Happy Career & Technical Education month! I hope you are all experiencing another enjoyable and successful year as a CTE educator and that your students are making the best of their opportunities. Last week was already our spring Parent-Teacher Conferences, so it means that the days and weeks seem extra busy and the days fly by from now to the end of the school-year.

Reaching this time of year also means that your CTE Board of Directors has moved into high gear planning and implementing your summer conference. Thanks to your division presidents’ surveying your wants, we can promise you more of the information and activities that you have enjoyed in the past together with many new and exciting ones.

As most of you probably already knew, we left Pierre four years ago to be able to rotate sites to be better able to make use of different areas of the state for tours and to be better able to keep up with the technology available at our state technical institutes. First Mitchell (MTI), then Watertown (LATI), and this year Sioux Falls STI). We were scheduled to move conference to Western Dakota Tech in 2017, but with their facility improvements that are underway currently they wanted to postpone until 2018 to be better prepared to host our conference at that time. So plan on conference being at Western Dakota Tech in 2018.

This change meant we needed to make a decision on a new site for 2017. Since our original reason for rotating conference was to keep up with changing technology at the post-secondary schools in our state, the SDACTE board considered MTI, LATI, and STI, as well as SDSU for potential sites. Thanks to some quick leg-work from Scott (Dr. Scott Smalley) at SDSU to allow us to compare SDSU and Brookings with the technical institutes; we will be conducting our summer conference at SDSU in the summer of 2017. We look forward to an exciting conference in 2017 at SDSU.

All the best to you all in the months to come.

John Rist
SDACTE President
Using the high praise and recommendation of two members of the Board, the SDACTE Board of Directors has hired Dave Burgess to deliver the keynote address at this summer’s conference. Burgess is a teacher from San Diego, California and a professional magician specializing in stand-up comedy magic. He was a 2001 and 2012 Golden Apple winner in the Grossmont Union High School District and the 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year at West Hills High School. He has been voted a faculty standout for 17 consecutive years in categories such as Most Entertaining, Most Energetic, and Most Dramatic.

He specializes in teaching hard-to-reach, hard-to-motivate students with techniques that incorporate showmanship and creativity. At a recent ceremony in Washington, D.C., he was awarded the BAMMY for Secondary School Teacher of the Year by the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences. He is the co-author of P is for PIRATE: Inspirational ABC’s for Educators and the New York Times best-selling author of Teach Like a PIRATE, which has sparked an educational revolution all over the world. Dave delivers the ultimate professional development experience for your teachers that is perfect for all circumstances from truly inspirational opening keynotes to full-day hands-on workshops. It is a high-energy, interactive, and entertaining experience that will leave your staff unbelievably inspired, motivated, and with the practical skills to dramatically increase student engagement.

His presentations are a unique blend of outrageously energetic performance art and magic, mixed with an inspirational message of how and why to become more passionate in the classroom. All techniques and methods are modeled and fully explained so as to leave no doubt about how to apply the methods in the real-world. Participants will leave with a tool-box full of dynamic presentational ideas that they can immediately use to improve their lessons.

FACS teacher Tracy Kern heard him at a January in-service. “Dave Burgess will share his excitement for his students, his classroom, and his profession. His teaching practices can be applied to any discipline. Dave's enthusiasm and excitement for teaching will leave you revived for the upcoming school year.”

The SDACTE Board of Directors has reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel for the summer conference in Sioux Falls. All the Monday activities and Tuesday morning activities will take place at the Ramkota. Tuesday after lunch we will move to the campus of Southeast Technical Institute. The Ramkota will host some of the Sunday activities, plus the Awards Banquet on Monday. The Ramkota has guaranteed the special rate of $99 for a standard double or single room. When making a reservation, please ask for the Career and Technical Education Academy room block to receive this special group rate. Simply call 605-336-0650 directly.

The special group rate WILL NOT be available through the Best Western Reservation System. All reservations must be received by 6-30-2016. 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.
The SDACTE Board of Directors has developed a strategic plan for the organization for the 2015-2016 school year. The following goals were set to help guide the organization in the next year. Those goals include:

**Goal #1 is to promote visibility of CTE and SDACTE.** In order to reach this goal, SDACTE will create a promotional toolbox for potential and new members to use during CTE month and create a conference postcard to promote SDACTE conference in 2016.

**Goal #2 is to work to recruit CTE teachers from industry.** This goal will be achieved by proving information to industry workers in the form of career booths, media support, presentations, brochures, working with Department of Labor, etc. In addition, the SDACTE Board will work with the SD Department of Education in providing quality training for teachers who come from industry.

**Goal #3 is to increase membership.** Board members will personally contact each technical school in the state to help increase post-secondary members. Individual division presidents will personally contact CTE teachers and past members to encourage continued involvement with the organization.

