

SDACTE Viewpoint

South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education, Inc.

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Why CTE – Why ACTE?

Coleen Keffeler, Past-President ACTE

I hope the school year is off to a terrific start! As I write this, I am in rainy (!) Florida attending the ACTE Region II Conference. I participated in the opening session: “Why CTE?” The key message of the presentation was Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships (sound familiar?).

To quote Tom Beshaw, Valusia County School District, Daytona Beach, Florida and Past-President of Florida ACTE, “Rigor without Relevance equals Dropouts. Relevance without Rigor equals Remediation.” Think about your courses. Are they rigorous; do they require students to operate in Willard Daggetts’ D Quadrant – Adaptation? Are your courses relevant? Are you meeting the state standards; are our state standards relevant to industry expectations? Will our students be able to compete in the future global economy? These are questions I have pondered since the presentation; which was the purpose of the entire presentation – THINK about what we are doing in our classrooms. Are we teaching not only skills for the here and now, but also for life-long learning?

How do ACTE and South Dakota ACTE fit into this? Your membership in ACTE supports the advocacy efforts related to federal legislation such as Perkins, Workforce Investment Act, Higher Education Act, No Child Left Behind, and TANF. Membership in ACTE and SDACTE afford CTE teachers the opportunity to participate in top-notch professional development conferences. The ACTE Conference is racing into Charlotte, NC December 4 – 6. ACTE has partnered with High Schools That Work, NOCTI (a technical assessment company), NAAE, Johnson and Wales University, MarkEd, National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, National Career Academy Coalition, Project Lead The Way, and Tools for Schools. Keynote speakers include Daniel Pink, Neil Howe, and Willard Daggett. At what other conference do you have such a selection of presenters and topics to help you insure your courses are Rigorous and Relevant? See you in Charlotte!!!



I’m Leading, but Is Anyone Following?

Erik Person, NW Area Multi-District / ESA 5

This article is not research based. It makes for easier writing that way. What this is, however, is a greeting to all of SDACTE from the Admin Division and a reflection on leadership that I will share with my fellow administrators. The school year is underway, and most of us are breathing a sigh of relief.

The beginning of the year is tough. Sometimes we get so involved with making things work and putting out fires that we do not take the time to really lead. We all aspire to be instructional leaders, but at times we fall short. It’s like a dirty little secret that we don’t want others to know about, but it happens. It happened to me this year. Most of my leadership agenda has been temporarily suspended so that I can deal with the most pressing items at the moment. But I am getting back on track. I suspect that I am not the only administrator who feels this way.

Once we get back to leading, we face the ever-present challenge of getting others to follow us. It is hard enough to come up with the right vision, let alone share it with others. One thing I have noticed about successful instructional leaders I have seen is that they never take their eye off the ball. They can deal with the immediate things effectively, but they continue to lead. Another thing I have noticed is that they are not the lone ranger. They have the vision, but it is always a shared vision. The final observation I will share here is that true leaders are positive. As a side note, check out “Fighting the Consequences of Negativity” in the May 2008 issue of *School Administrator*. I stumbled upon it just at the right time last spring.

Back to my point... Sometimes when I feel that being a leader is especially difficult, I ask myself why people are not following. More often than not, it boils down to me. I have either lost my focus, or I am trying to lead based on a vision that is mine alone, or I have somehow allowed myself to be negative. I find myself reflecting on these leadership principles this time of year and trying to keep myself on track. If I need the reminder of what leadership is, then maybe someone else does too. I hope it helps.

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The SDACTE Viewpoint:

is published in October, February and April. It is mailed to legislators, school administrators, guidance counselors, Workforce Development Council members, State Board of Education members, school board members, state education officials, business and industry officials and career and technical educators and administrators. The contents can be used by all news media.

The SDACTE Home Page:

is located at <http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/> We are asking all division presidents to submit news or other pertinent data to be posted in the Division Information area. Send your information to Dodie Bemis, PO Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201.

from Dodie's desk . . .

You are very fortunate to have chosen great leaders for your respective divisions this year. All but one of the Board of Directors were able to attend a Leadership Retreat last month in Watertown. Past President Julie LeVake led us through an insightful journey.

While there we reviewed the organization's goals, attributes of a successful board, fiduciary responsibility, and the function of the newsletter. The group agreed that our #1 goal is advocacy viewed as SDACTE and not just one person.

The Board will strive to be forward thinkers, be goal-oriented and follow through, improve communication to members/committees, increase member awareness, and advocate strong professional development.

In addition, the division presidents agreed to have an article in each newsletter that would either provide updated information or a best practice in the classroom.

On another note, I cannot encourage you enough to make plans to attend the national ACTE conference. What a great professional development opportunity! I've never visited with anyone who hasn't felt it was a worthwhile experience.

Calling All Aggies

Kent Frerichs, Wilmot

Make plans now to attend the NAAE/ACTE national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, December 2-6, 2008. The ACTE opening session will feature Daniel Pink, a best-selling author and an expert on innovation, competition and the changing world of work. Willard Daggett, President of the International Center for Leadership in Education, will be the ACTE closing session speaker. He is recognized for his proven ability to move education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. Many of you will remember his enlightening, entertaining, and motivating message at our SDACTE Conference a few years ago. Daggett inspires his audiences both to embrace what is best about our education system and to make the changes necessary to meet the needs of all students in the 21st century.

