

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Vision Update**
- **Vision Award Recipients**
- **DCTE Updates**
- **Division Updates**

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ACTE New Vice Presidents

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Executive Director LeAnn Wilson expressed her gratitude to three new leaders for their upcoming service to the Association. Nancy Trivette, Dodie Bemis and Cindy McConnell will begin their positions in July, 2015 and were selected due to their expertise, commitment and exemplary dedication to ACTE and the career and technical education (CTE) community.

"It has been my pleasure to have known these individuals as ACTE members, leaders and friends," said Wilson. "I and the entire ACTE staff are fortunate to have colleagues with their collective vision and insight serving in their positions as division and region leaders. With their contributions, I am confident that ACTE will continue to build on the progress we have made as an organization to rally our membership and build a brighter future for the CTE community."

The new members to ACTE's leadership include Nancy Trivette from New Jersey who will serve as Agricultural Education Vice President and Cindy McConnel from Alabama who will serve as Health Science Education Division Vice President.

Dodie Bemis, will serve as Region V Vice President. Bemis is an active member of the Association, and currently serves as Executive Director of the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (SDACTE). She has been the Past President of SDACTE, and willingly participated in a variety of committees and task forces benefiting ACTE throughout the years including serving on the Region V Policy Committee. She also serves as the treasurer of NEDA (National Executive Directors Association).

"I'm really looking forward to taking on a different leadership role in Region V," Bemis said. "Coleen (Keffeler) has been a tremendous role model, and I'd like to keep South Dakota and Region V as a model of ACTE activities."

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK, DODIE!!



ACTE Region V

Leadership Conference

April 15-18, 2015 ~ Overland Park, Kansas

Complete details located at: www.k-acte.org/Region-V-2015

South Dakota Association for
Career and Technical Education

The SDACTE Board of Directors has decided to promote the ACTE Achieve 100 Award once again. This Award recognizes schools who offer a minimum of 2 CTE courses whose instructors belong to SDACTE/ACTE. Two years ago six schools and the state office received this distinction: Hitchcock-Tulare, Madison, Menno, Miller, Parker, Philip, and the Division of Career and Technical Education. We feel there are probably more schools in South Dakota who would qualify to receive this award and we want them to receive this recognition on both the national and state level. We want to heighten the public awareness of the professionalism of your respective schools. So far Baltic, Flandreau, Howard, Madison, Parker,



and Sanborn have expressed an interest and have qualified. If you think your school might be qualified, contact Dodie Bemis. She needs the names of the instructors for each of your CTE programs. She also needs the school's physical address and phone number. This needs to be done no later than the

end of the day Friday, January 9th. Dodie will then get the application completed and submitted to the national office by the January 15th deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Dodie: bemisd@lakeareatech.edu or 605-881-4746 Once again, your Board of Directors wants to recognize those schools who have 100% of their CTE staff belonging to their professional organization (SDACTE/ACTE).

Lodging at Summer Conference

The SDACTE Board of Directors has reserved a block of rooms at the Ramkota Hotel for the summer conference in Watertown. All the Monday/Tuesday daytime activities will take place on the campus of Lake Area Technical Institute. The Ramkota, which is located on the west side of Watertown on Highway 212, will host some of the Sunday activities, plus the Awards Banquet and Casino Night on Monday. The Ramkota has guaranteed the special rate of \$89 for a standard double or single room. When making a reservation, please ask for the SDACTE room block to receive this special group rate. Simply call 605-886-8011 directly. The special group rate WILL NOT be available through the Best Western Reservation System. All reservations must be received by 6-26-2015. At that time the remaining blocked rooms will be released and sold on a first come first serve basis. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact Dodie Bemis at 605-881-4746 or bemisd@lakeareatech.edu. Also, keep in mind there are several other motels to choose from in Watertown, many of which offer state rates.



Ramkota Hotel
Watertown

T&I Division — Joe Dalton, President

Season Greetings from Trades and Industry Division! I hope your school year is getting off to a great start. Christmas break is only weeks away and for some of us the school year will be half over. The SDACTE Board of Directors will be gathering in early February to finalize agenda items for each division. We will be touring Lake Area Technical Institute and many of its programs. There should be a cluster area of interest for all members for this coming summer's conference.