**Goal #4 is to offer a Summer Conference with well-rounded, engaging professional development and financial stability to SDACTE.** By using the conference evaluations and gathering input from the Division Presidents, the Board will work to have another successful conference in Sioux Falls in 2016.

Each goal has a committee of 3-4 Board members who work to develop strategies to successfully accomplish the goals and keep SDACTE and Career and Technical Education moving forward.

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**Celebrate CTE!!!**

One of the strategic goals for the SDACTE Board of Directors this year is to make Career and Technical Education more visible in South Dakota.

With February being CTE Month, we have developed some resources to help you share about Career and Technical Education in South Dakota to school board, legislators and your communities.

Earlier this month, you should have received an email from your division president that included 4 documents that are designed to help you promote and increase visibility of CTE. The documents included:

- News Release = for you to have published in your local newspapers or post on a school website.
- CTE Fact Sheet = this is general information about CTE from ACTE
- SDACTE Infographic = this is the data gathers for SD and is the document we shared with legislators.
- What is CTE? sheet = this is general information to share

This month the Board of Directors strongly encourage you to make an effort to share the opportunities of CTE with your school board, share the fact sheet and SD Infographic on your website or Facebook page for the school. Also include pictures of your students along with quotes. We want people to see the value and importance of CTE to our students.

Also, if you have pictures of your students working on class projects, etc or your CTSO doing something for CTE month please email them and a description to: Annika.russell@mitchelltech.edu We want to fill our SDACTE Facebook page with pictures and stories of CTE in South Dakota.
Once again, we are moving full throttle into the summer conference season. The programming for the conference is coming together with many great options for our educators to gain professional development over the course of a few days. As you all know, conference is in Sioux Falls this year which provides us with more opportunities than we have in other communities. I feel that we have put together great conferences over the past few years and I expect the opportunities that Sioux Falls provides will make this year’s conference no exception.

We are once again putting together a golf outing as well as a social to follow for all divisions. Please watch for this during your registration so we can get an accurate head count for the event. If you do not register for the golf outing, you CAN still attend the outing by showing up the day of the event. More details will be forthcoming on this event. Please remember to check all appropriate dues and memberships when registering for conference this year. Our membership is low and some of that may be due to the online registration process from last year. Please help us maintain and grow our organization by registering to be a member of the organization while also attending conference.

SDACTE offers Scholarships

Secondary Scholarship Requirements
Is graduating from a South Dakota high school with the class of 2016.
Is applying to or accepted by a program at any South Dakota technical institute, OR applying to or accepted into one of the following fields at any South Dakota university: Health, Business, Trade and Industry, Marketing, Agricultural Education, and Family Consumer Science Education.

Post-Secondary Scholarship Requirements
Is enrolled as a full-time post-secondary student during the 2016-2017 school years in a program at any South Dakota technical institute OR in one of the following fields at any South Dakota university: Health, Business, Trade and Industry, Marketing, Agricultural Education, and Family Consumer Science Education. Has taken a minimum of two Career and Technical Education courses.
Is active in career and technical student organizations.
Is a graduate from high school in the year of 2016 or before that year.
Has achieved at least a 3.0 GPA.

Applications Due April 1st
Information to apply can be found at http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/
FACS Division

Astonishing, Amazing, Awe-inspiring. The program planned for the FACS Division at the SDACTE meeting July 31-August in Sioux Falls. Industry tours, networking opportunities, and great speakers –Dave Burgess “Teach Like A Pirate” - are waiting for you. I am very excited about the program and think that it is one of the best SDACTE has offered.

Amazing, Astonishing, Awe-inspiring: Activities held in February to celebrate CTE Month. My students joined other CTE students across the state who appeared in front of their local school boards and showed them the skills they learn in CTE. Members of the Prostart culinary team showed off their best cutting skills, not only to the school board but also to fellow students who were in attendance at the Board of Education meeting. Hats off to FCCLA officers who visited the State Legislature and networked with representatives and senators.

Awe-inspiring, Amazing, Astonishing: The skills that our students learn as they prepare for leadership events. Many FCCLA Districts were held in January and February. Prostart students are ramping up for Culinary and Management competitions in March at Mitchell Technical Institute. How do you put a price on skills such as time management, team work, speaking in front of a group and the ability to think on your feet?

Astonishing, Amazing, and Awe-inspiring: The many hours that FACS instructors spend with their students creating relationships, and teaching them skills for a changing world. The support that colleagues provide for each other; answering questions and being an understanding ear. FACS teachers have the ability to change our world. A huge pat on the back to all of you.

Amazing, Astonishing and Awe-inspiring: Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Deb Kraft, President

Mark Your Calendars

Future Conference Dates & Locations:

2017 – Brookings, SD July 31-August 2
On the campus of SDSU

2018 – Rapid City, SD TBD
At WDT & Ramkota

BMIT Division—Lorie Mulhair, President

The SDACTE Board recently met in Sioux Falls to plan our upcoming summer conference that will be held on July 31st, August 1st, and 2nd in Sioux Falls. Mark your calendars today and plan on attending this summer. We have a variety of quality breakout sessions, in-depth sessions, and tours planned for the conference. Plus, we will have a chance to tour the Southeast Tech campus as well as the Sioux Falls CTE Academy.

