

# VIEWPOINT

## *President's Perspective*

**John Rist**

Season's greetings! By the time you read this article, we will all have enjoyed a short Thanksgiving break with family, be nearly half-way through the school year, and be busily preparing for Christmas. Many of us have recently returned from VISION 2015 in New Orleans, which always serves to renew our attitudes as CTE instructors while filling us with new ideas to share with our students.

As most everyone from SDACTE knows, it's been a challenging year for me and my family. From the numerous tests to get a diagnosis to treatment including radiation and chemo to spending nearly two weeks in the hospital as well as the normal ups and downs of recovery, it's been a true challenge that has been made easier by the kind words, prayers, and actions of many of you from my CTE family.

Last week as I gathered with family, I reflected on what I was thankful for as many of you probably did. Spending time with my family was at the top of my list, especially getting to play with my new grandson. But something that I had probably taken for granted in past years was the strength and support that we all give one another in the CTE family. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.

As a younger CTE teacher, I have to admit that I annually evaluated whether or not it was worth the investment to be a member of SDACTE. The normal benefits including top notch professional development, liability insurance, advocacy, and legislative support for our programs always came to mind. Weighing the benefits against the costs, always made it a rather easy choice to be a member. Now realizing the personal and professional support I've gotten from my CTE family, membership is a bargain at any cost.

With all this in mind, it's not too early to start making plans to attend summer conference in Sioux Falls. The board has been busy using your suggestions to plan the best conference possible for us all. We are continuing with the rotation of sites as was a suggestion from past conferences and will be hosting the conference between the Ramkota Hotel and Southeast Technical Institute. We've already created a relatively long, interesting list of possible tours to include and will soon be requesting proposals for workshops and presentations. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the conference to be held July 31-August 1 and 2, 2016.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to you all!!!



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## Blue Ribbon Task Force Update

Submitted by Coleen C. Keffeler, SDACTE Legislative Chair

The Blue Ribbon Task-Force has concluded its work and submitted their final report to Governor Dugaard on November 11, 2015. I encourage each of you to read the full report, which can be found at

<http://blueribbon.sd.gov/Blue%20Ribbon%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

The recommendations include the following.

1. Adopting a new K-12 funding formula based on a target for an average teacher salary of \$48,000 and maintain an average statewide teacher ratio of approximately 14:1. This recommendation includes replacing the current small school adjustment with a sliding scale, retaining the current statutory minimum inflation factor of 3% or the rate of inflation whichever is less, and re-evaluating teacher salaries every three years.
2. Providing at least \$75 million in new and ongoing funding for teacher salaries. This could include increasing the state sales and use tax.
3. Adopting accountability standards to insure districts are working to meet the goal of increased teacher salaries.
4. Authorize funds and create incentives to share personnel and state services in providing quality education.
5. Allocate funds for statewide innovations in learning. This includes doubling the e-Learning Center's course offerings, allocating funds for innovation in virtual learning and customized learning, and appropriating \$1 million in ongoing funds for learning innovations.
6. Recommendations for teacher recruitment and retention to include full reciprocity for teachers certified in another state, appropriating \$1 million annually for a statewide mentoring program for new teachers, creating a new teacher academy, and restoring funding for National Board Certification.
7. Additional changes recommended include reinstating the cap on general fund reserves. This recommendation includes phasing in the caps over a three-year period while establishing an oversight committee to help districts with the phase-in process. Additionally, the pension levy would be eliminated and other revenue streams not accounted for in the state funding formula, such as weigh station fines and wind farm fees/income be equitably distributed among all districts.

While no bills have been introduced at this time, there is discussion surrounding the Task Force's recommendation. After reviewing the full report, please visit with your legislators to share the impact the recommendations would have on your school/program.

## 5 SD CTE Students Nominated for U.S. Presidential Scholar Recognition

SD Department of Education Secretary Melody Schopp has nominated five outstanding CTE seniors for recognition in the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars recognition program was established in 1964 by executive order of the President to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 2015, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the

Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC. More information is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

Congratulations to these South Dakota students on their nominations!