The NAAE national convention highlights will include the recognition of two SDVATA members receiving national awards. Ed Mueller, Garretson, has been named Teacher Mentor representing Region III. Adam Franken, Groton, was chosen to receive the "Teachers Turn the Key" award. SDVATA members set a record at the 2007 national convention when five national awards were received. Lori Williams, Madison, was named Outstanding Young Member and was also chosen for the "Teachers Turn the Key" award. Terry Rieckman, McCook Central, was recognized as the Outstanding Teacher and was awarded a two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra pickup. Myron Sonne, Mitchell Technical Institute, was chosen Teacher Mentor. The Ideas Unlimited category was captured by Bill Lehman, Gettysburg. Dr. Clark Hanson, SDSU, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement award. SDVATA/NAAE and SDACTE/ACTE provide a wide range of awards that you are eligible to apply for. South Dakota CTE programs and instructors have established a high standard of excellence and should be recognized for their expertise and dedication.

The national convention for ACTE/NAAE also provides workshops for everyone. NAAE has more than 70 offered. Some workshop examples include Solar Electricity, National Agricultural Education Standards, Bringing 21st Century Skills to the Classroom and Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE).

Visit the ACTE and NAAE websites to learn more about the national conventions. Also, both ACTE/NAAE have webinars offered on-line to help bring professional development to you. Some of them are archived for later viewing. NAAE provides a "communities of practice" resource on their web site. Your professional organizations (state and national) are there to help you. Take advantage of everything offered. You and your students are sure to benefit.

Business/Marketing

Annika Russell, Mitchell

The Business/Marketing Division had a great summer conference in August!! We tripled our attendance and registered several new members. We had set this as a goal last fall and worked hard to accomplish it. The officers have decided that we need to continue working on the goal of increasing involvement of our State's business teachers and have many things planned to work toward that goal.

One item is the Business/Marketing Division newsletter! Look for a newsletter in October, January and April that will include lesson ideas, information on the progress of the career cluster work, information from the State office, etc. Our hope is that the newsletter provides you with valuable resources that you can use either in your classroom or professionally.

We are also looking for ideas for the summer conference. If you have any ideas of presenters or things you would like discussed, please let me know. We want to plan a conference that will benefit you.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or conference, please contact me at: annika.russell@k12.sd.us.

I hope your school year is off to a great start!!!

FACS Division

Suzy Ries, Baltic

The results are in! A tally of surveys from the July 2008 CTE Conference in Pierre have been totaled and here's what our FACS teachers said: the best part of the conference was the opportunity to network with other CTE and FACS teachers, Janie Walters was a favorite presenter, the simplified registration process this year was appreciated, and the ability to attend all round table presentations was a bonus. Members were grateful to learn about Career Clusters and UBDS, and in the future you'd like to see similar activities and agenda but would also like the option to tour outside of conference lodging.

A membership report handed out at our Fall Leadership Retreat shows our division is 79 members strong. I took a few moments to compare our membership list against the list of FACS teachers provided by Becky Nelson at State OCTE. I found that there are an additional 58 FACS teachers in South Dakota who are not members of our organization. If each of us were to talk to one member about joining, it would make an already strong division even better. Make it a priority to mention the benefits you receive from SDACTE to a non-member this school year – our program will be better for it.

Your SDATFACS board members, committee members and chairs will be working hard this year to make our organization a valuable investment for you – its members. If you have ideas for improvement or change,

please feel free to contact any one of us by phone, post or email. Your board members are Joline Dunbar from Brookings, Janelle Weatherly from Flandreau, Marlys Hauck-Fenner from Freeman, Diana Whipple from Wilmont, Carol Birgen from Lyman/Presho and myself – Suzy Ries from Baltic.

Trade & Industrial & Tech. Education

Steve Schlaht, Watertown

Well here we are. It is almost the end of October, but it seems like yesterday we were in Pierre for summer conference. The Board of Directors met on September 20th in Watertown with our first meeting and it went very well. In T & I we will be planning some things to hopefully keep you busy and interested the entire time that you are at summer conference next summer.

The new president-elect for our division is Trent Thyne and our new secretary is Jerry Taylor and our new treasurer is Kathy Biersheid. We will work hard to make next year's conference a good one for you.

Take a minute and visit our new website at www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/ It is a good one,

We have a great board of directors and they will do a fine job in preparing a great conference for you. Once again if you know anyone that wants to join SDACTE, please encourage them to sign up and come to conference this summer and we will see you there.

Lots of winners . . .

\$500 scholarship recipients

Scholarship Committee Chair Kathy Bierscheid announced the following:

Secondary level- Dylan Eckman from Bruce, Kelsey Kummer from Parkston, Thorwald Vostad from Volga
Post secondary level- Kyle Finn from Mitchell

ACTE Conference stipend recipients

Selection Committee Chair Dr. Tim Andera announced the following:

Tracy Kern, FACS, Harrisburg
Suzy Ries, FACS, Baltic
Janelle Weatherly, FACS, Flandreau

Professional Development stipend

The \$500 award will go to

Josh Christianson, Ag, Flandreau

The website has moved to

<http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/>

Check it out!



**South Dakota Association for Career and
Technical Education**

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ACTE's 2008 Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo is set for December 4-6, 2008
in Charlotte, North Carolina. www.acteonline.org



Have you registered yet?