

Leadership Retreat identifies goals

Julie LeVake, LAMD Director

I'm predicting a great year for SDACTE! I just witnessed our board of directors spend a beautiful fall Saturday (and those days are limited!) indoors to develop plans for the year. There was open discussion and sharing of ideas. There was a genuine display of commitment to represent all members from all divisions, those who attended summer conference as well as those who didn't.

The group discussed the book Seven Measures of Success, What Remarkable Associations Do that Others Don't. The author shares how great associations are committed to its purpose, to analysis and feedback and to action. The seven measures within these commitment areas are 1) a Customer-Service Culture; 2) an Alignment of Services and Products with the Association's Mission; 3) Data-Driven Strategies; 4) Dialogue and Engagement; 5) the CEO as a Broker of Ideas; 6) Organization Adaptability and 7) Alliance Building. The board assessed where SDACTE is in relation to these seven measures. They then identified goals they believe will move our association forward.

Communication and marketing emerged as central themes of the goals. There are a lot of things being done well in our organization, but more can be done to communicate that to all members. The new SDACTE website at www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte definitely will further those efforts. Your division president is critical in the communication process also. Not only will they communicate with you and other members in your division, but they also will share about your division's activities with the rest of the association.

We're fortunate to have such a dedicated group representing SDACTE this year. I hope you'll encourage them to stay the course and let them know how much you appreciate their extra efforts!

Officers reflect on Retreat

Past President Dr. Tim Andera and President-Elect Jon Severson

Here I am again addressing the membership of SDACTE, not as your president, but as the past president. In September your 2008-09 SDACTE Board gave up a Saturday with family and made the trek to Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown to represent you at a Leadership Retreat.

At the end of our summer conference, the new board discussed if we should come together as the outgoing board had recommended. After the new board scheduled the Retreat and now after attending it, I can say with certainty that from all who attended, it was a very worthwhile endeavor. We started at 9:00 on a September Saturday morning. Dodie, as always, was thinking ahead and had coffee and rolls for everyone. It is a surprise to me after serving as President Elect, President and now Past President, that I haven't gained 10 pounds because of the quantity and quality of food that is available to the board.

In reality, since coming to represent the membership some two years ago, I can say with certainty, you have the most dedicated ACTE members in the country representing you on the yearly Board of SDACTE. Each of the boards, past and current, have the same goals: to look forward to determine what as a group can be accomplished to make the association better, and to represent you as an individual member of the association.

Getting back to the Retreat, the first part of the morning was spent doing a series of activities to acquaint board members with each other. Next came team building activities to develop a strong relationship between members to create a cohesive working group for the association.

I now will relinquish the pen to President-Elect Jon Severson to finish the rest of the Presidents' Column.

I believe that our day was very productive and we all agreed where our focus should be as the SDACTE Board. What we do affects two groups: both our members in SDACTE and our students. We as the SDACTE Board need to provide leadership and support to our members, not only at our summer conference but throughout the year. Because of our commitment to our members and students this will be one of our goals we will work toward. We set our next meeting for October 29th, at which the Board will prioritize its goals, and I look forward to working with my fellow Board members in accomplishing these goals.



SDACTE Award winners include Award of Merit- Karlys Wells, SDSU Extension Service; Teacher of the Year- Brigitte Brucklach, FACS at Haakon School District; Friend of CTE- Daniel Guerick, Director of Mid-Central Educational Cooperative; and Outstanding Teacher in Community Service- Tracy Kern, FACS teacher at Harrisburg. These were announced at the banquet.



Three of the four technical institutes, including LATI, MTI, and STI, showcase some of their programs at the conference. Here some of the participants view MTI's Telecommunications and Satellite Communications.



2008 Past President Julie LeVake presents a plaque to ACTE President Coleen Keffeler on behalf of the SDACTE organization. LeVake expressed sincere thanks to Keffeler for her exemplary leadership.

Conference enjoys record attendance

Almost 300 secondary and post secondary teachers, administrators, and counselors gathered to be entertained and enlightened at the annual CTE conference held at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Pierre.

The conference focused on career clusters, career pathways, programs of study, and business partnerships. The 300 participants represented over 100 school districts and 7 of the post secondary institutions.

The conference began Sunday afternoon with an Agriculture Leadership Development session and SDACTE committee meetings. The traditional All-Conference Picnic followed.

Dr. Donna Walter Tileston keynoted the opening session on Monday. Her presentation, entitled "Teaching 21st Century Kids: What's the Difference," examined how to reach multi-media kids in today's school environment.

Next, OCTE Director Mark Wilson recognized several outstanding programs at both the secondary and post secondary level with the Department of Education's "Director's Award" for excellence in career and technical education.

During the three-day conference, the attendees could choose from over 60 breakout sessions in the sixteen career clusters, plus three business tours. This allowed participants ample choices to experience best practices firsthand on a variety of topics, from both the active practitioners and the business partners.

SDACTE held its annual awards banquet Tuesday evening. President Dr. Tim Andera presided. In addition to the award and scholarship winners found in other areas of this newsletter, Joan Anderson from Eureka was recognized as the national winner of the ACTE Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award,

The conference concluded Wednesday afternoon with Janie Walters delivering the keynote address, "Normal Is Gone and It Won't Be Back." She used her sense of humor and quick wit to advise the audience on how to deal with change.

Corporate sponsors for the conference included Avera McKennan, Sanford Health, South Dakota Association of Insurance Agents, South Dakota Retailers Association, Daktronics, South Dakota Automobile Dealers Association, and the South Dakota Pork Producers.