Austin Hammer - Todd County High School

Kelsie Mastel - Mitchell High School

Amanda Ricke - Madison High School

Joshua Sorbe - Brookings High School

Felicia Todd - Sturgis Brown High School

## Kelly tops 'em all

If you heard unexplained screams and shouts of joy coming from the far south a couple of weeks ago, it was the South Dakota delegation cheering congratulations for Kelly Keller as she was announced the national winner of the ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award. Keller was the Region V representative in this category at the ACTE Excellence Awards Banquet during the VISION 2015 conference in New Orleans. Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Keller leads her students, both at the junior and high school levels, in many community service projects. One particularly impressive project involved the painting and the repairing of a home owed by a veteran who could not afford to fix it up himself. Kelly partnered with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to obtain a grant and then she and her students, along with community members, did the necessary repairs and painting to the home. Again, this is just one example of the many unforgettable projects she leads to improve the community and uplift the lives of its members

"I was beyond shocked and overwhelmed to learn that I was the ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service award winner," Keller said. "I am so blessed to have such a supportive community and a great group of students who work hard to make their community a better place to live. I encourage everyone to play an active part in their community and make it a place you are proud of."

Six other national award winners were announced and recognized at the event, and highlighted the inspirational work CTE professionals are doing every day to serve their students in every capacity.



South Dakota SDACTE member Kelly Keller from Arlington was chosen as ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award recipient at the 2015 ACTE VISION Conference.

## NATFACS New Professional



Congratulations to Megan Jaquet (Sioux Falls CTE Academy) for being honored with the 2015 NATFACS New Professional Award at VISION 2015 in New Orleans. NATFACS is the National Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences. This award is given to ACTE/NATFACS members with up to five years of teaching for significant contributions in the classroom and curriculum development. This national recognition is an exceptional honor for Megan!

Megan has developed ProStart curriculum for the Hospitality and Tourism cluster at the local and state levels including starting a Baking and Pastry class at the Career and Technical

Academy. In Megan's classes she utilizes the latest technology to keep her students engaged and up to date; she has created a classroom website and Instagram account to communicate with her students and to showcase their work. She also creates many classroom competitions for the students when creating projects or working in the labs.

Under Megan's direction, students have taken advantage of participating in state and culinary competitions including ProStart culinary and business management, Skills USA culinary and bakery events, Schwan's Foods competitions and Sioux Falls Gourmet Guys. Her students have had success at state competitions and advanced to nationals in the past four years in Skills USA. Mrs. Jaquet's ProStart competition team placed first in the state in the spring of 2014 and advanced to the national competition. In both 2013 and 2015 her competition teams placed third in both competitions at the state level.



## SDACTE Administrative Division

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 31-August 2 with the majority of the conference being on August 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>. The Sioux Falls Ramkota Inn and Southeast Technical Institute will be hosting the conference. 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.

Mark Otten, President

## AFNR Division

By Bobbie Jo Donovan, President

It's hard to believe it is already the beginning of December as State Leadership CDE's sure showed up fast this year.

We had 11 SDAAE members attend the NAAE/ACTE conference in New Orleans. Cayla Graves attended as a Teacher Turn the Key participant and it sure kept her busy - it sounded like it was well worth the trip! Wyatt DeJong also presented a workshop as a DuPont Agriscience Ambassador. A big congrats to Kelly Keller as she was awarded the ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award - a well-deserved award to Kelly and the Arlington FFA chapter. And the other big happenings at VISION was Terry Rieckman who stepped into the role as the NAAE President. We are very excited and proud to have one of our very own from South Dakota representing us! Along with them, Kelly Dunkelberger, Tracy Chase, John Rist, Jim Wilson, Lori Christensen, Josh Christensen and myself attended. So glad SDAAE made a big impact on this year's NAAE Convention! As you finish up with Leadership CDE preparation and fruit sale delivery, keep in mind all of the upcoming SDAAE items. The first ever AFNR Winter Professional Development will be held in Brookings, January 8-9, 2016 and Legislative Breakfast will be held in Pierre, January 20-21, 2016. Among both of those, you will be busy preparing your State Degree Applications - so while you're at it, have members fill out their FFA Scholarship application on FFA.org. Keep up the great work and best wishes this Holiday Season.



**Stipend recipients-** Sioux Falls CTE Academy Director Jim Kayl and Alcester-Hudson Agriculture teacher Kelly Dunkelberger receive congratulations from Chairperson Coleen Keffeler after being awarded \$500 Professional Development stipends. Dunkelberger is working on an advanced degree at SDSU and Kayl is seeking his doctorate at USD.



## Business, Marketing, & Information Technology Division —Lorie Mulhair, President

Tis the season to be rushed – at home, at school, at life! Do you ever feel like there is never enough time in the day? As we near the end of first semester (hard to believe – I know!), prepare your lessons and tackle those standards!

