onto explain the Omni bar (title bar) and demonstrated some different ways to use the Omni bar.

Brendan showed participants the Google Play Store https://play.google.com/store and explained the difference between Google Apps https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/apps and Google Extensions https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions. Brendan spent most of the breakout session demonstrating different apps and extensions that he thought teachers may find the most useful.

Some of the extensions he recommended were

- Google Dictionary-which allows users to define words on a web page just by double clicking on them.
- Chrome Speak-will read web sites to users.
- Cleary-removes distracting materials from web pages to make them easy to read.
- Blocker-blocks all pop up ads.

If you did not attend the presentation this past summer and would like more information, contact Brendan Streitz, 9-12 Information Technology Teacher, Flandreau Public Schools.
Each year the SDACTE Board of Directors works to make the conference better and provide what the members want and need. This year at the Board’s retreat, it was decided to survey our members to see how much the conference sessions determine if they attend, how they feel about past conferences and what they would like to see.

So far, 95 SDACTE members have completed the survey with representation from Ag, T & I/Tech Ed, FACS, and Admin/Health divisions. Out of those responding, 45% attend conference no matter what sessions are offered, 14% look at the schedule before deciding to attend, and 41% look at the schedule but it’s not their deciding factor.

When asked if they felt the programming of the past conferences has been relevant, 52% answered that most of the conference has been beneficial, 27% thought some of conference was good but there’s a lot they would skip while 4% said nothing was relevant. Members also gave good feedback on what sessions they would like to see in the future and what they have particularly liked in the past.

As we move into the specifics of planning the 2014 summer Conference, the Board will take a close look at the survey and use the information to provide members with a great conference. We would like to thank all the members who took time to fill out the survey.

**Lodging at Summer Conference**

The SDACTE Board of Directors has reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn and the Comfort Inn & Suites for the summer conference in Mitchell. They are the closest in location to the Mitchell Technical Institute, and Monday night's Award Banquet will be held in the convention center situated between the two. Each has guaranteed the special rate of $104 for a single or double occupancy. When making a reservation, please ask for the SDACTE room block in order to receive this rate. The Ag Division has requested that their members stay at the Comfort Inn & Suites. However, other divisions can choose to stay there as well.

Here are the phone numbers for the two hotels: **Hampton Inn- 605-995-1575 and Comfort Inn & Suites- 605-990-2400.** All rooms that have not been reserved by July 13, 2014, will be returned to general inventory and cannot be guaranteed availability or the contracted rate. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact Dodie Bemis at 605-881-4746 or bemisd@lakeareatech.edu.
ACTE President Doug Major congratulates SDACTE President Bev Rieck and Executive Director Dodie Bemis on South Dakota receiving the Quality Association Award. This award signifies the level of service that SDACTE delivers to its members, as well as the way in which the Board of Directors advocates for career and technical education in our state. This is the 13th year that SDACTE has been recognized. The award was given at the Leadership Breakfast at Vision 2013 on Saturday. ACTE recognized 20 state organizations, and 12 of the 20 were from Region V!

DOE Hosts Program Improvement Meetings—Erin Larsen

The South Dakota Department of Education hosted multiple program improvement meetings throughout the month of November. During these sessions, over 400 CTE teachers and administrators reviewed their local CTE Perkins data and participated in rich discussions about what was working well in their programs and where they had opportunities for improvement.

Implementing successful advisory committees, changing the perception of CTE, and incorporating meaningful dual credit courses were common topics of discussion.

The feedback provided by school districts during these meetings will be used to plan future professional development opportunities for CTE teachers and to inform the revision process of the current state Perkins plan.

Online follow-up sessions to the November meetings will be held during the week of February 10-14, from 10am-12pm Central Time each day.

Webinar participants are eligible to apply for a $1,500 grant for implementing one of the listed topics. To register for one of the sessions, click here<https://southdakota.gosignmeup.com/>.

- February 10: Creating Successful Business & Industry Partnerships
- February 11: Implementing Dual Credit & Industry Certifications
- February 12: Integrating Reading & Math Skills into the CTE Classroom
- February 13: Workbased Learning
- February 14: District Collaboration: A Systems Approach to CTE

Please contact your Regional CTE Specialist if you have any questions.

Recognized for Quality
Jim Kayl—President Elect

The theme for this year’s conference was Connecting Education and Careers. This is one of our primary goals as CTE educators and we live this every day. Over the course of four days, there were many opportunities to attend speakers and informational sessions related to this and other important topics. Attendees also were able to see the new technology, equipment, and curriculum at the Trade Show and visit with vendors. The conference also allows teachers and other educational leaders the opportunity to network, visit about their respective programs and discuss concerns and issues that we face in the CTE field.

The opening speaker, Adam Saenz, was inspirational as he reiterated his story of success. His two lifesavers were education and two important teachers in his life. Teachers do make a difference in the lives of young people. All of us need to be reminded of this occasionally when we feel stressed out or when we don’t see the tangible rewards for the work we do.

Many of the other sessions focused on topics such as student success, career development, assessment and educational technology. There were focus sessions directed at respective curricular areas, where instructors could brainstorm new ideas and converse about best practices. Another key component of CTE’s success is connection with industry. Across the country, school leaders are looking for the best strategies to build relationships with business and industry.

The Trade Show featured over 200 companies and their latest technology, equipment and services. A feature of the show was comparing companies and their products. There were several vendors offering laser engravers, 3D printers, robotics and other learning modules. There was a strong presence of the latest technology for the classroom.

Overall, the conference was a great success and I encourage all members to consider attending the conference next year in Nashville. You may also want to take a look at the Region V Conference to be held April 23-26 in Bismarck, ND. These are great opportunities to network with others that face the same issues as you do. Teachers and leaders return to the classroom with fresh ideas and inspiration. Have a blessed and restful Holiday Season!
Please visit the association’s website for details on all of the stipend’s available to members.

All of the ACTE award information and applications are available on the state website.

www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte
www.acteonline.org

SOUTH DAKOTA DELEGATES
Bev Rieck, Jim Kayl, and Todd Marks served as the voting delegates at the Vision 2013 Assembly of Delegates in Las Vegas. The meeting was called to order by President Doug Major. After the approval of the 2013 agenda, the 2012 minutes, and the rules of the Assembly, the delegation heard ACTE Executive Director LeAnn Wilson give her report. She gave a report on activities of the national office and provided information on the reauthorization of the Perkins Act. The committee reports were very brief with no action needed. It was announced that the 2014 President-Elect will be Doug Meyer. Doug Meyer is from Region 5; congratulations, Doug! Doug outlined his goals: Membership, Advocacy of CTE, and state's building relations with the National ACTE office. Members were reminded that the national office is a resource and they asked for input on Federal Legislative issues. There was good discussion about several issues and there are common threads to many of the concerns throughout the nation. All members are encouraged to vote in the ACTE elections!!

Vote!