Don't forget to sign up for our T & I division social night via email at joe.dalton@k12.sd.us For those members interested, we are going to have a golf scramble Sunday afternoon at Prairie Winds Golf Club with supper to follow. If you are not interested come and hang out in the restaurant area and socialize with fellow educators. Hope to see you there. Stay warm and enjoy the holidays!

This year's conference was held at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, TN and what a place for a conference. The beautiful surroundings and extensive convention facilities provided a great atmosphere for the activities. Over the course of the four days, we had many opportunities to attend informational sessions, listen to motivational speakers, and network with other states leaders in Career and Technical Education. Attendees were also able to see the newest technology, equipment and curriculum available at the Trade Show and visit with the vendor representatives.



Highlights of the conference included being present for Annika's recognition during the Awards Banquet as one of the top Postsecondary Teachers of the Year, seeing Dodie run uncontested for the President-Elect of Region V, and being present to see Terry Rieckman elected as the President Elect of the NAAE. South Dakota was well represented by those in attendance and we can look forward to many years of continued leadership from those recognized.

As I reflect on this year's conference, I'm thankful for the opportunities to network with other CTE educators from across the country and am hopeful that it will help inspire all of us in attendance with fresh ideas and the renewed energy to accomplish our goals. May you all have a blessed and safe Holiday Season!

Region V Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year—Annika Russell

At the 2014 Region V conference in April, I was named the ACTE Region V Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year, which meant I would move on as a National Finalist. The award process started as a Region V nominee, where I had to complete an application in a portal on the ACTE website. The application includes two narratives sharing what you have done and accomplished in your career and two letters of recommendation from a former student, supervisor or community member. Everything is either typed by you in the form or uploaded so there is no paper work you have to send in.

It's nice having all the necessary items in one place and being able to go in and update it until you finalize your submission. At that time all of your information is forwarded onto the Region V Awards Chairperson. A few weeks prior to the Region Conference, the chairperson contacted me via phone to explain the interview process and awards ceremony that would take place at Region V. After I was named the Region V recipient, my information was forwarded on as a national finalist.

Since I had submitted my application in the award portal there was really nothing I needed to complete to move on. You are given a few days to go in and make any changes you would like to your application, if you want. The ACTE staff was in constant contact with me to explain each step of the process. They were really good about letting me know what was coming up next and answer any questions I had.

One of the requirements for the National Finalist is a 10 minute phone interview. The ACTE awards chair schedules each of our

interviews and as many of the committee members that could take part, did. Since not all of them were on the call, it was recorded and they were all able to listen to it again. During the 10 minute phone interview they asked four questions that were used for all of the national finalist no matter what award they were up for. The questions dealt mostly with how ACTE has helped you professionally and how you promote CTE. This interview was the most nerve wracking part of the whole process.

Once I was at Vision in Nashville, we had rehearsal for the Awards Banquet which was great so we knew what to expect. It settled a lot of our finalist nerves. At the Awards Banquet, we were all recognized for our accomplishments no matter if we won the national award or not.

The regional and national award process was a great experience!! I

encourage any SDACTE members who receives a state award to put your application in for the Region V award. You are able to meet great people and grow professionally.



Admin Division—Mark Otten, President

As we're nearing the midpoint of the school year, it's time to start thinking about conference. The SDACTE Board will be working on programming for conference over the next couple months and we are always looking for ideas for breakout sessions as well as round table discussions. If you have ideas for the group to consider, please talk to one of the SDACTE Board members soon.

The Administrative Division has one of the smallest memberships and we are also one of the worst represented divisions at conference. We are all busy and have many other commitments in the summer months but I would like you all to consider attending this summer. I'm hoping by planting the seed this early, you can work your schedules to include our organizations' conference. The dates for conference are July 26-28 with the majority of the conference being on the 27th and 28th. The Board is working hard to provide a meaningful experience with plenty of opportunities to have some fun and collaborate with your peers in a more social situation. Please consider attending and also encourage your CTE teachers and your counselors to attend.