We are looking at having a great conference. I can't wait to see you there! Better yet, consider bringing someone new with you so we all have even more great minds to collaborate with this year. I hope to see you in July!
Greetings from the T&I/Tech Ed Division:

Hope everyone had a great first semester and start to the second is going well. With the winter activities coming to a close, we have been working hard at putting the summer conference together for the summer of 2016 in Sioux Falls. Please take note of the dates (July 31-August 1 & 2). Please visit with others about joining our ACTE & SDACTE Association as a member. You can also check out the SDACTE Web site with more information.

Thank you for educating our future workforce.

Terry L. Jastram
T&I/Tech Ed Division President

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**It’s Official**

SDACTE officers, including Past President Jim Kayl, President John Rist, and President-Elect Tracy Kern, pose with the proclamation from Governor Daugaard declaring February a CTE Month. This year’s theme is “Opportunities for Career Success!” In looking at the CTE data provided by the Division of Career and Technical Education, it supports the anecdotal stories that CTE graduates, through rigorous, relevant coursework, have a high graduation rate than the overall state rate (97.25% to 83.68%).

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**Achieve 100 Winners Announced**

The SDACTE Board of Directors is pleased to announce 11 schools have qualified for the 2016 ACTE Achieve 100 Award. These include Baltic, Bridgewater-Emery, Flandreau, Madison, Menno, Miller, Parker, Philip, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, DCTE, and Tri-Valley. This Award recognizes schools that offer a minimum of 2 CTE courses whose instructors belong to SDACTE/ACTE. These schools will appear in the April publication of *Techniques*, and they will also be recognized at the Awards Banquet Monday night at summer conference. Once again, your Board of Directors wants to recognize those schools that have 100% of their CTE staff belonging to their professional organization (SDACTE/ACTE). Our goal is to heighten the public awareness of CTE and the professionalism of our schools and educators.
**DCTE Update:**

The Division of Career & Technical Education invites CTE teachers, school counselors and district administrators to participate in a number of content standards revision work groups this summer.

Each work group will include approximately 20-25 members, including secondary Career & Technical Education teachers, postsecondary faculty, and industry representatives. Other stakeholders who are interested in the process are also encouraged to apply.

Revision work groups will meet in-person during the month of June at various locations across the state. Additional meetings may be held online as needed later in the summer following the in-person sessions.

Participants will be compensated for their time at a rate of $25/hour for up to six eight-hour days. Meals, mileage, and lodging will also be reimbursed at state rates.

**The deadline to apply for these work groups is March 4, 2016.** Applicants will be notified by the Department of Education in early April if they have been selected to participate in the work group.

Please visit [http://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/review.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/ContentStandards/review.aspx) to apply to participate in one or more of the work groups.

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**New at Conference:**

The Board of Directors has been planning several new events at this year’s summer conference that are guaranteed to provide you with even more professional development and networking opportunities. These new events include:

- **Educator Quick Pitch for Cash Prizes:** Think of this as Shark Tank for educators. This quick pitch competition is an open opportunity for any South Dakota CTE teacher/instructor, school counselor or administrator to share their great work with others...for cash prizes! Look for more details on how to sign up later this spring.

- **Networking Scavenger Hunt:** This networking event will be held on Sunday evening before the start of the conference and will be a great chance to connect with your colleagues. Teams of participants will receive several clues from sponsors. Each team's goal is to figure out as many of the clues as they can, which entails taking a picture with the Sponsor or object. Teams finish at 8 p.m. at a designated spot to judge the photos and enjoy each other's company. The next day, winners will be announced at the opening session. Winners receive an iconic trophy and gift cards.

- **Photo Booth:** Don’t miss the chance for some fun pictures with friends (and props) at the SDACTE Awards Banquet on Monday night.
South Dakota to host Region V

In case you haven't heard, South Dakota will be hosting the Region V Leadership Conference April 6-8, 2017. It will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, the same location as 5 years ago. Coleen Keffeler and Dodie Bemis will serve as the co-chairs of the Planning Committee. Other returning members of the 2011 committee include Deb Reynolds, Dianne Rider, Annika Russell, and Lynn Brace. If you might be interested in serving on the Region V Conference Planning Committee, please contact either Coleen (coleen.keffeler@k12.sd.us) or Dodie (bemisd@lakeareatech.edu) prior to February 25th. The vast majority of the meetings/planning will take place via e-mails and conference calls. In fact, we hope to schedule a conference call the first week of March. Get involved and become a CTE ambassador for one of the best professional development opportunities in the country.

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