During the SDACTE Conference, two individuals were honored by the Business, Marketing and IT Division. This year's Friend of CTE award recipient was Brenda Merkel. This award recognizes the commitment and dedication that she has demonstrated to the organization. Brenda is currently the South Dakota FBLA state advisor and continues to serve as the state advisor.

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else." – Yogi Berra

The Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was Lynette Heitz. This award's purpose is to identify individuals who have worked with SDACTE/ACTE and who has had a significant impact on career and technical education. Congrats to both award winners and thanks for all you do for CTE in South Dakota. Past president, Deb Reynolds, presented the awards.



Brenda Merkel ~ Friend of CTE Recipient



Lynette Heitz ~ Lifetime Achievement Recipient

### Being with the Best and the Willing

Sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone. Being part of the leadership team for SDATFACS has pushed me out of that "zone". As the request for proposals came for the NATFACS Best Practices Showcase, I thought a little about it but not seriously. Yet as I realized how well fellow teachers from South Dakota did in awards, I thought- Well why not try? I remembered the ideas that I had gathered last year at the roundtables, and realized that I could do it. As a 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher one year, I had started thinking about how students learn to read, and have been collecting ways to build and incorporate vocabulary ever since then. A written application and a description of my topic later, I was notified that I had been accepted for the Best Practices Showcase. It was an honor to be selected. I combed through my files, past and present; and selected activities for each FACS area. With brochures and samples, I left for New Orleans, hoping that I would not be carrying them home. I was pleased to be one of 15 showcases, and to not bring home any brochures! In the true fashion of teachers, I also gained a few new tricks from teachers who came to my showcase. Taking a chance and being willing to share has allowed me to grow- personally and professionally. Thanks South Dakota ACTE!



*Debra Kraft presenting her roundtable vocab presentation to one of South Dakota's ACTE members, Naome Poppe.*

## New Orleans: more than a conference

New Orleans. What can I say? What a wonderful location to host our ACTE VISION Conference. The Convention Center and Hilton were wonderful hosts and fantastic locations overlooking the mighty Mississippi River. If you didn't attend, let me just say the Convention Center is a sight to behold. 3 million square feet of convention center under roof. There were numerous other conferences going on at the same time and never an issue with cross over or lack of room. The Hilton Riverside also had a beautiful convention center that served as the host for meals and the agriculture portion of the convention. The town of New Orleans itself was not short on entertainment either. The town is so rich in history that I almost needed another day just to see more of the sites. And how could I forget the Mardi Gras parade? As a way to show off what they're known for, we were treated to a Mardi Gras parade, with floats and a band! It was fantastic. If you weren't able to attend, make it a point to get to ACTE Vision soon! Our organization does a wonderful job of choosing excellent locations and really making it more than a conference, but really an experience.

*Lori J Christensen*



Delegates for the Assembly of Delegates meeting at the 2015 ACTE VISION conference included: Lori Christensen, Tracy Kern, Debra Kraft and Tracy Chase.

## T&I Update

Season greetings everyone. I hope everyone has been having a very exciting first semester in their CTE classrooms. I visit with my students every week about how important our CTE classes are to our work force for their future. We will be having our 2nd business conference meeting to continue planning for the 2015-2016 SDACTE conference that will be held in Sioux Falls July 31-August 1 & 2, 2016 in early December. If some of you have not paid your ACTE dues for this year, you can still do this by sending a check. Remember that you can use Perkins funding for this conference event but not for dues. I also want to bring up with our T & I group, an educational opportunity with the SDTEA conference in Pierre on February 4-5-6, 2016. College credit will be available.

**Thank you for educating our future career workforce.**

Terry L. Jastram President

## Promoting Achieve 100

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. This year we added seven more schools for a total of 13. 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.



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 8th. 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).

### In memory of Gary Grey

Longtime CTE advocate and former liaison to the SDACTE Board of Directors, Gary Michael Grey, 65, of Pierre, passed away Monday, October 26, 2015 at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, NE, after a twelve-year struggle with Parkinson's disease.

He taught secondary agricultural education at Pierre and Miller and taught farm and ranch business management in the Pierre area until 1993 when he became State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and State Advisor to the State FFA Association. He served as State President to the Agriculture Teacher's Association and the state vocational education association. He was an officer and a charter member of the National Farm Management Association and served in a leadership capacity in many other areas dealing with agricultural education. He was named Outstanding Teacher in the SD Vocational Association and given the Honorary American degree by the National FFA.

Retired Ag instructor and good friend Myron Sonne shared this: "Gary was also instrumental in keeping PAS alive in SD and fought very successfully for the Ag programs within the Technical Institutes. He was deeply saddened when the programs at SE and WDTI were not sustained. I remember him keeping the vigil for Advisory Committees at all levels of technical education. We can thank him for many things as we remember his presence among us."