FACS Division—Ellen Hohbach, President

During November I had the opportunity to attend the VISION 2014 conference. There were so many good sessions to take part in and one item that I found very interesting is that a group will try to propose that Family and Consumer Science be placed on the three career clusters that align the best with our FACS programs. Another workshop showed how easily FACS relates to the STEM Career cluster and more information will be coming out about this in the future. Finally as we are all very busy people and always looking for additional resources, there was a workshop put on by the Stephen F. Austin University out of Nacogdoches, Texas that has used a grant to develop **FREE** Curriculum that can be used in Human Services, Education and Training and Hospitality. Please go to this site and see how it can help you! <http://cte.sfasu.edu/> Happy Holidays to all of you and enjoy your families during this season!

AFNR Division—Kelly O'Donnell, President

Preparing For What's Ahead

This school year has been a roller coaster ride to say the least. From the excitement of the start of the school year to preparation for State Leadership CDEs, there always seems to be something to do. Serving on the SDACTE Board brings another ride on the roller coaster for me, as we plan for summer conference. The board is just beginning to work on scheduling, workshops, and keynote speakers. We are always looking for individuals who are willing to share their knowledge and present a workshop. Watch your email for opportunities to present workshops and roundtables. We want to make sure we are covering the needs of our members. There will be more information for conference as it becomes available. Mark your calendars to attend SDACTE Conference in Watertown July 26th-28th. I hope to see you there!



Dodie Bemis, Bev Rieck accept the QSA award from Region V Vice President Chuck Gallagher.

*Do you remember the brown “Quality State Association” tag that was attached to your nametag if you attended SDACTE last summer?

*Do you really know what that stands for?

*Do you know that South Dakota again received this award at the VISION 2014 conference held in Nashville in November?

*Do you know that South Dakota is one of only 26 states that received this recognition?

How does all of this happen? It is because of YOU! Your SDACTE Board of Directors and Executive Director Dodie Bemis have been instrumental in ensuring that our state association meets the ACTE criteria for this award. These ensure that South Dakota implements policies and procedures that provide members with a high level of service and attention. Your input, dedication, and participation in our state association make that possible.

Congratulations, and keep up the good work!



CTE Promotional Materials Available—Erin Larsen, OCTE

Are you looking for a way to help students, parents, or even some of your colleagues better understand the value of Career & Technical Education?

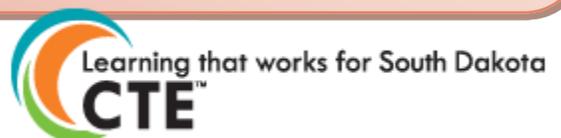
The Division of Career & Technical Education has worked with the advertising firm Epicosity to develop a number of new marketing pieces related to CTE. These materials are great resources as you start to think about registration for next school year.

The new pieces include:

- A promotional video<<http://bit.ly/1AvV2dF>>
- A student brochure<<http://doe.sd.gov/octe/documents/CTEbrochure2/>>
- An educator brochure<<http://doe.sd.gov/octe/documents/CTEbrochure1/>>

If you are interested in any of the brochures, please contact our office, and we will send them your way.

Summer Conference Call for Proposals—DEADLINE JANUARY 16th!!



Do you have a great idea that you can't wait to share with others. Consider presenting at the 2015 CTE Summer Conference.

The conference will be held on the campus of Lake Area Technical Institute on July 27-28, 2015.

To submit a presentation proposal, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6JF7MD9>.

And the Winners are. . .

By Deb Reynolds, Business, Marketing & IT Division President

Any Career and Technical Education teacher is a winner in my book. We advocate not only for education, but career readiness and life-long learning. We all need to give ourselves a pat on the back because we are the unsung heroes of today's youth. Some of our unsung heroes have been recognized this past year at the State and National level.

During the SDACTE Conference, three individuals were honored by the Business, Marketing and IT Division. The Image Award recipient was Julie Brookbank of MTI. Julie has been the Director of Marketing at Mitchell Tech for the past 19 years. The Image Award recognizes individuals who have brought positive attention to the career and technical education field, thereby enhancing the image of career and technical education and career and technical educators. Over the years I have personally witnessed her dedication to career and technical education through the countless hours spent on public relations, copywriting, research, promotions, and public speaking. Marketing people are the 'behind the scenes' people that no one really thinks about until something bad happens. I applaud Julie's dedication to the field of marketing and to Mitchell Technical Institute.

