

SDACTE Viewpoint

South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education, Inc.

February
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Issue 57

SDACTE is working for you in legislation, but we need your help!

-Jim Wilson, SDACTE President

As we all know, money is tight for this year's state and national legislatures. In our state it has made saving our CTE funds and educational funding in general a challenge. SDACTE has been working to make a positive impact on our programs any way possible.

Our legislative lobbyist, Larry Zickmund, has been working hard to try to get the \$1.5 million we had in state funding restored. As most of you know, it was in the Governor's original budget, but was cut on the new budget that he submitted to the legislature. We have been working to get this funding restored.

At times you will get emails to support or oppose certain legislation that effects this funding. House Bill 1252 is one bill that needs to be defeated. If passed, it would repeal funding from the tobacco tax fund, which is how we have received the 1.5 million. (Its future will probably be decided by the time this newsletter is printed.) Larry is working hard this year on our behalf, but he keeps reiterating that local contact to legislators is vital. Please make those email messages to your legislator when requested; it CAN make a difference.

Another goal is to get the "distinguished diploma" requirements changed to allow CTE as an option to the foreign language requirement. In our meetings with Larry, he has indicated that there is a lot of support for CTE in Pierre from the legislators and that this may be a change that is possible. As I write this, Senate Bill 185 is in committee. It addresses this change and would have a tremendous benefit to secondary CTE enrollment if it passes. If it is not too late when you read this, contact your senator to support this bill. Everything I have heard this year is that it might be the time to get this change accomplished.

These are just a couple of the bills that will affect our profession. Others concerning the technical institutes and education in general will be coming up soon. Get involved and make a difference.

Larry has done an excellent job communicating what's happening in Pierre. We are having weekly conference calls with the SDACTE Board of Directors and Legislative Committee members during which he lists bills to watch and support or oppose. We have an active listserve that shares the information from these calls with its members. Contact Dodie Bemis at bemisd@lakeareatech if you are interested in joining this listserve.

We need our membership to step forward in these times and make the calls and emails to your legislators. Your local input is important to them!



Honeycutt, Sonne to speak

Kevin Honeycutt from Kansas has been selected for the keynote speaker on Monday, August 3rd. Kevin is a former art teacher who now works for an educational service center in Kansas, where he researches and develops programs that can help both educators and learners. He brings his personal experience and sense of humor to his mission of helping prepare 21st century learners. "If you have had the opportunity to hear him speak before, you know that we are all in for a treat," Annika Russell said.

The closing keynote address on Wednesday noon will be highlighted by our own colleague, Myron Sonne. Myron personifies the best of Career and Technical Education. His professionalism, dedication, and sincerity is admired by all. His wisdom, knowledge,



PROCLAMATION- SDACTE officers Tim Andera, Past President; Jim Wilson, President, and Jon Severson, President Elect look over the proclamation Governor Rounds has signed, declaring February 2009 as Career and Technical Education Month.

and advice is sought after. His humor and wit is always appreciated. "Myron will make sure that when we leave the conference, we will know our mission and we will have the enthusiasm to carry it out," Kent Frerichs said.

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The SDACTE Viewpoint: published in September, December, February and April. The contents can be used by all news media.

The SDACTE Home Page: located at <http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/> Submit news or other pertinent CTE data to SDACTE Executive Director Dodie Bemis at bemisd@lakeareatech.edu

from Dodie's desk . . .

These are exciting, yet frightening times for both SDACTE and ACTE. ACTE is working very hard to make sure Career and Technical Education is included in the proposed economic stimulus package. Hopefully, you have used the information ACTE has shared with us and contacted our Congressional delegation to encourage them to continue to support CTE.

The SDACTE Board of Directors has hired Larry Zikmund to serve as our lobbyist. Along with the Legislative Committee members and other interested individuals, we have weekly conference calls with Larry to hear about the latest developments in the state legislature and give advice on how he should proceed.

Your Board of Directors met with their respective state division program representatives late January to plan a state conference with you and your needs in mind. Each of them has some information, as well as a couple of teasers to share, so please read on.

Good job, Annika Russell and Kent Frerichs for securing our conference speakers! Kevin Honeycutt will deliver the keynote address, plus facilitate some breakout sessions on Monday, and our own Myron Sonne will wrap up the conference on Wednesday.

The April newsletter will include a full, detailed agenda, including registration information.

Have you checked out our updated website? In addition to being linked to the ACTE website, we also have the current SDACTE scholarship forms posted.

What's In It For Me?

Erik Person, NW Area Multi-District / ESA 5

Every time the SDACTE Board of Directors talk about attendance numbers at the summer conference someone always mentions that in order to come to conference, a person has to feel there is something there for them. Many people thought last year's conference was a great one, and I think this summer we will be another hit. Even though we all believe strongly in career and technical education, we still have to be asking, "What's in it for me?" For administrators, I can say, a lot! I am excited about what we are proposing to offer for administrators. We have identified twelve breakout sessions that pertain to the Administration and Health Division.

Maybe I'm some kind of nerd, but I'm pretty stoked about these breakouts. We are planning to have a session on the 2025 initiative. That one will be informative, and Mark Wilson always packs the house. There will be one on implementing initiatives that will be co-presented by Julie Levake and some of her peers, although we all know Julie has no peers. I don't want to drop any names before they've been approached about presenting, but some mystery CTE dynamos will lead a discussion on policy and legislation. I'm looking forward to that one myself. Shelby Frame will dazzle us with something on Skills USA. We need presenters or co-presenters for a few more sessions: 1) Recruiting CTE Students, 2) Job shadowing / internships, 3) Hiring and recruiting CTE teachers.