### RECOGNIZED FOR QUALITY

ACTE Region V Vice President Dodie Bemis congratulates SDACTE President John Rist, President Elect Tracy Kern and Past President Bev Rieck 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 15<sup>th</sup> year that SDACTE has been recognized. The award was given at the Leadership Breakfast at VISION 2015 on Sunday. ACTE recognized 27 state organizations, and 12 of the 27 were from Region V!





## 1<sup>st</sup> timer's view of ACTE VISION 2015

The 2015 ACTE VISION convention will be one to remember! I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the SDACTE conference stipend. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to experience a national convention! I attended awesome workshops, connected with old and new friends, and lastly experienced New Orleans.

As many already know, the move towards STEM based projects and improved lesson plans is ever on the move. I was fortunate to find a workshop that connected all four areas of STEM in multiple lessons for the middle and high school teacher. Through this workshop, hands-on labs on an Ag-teacher budget, teachers gained practical and affordable projects and labs that could enhance students learning. Derek Ritenour and Sherry Heishman covered a wide range of project-based lessons and STEM activities and assessments. Finding creative lessons that both teach the concepts and motivate the students is always a benefit!

I also attended an Ideas Unlimited Award Winning Idea session with Erica McBee. To ease the chaos of early release days and the nightmare it can create on scheduling, she created fifteen problem-based learning lessons that encompass everyday agriculture. The session titled, "Farming Fridays", centered on students "inheriting" land and adjusting to the everyday situations that may arise. Students have to be quick witted and critically think through the choices that are made.

This is only a glimpse of the many wonderful workshops I attended! Hopefully everyone can experience a national convection like I did.

-Tracy Chase, Ag Instructor at McCook Central

## *California's Callin'*

Annika Russell, MTI

Have you ever wanted to visit San Diego, California???? The 2016 ACTE Region V Leadership Conference is a perfect time to do just that. The conference is April 20-23 at the Bahia Resort Hotel. The California ACTE has worked hard to plan great professional development opportunity for Region V. They have two tours scheduled with one being the CTE Pathways: Sea World Educator Career Tour and another CTE Educational Tour. There will be an evening reception Thursday evening on the Bahia Belle boat. For more information on the tours and reception you can visit:

[www.acteregionvconference.com](http://www.acteregionvconference.com)

The call for presentations is still open until January 31, 2016. Each state is expected to submit a minimum of two proposals. We have several outstanding best practices in South Dakota, so please consider sharing yours. If you would like to submit a proposal, just visit the website above.

Each year, the SDACTE Board of Directors offers stipends to members who would like to attend the Region V

conference. For more information on the stipend, visit: <http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/> and look under

"Professional Development".



## NAAE Workshops at ACTE Vision

I would like to thank SDACTE for providing the conference stipend to help me attend ACTE/NAAE VISION Conference in New Orleans, LA. This year's conference provided a wealth of opportunities to grow professionally and network with fellow CTE instructors. One of the best ways to learn is to attend workshops put on by your peers and there were plenty of opportunities for that at VISION!

I attended several workshops about topics such as giving effective directions, delegating responsibilities, backwards designed curriculum, preparing CDE teams, chemistry in agriculture, aerial drones, and math in agriculture. As there isn't room in this newsletter for information on all these workshops, I'll just share a little about a couple of them. The workshop "Moving Your Curriculum Forward with Backward Design" provided the opportunity to work in groups to design curriculum that is more student centered. My group backward designed a lesson in Natural Resources/Wildlife. We were guided through the process including starting with the end goal in mind, developing essential questions, and determining the appropriate information to provide students throughout the lesson. By the end of the workshop, the lesson was nearly complete and ready to use.

An interesting workshop called "Teaching and Coaching! Strategies for Career Development Event Preparation" provided insight into what some of the more successful CDE coaches do to prepare their teams for events. Although early in the research process, the presenters shared promising practices that they have gained through their study. The biggest factor presented is that all successful CDE coaches use instructional strategies while working with teams. Coaching for FFA events is not just teaching, but it is definitely not exactly the same as coaching athletics. Rather, it takes skills in both areas to be successful.

There are so many opportunities to improve as professional educators at ACTE VISION. I encourage members to attend the conference in Las Vegas next year and utilize the SDACTE Conference Stipend to help fund your experience.

Josh Christiansen, Flandreau Ag Instructor

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