The second award given was the Teacher of the Year Award. LuAnn Schroeder was this year's recipient of this award. The purpose of the Teacher of the Year award is to recognize teachers who are providing outstanding career and technical education programs for youth and/or adults in their respective fields and communities. LuAnn has taught accounting, career planning and mentorship courses for Spearfish School District for 25 years. Her students don't leave an accounting course without knowing the importance of debits, credits, and net income! LuAnn spends countless hours preparing our youth for their future by helping them prepare their resumes and portfolios. She continues on to help students through the interview process as well as assisting them in obtaining internships in their field of study. LuAnn has helped shape our youth for the world of work!

Janet Nicolaus received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the SDACTE Conference. The purpose of this award is to identify those individuals who have worked with SDACTE and ACTE. The award is presented to individuals who have significant impact on the field of career and technical education at national, regional, and state levels. Janet has taught at Mitchell Tech for the past 12 years and has 28 years of career and technical education teaching experience. Last year Janet received the Excellence in Instruction Award from Mitchell Tech for her outstanding instructional techniques, program growth and student relationships in Office Technology. Janet has strong ties with the industry and volunteers whenever she is able. She is truly a role model for her dedication to Career and Technical Education.

At the National ACTE Convention our very own Annika Russell, was one of four finalists for the 2015 Region V Postsecondary Teacher of the Year Award. The ACTE Postsecondary Teacher of the Year award recognizes career and technical teachers and teacher educators who have demonstrated excellence and best practices in career and technical education at the postsecondary level. Currently an accounting and business management instructor at Mitchell Technical Institute, Annika Russell has taught for 18 years in the business education field. Russell believes that CTE is the key to the nation's economic success, and she pushes her students to make connections between the classroom and real life. She partners with businesses and speakers from the community to give her students a real-world perspective.

Congratulations to all of our winners! Thank you for your dedication in career and technical education, career readiness and life-long learning.

Award winners pictured here are Left, Janet Nicolaus, Julie Brookbank and LuAnn Schroeder.



Perspective of a First-Year Attendee

by Samantha Walder

Diane Ravitch began the NACTE Convention with a powerful message, “the Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts that by the year 2022, only 23% of careers in the United States will require a Bachelor’s degree or higher.” As an educator, parent and advanced degree recipient, I was struck by the stark statistics that supporting the pending paradigm shift from the “traditional” expectation of focusing on four-year degree attainment. Diane continued to elaborate on the necessity for post secondary and high school programs that created real-world experiences and produced the needed competencies for the future of our country.

With that message in mind, as a first time attendee and new Educational Technology Specialist at Lake Area Tech, I attended the many sessions that discussed the enhancement of CTE programming and online/ hybrid technologies that are available for students and instructors. It was good to see that Lake Area Tech is already on the cutting edge of many of these technologies with a class building 3D printers in the Electronics/ Robotics program, Heavy Equipment Operations simulators, an online Practical Nursing program with virtual and in-house simulations and many hybridized technical degree programs. I am sure other programs throughout the state can also boast these advancements as well.

Along with the keynote and breakout sessions, I was also able to attend the ACTE Assembly of Delegates as one of South Dakota’s representatives. In the session, I learned about some of the strategic directions ACTE is working on across the nation. One of the primary objectives is the ability to reach more instructors with professional development opportunities in an era of restricted budgets. Hopefully, we will soon see more of these opportunities delivered online for our CTE instructors.

As the National Association of Agricultural Educators holds their conference concurrently with the ACTE conference, I presented with University of Minnesota Professor, Dr. Amy Smith, on Google Apps for Education to Increase Collaboration. The perspectives on technology integration in the classroom are very different across the nation. In South Dakota, we have taken a progressive approach to K-12 Technology Education and the offerings of Online and Hybrid Degrees at our Post-Secondary Technical Colleges. From the anecdotal information attendees provided, there are very few post-secondary technical opportunities and certifications offered via online/ hybrid opportunities like those we offer here at Lake Area Technical Institute. We should all be very proud of the opportunities we are offering our students!