I will be sending out a request for presenters soon, but even before that, if you have an interest in presenting on one of these topics, feel free to call me, Erik Person (605) 466-2206, or email me at Erik.Person@k12.sd.us.

Agricultural Division

Kent Frerichs, Wilmot

The SDACTE/SDVATA Annual Summer Conference will be held in Pierre on August 2-5, 2009. Plans are being developed to make this a most worthwhile event. Our Natural Resource focus will include the renewable energy source found in the Oahe Hydroelectric Dam and the environmental aspects of water quality. There will be a wide range of professional development workshops available. A highlight will be the closing session keynote address by our own colleague, Myron Sonne.

SDVATA's Spring Meeting is set for April 20th, 2009, during the South Dakota FFA State Convention and State Career Development Events to be held on campus at South Dakota State University. Plans will be finalized for the summer conference and we will be updated on the status of **Perkins funding** and the impact that Career and Technical Education (CTE)

could have with the “**American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan**” (Stimulus Package).

We will be briefed on the outcome of legislation from the recent session of the South Dakota Legislature. **Senate Bill 185** could establish a very positive direction for students as they are able to take CTE Courses as they develop their personal learning plan. This bill would establish “a recommended high school program that shall include a rigorous high school curriculum in both academic and career and technical courses”. Students will no longer have the stigma of being in or out of one of the current three tracks for graduation requirements. Instead they will have their own individual pathway to success that will allow them to take the courses needed for their career choices. A reduction in the high school dropout rate should also be a favorable result of the adoption of this bill. You can follow this bill and find the legislative contact information at the following address: <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2009/Members.aspx?Body=S> ***Be involved!***

Business/Marketing

Annika Russell, Mitchell

On January 23rd, the SDACTE Board of Directors met with the OCTE to start planning the 2009 summer conference. We had a very productive meeting and made some important decisions for conference.

Gerald Gramm and I have been working on putting together a conference schedule for our division that will have something for everyone. We will be reviewing the progress of the Career Cluster committee, having a round table session where several teachers will share what they do in their classrooms, providing information about computerized simulations you can use in your classroom, sessions on how to create podcasts along and most importantly regional meeting information from Gerald. Also, after winning the divisional contest at the conference picnic last year, we are responsible for planning the games. As you can see we will have someone for everyone so **PLAN TO ATTEND!!!!**

FACS Division

Suzy Ries, Baltic

It's time to make plans now to attend the SDATFACS Summer Conference, August 2-5, 2009, in Pierre. Remember that all approved programs have the opportunity to use Perkins Funds to supplement conference costs. See your consortium representative or contact Becky Nelson for more information.

Plans for conference are underway and we've got a great tentative lineup for you. FACS highlights include: ready to use curriculum for *Teaching and Training as a Profession* and *Relationships, Family and Communities* courses, employment needs and opportunities with the SD Department of Tourism,

Career Cluster updates, integrating Smartboards and other technology, using Wii in the classroom, career exploration opportunities with SDmylife, counseling teens – current issues and concerns, SD Beef Council updates, low cost web resources, and an off-site tour.

In addition, there will be a wide variety of motivational speakers, information and presentations dealing with other areas and aspects of career and technical education.

Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and new, network and get the most up-to-date ways to prepare students for life beyond high school.

Watch for registration information in April and plan to join us for three days of learning, friends and fun.

Trade & Industrial & Tech. Education

Jon Severson, Aberdeen

The basic framework of the conference schedule will be similar to that of last year. We are beginning to plan breakout sessions and possible training sessions. Because of the wide variety of programs in the T&I&TE Division it is difficult to schedule presenters or training sessions for all the programs in our division, but we will try our best.

A few possibilities so far, deal with the welding, electronics and manufacturing industries. Also, I have been approached by members who would like training in grant writing and the use of power point. Any T&I&TE member having any ideas on what they feel would benefit their programs please contact your president, Steve Schlaht at steve.schlaht@k12.sd.us.

Office of Career & Technical Education

Brad Bies, Liaison

The pace here at the Office of Career & Technical Education has stayed brisk with student leaders in town visiting with legislators at the 19th Annual Legislative Shadow Day and lots of preparation for the 2009-2010 school year. It might seem early to be thinking about next year, but program applications are out and we've scheduled data collection workshops for April. A full listing of events and due dates are available on our website at www.doe.sd.gov/octe.

Training for SDMyLife.com, our career guidance software, is underway. Personal Learning Plans are now an integrated part of the online system and new features are coming online all the time. Keep those channels of communication open with your school counselor and think about teaming up to attend one of the professional development opportunities.

The rollout of High School 2025 has been a big success so far and we're very excited about the changes in high school design that will benefit ALL students. High School 2025 premiered on South Dakota Public Broadcasting in late January and DVDs are now available. If you're interested in more information or to request a DVD call or email Becky Nelson and logon to <http://highschool2025.com/>

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

Lake Area Technical Institute
230 11th Street NE
Watertown, SD 57201

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**Celebrate CTE.
February 2009**

For more information and tips on
how to celebrate CTE Month visit
www.actedonline.org/cte/month.

ACTE
Association for Career and Technical Education

1410 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
800-825-8072
www.actedonline.org
703-683-3111