Throughout the conference, I found this same scenario-- South Dakota teachers and post-secondary instructors are right on track or, more likely, ahead of the curve, despite some of the lowest budgets (and salaries) in the nation. And, if the BLS is correct in their predictions, the graduates from our South Dakota CTE programs will be even in more demand than we have now. And, judging from the “Wall of Current Job Openings” in the Robotics/ Electronics classroom at Lake Area Tech that halfway through the school year is already overflowing with high-paying opportunities from employers throughout the Midwest, you wouldn’t think that was possible.



at

(LtoR) FACS Teacher Torey Berdan from Douglas High School, Business Teacher Annika Russell from Mitchell Tech, Educational Technology Specialist Samantha Walder from Lake Area Tech, and Multimedia Teacher Karline Clark from Douglas High School.

Greetings SDACTE members! I cannot believe how quickly this semester has gone. Where did all of that time go? As we approach holiday break and the end of the first semester, I want to thank all of you for what you do each day with your students. The popularity and relevancy of CTE classes in students' futures are becoming more evident each day. This is due to your hard work in developing quality programs that meet the needs of students, post-secondary programs and the workforce.

The strategic plan developed by your Board of Directors for 2014-2015 includes three goals. The first goal is to increase SDACTE involvement in South Dakota Workforce Development. In many areas of the state and region, businesses are speaking about the shortage of qualified workers in the skilled areas. In most of those conversations, career & technical education is described as a solution to the workforce shortage issue. The Board has identified strategies that allow SDACTE to be a part of those discussions and provide information that will support the need for quality CTE programs in the schools of South Dakota.

The second goal is to develop policies for increased communication among all stakeholders. Stakeholders include teachers, school administrators, school boards, legislators, business and industry, local Chamber of Commerce members and economic development organizations. As members of SDACTE, we need to advocate for CTE and share data and good news reports that illustrate that CTE does make a difference in the lives of young people. Strategies have been developed to increase awareness and improve communication among all stakeholders.

The final goal is to offer a summer conference with well-rounded, engaging professional development and financial stability to SDACTE. Many hours of planning are spent on summer conference each year as the Board works to improve the overall conference experience for all members that attend. We are already talking about break-out sessions, in-depth sessions and industry tours. If you have suggestions or ideas, please send a note to your division presidents. We strive to have quality and relevant sessions for each division and to make the overall conference a worthwhile event for each member.

Enjoy your break – you deserve it! Thank you again for all you do each day to make CTE stronger in your respective school and the state overall.



Jim Kayl—SDACTE President 2014-2015



Skills for the Hill

March 2-4, 2015

Washington DC

Crystal Gateway Marriott

Stipend Available—Due January 15th

*[http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/downloads/
NationalPolicySeminarStipend.pdf](http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/downloads/NationalPolicySeminarStipend.pdf)*

SD Ag Instructor Elected President Elect of National Association of Agriculture Educators

Past SDACTE President Terry Rieckman of Salem was recently elected as President-Elect of the National Association of Agriculture Educators. He was elected at their National Conference held in conjunction with the ACTE CareerTech Vision Conference in Nashville. Terry will serve as President Elect this year and President of the organization in 2015-2016. He was elected after running against two other agriculture teachers. Terry has served as President of the SD Association of Ag Educators, SDACTE, and Vice President of the 6 state Region of Ag Educators.



SDACTE

**Dodie Bemis—Executive
Director**

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<http://www.acteonline.org>

Newsletter Design:

Lori Christensen
Madison Central AFNR Teacher
Lori.christensen@k12.sd.us



SDACTE is looking for a Newsletter Designer. This is a paid position whose duties include collecting, formatting and editing items for the quarterly SDACTE newsletter.

Skills needed: editing, familiar with Microsoft Publisher or other publishing software, creativity, and timeliness.

For more information about the job please contact current designer lori.christensen@k12.sd.us and to show interest in the position please contact Dodie Bemis at bemisd@lakeareatech.edu

The Board is hoping to fill the position by January 9th, 2015.