

# VIEWPOINT

Hello and welcome friends! It has been an interesting start to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year so far with all the issues facing education in Pierre with the legislators. However, on a positive note I hear and read awesome reports on our ACTE tour we had at the end of January. Thank you to Dodie, Coleen and others involved in this. I hope each of you are doing something special in your community and school to help promote CTE month and promote these classes to parents and students.

As we start preparing our budgets, and Perkins monies for the year be sure to remember to include fees for SDACTE this summer as it will be an exciting time with our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Terry Rieckman—President SDACTE

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## President Greetings



The President's budget proposal has been released. These 8 individuals will travel to DC to get the scoop on what's in store for CTE.

### March 5-7—Washington DC

SDACTE Members Attending

Terry Rieckman—President

Annika Russell—Past President

Dianne Rider—President Elect

Dodie Bemis—Executive Director

Coleen Keffeler—Legislative Chair

Lori Christensen—Ag Division

Joe Dalton—Leadership Workshop Participant

Ellen Thompson—Ag Education Division Staff

### Issue 68

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### February 2012

Region V—Jackson Hole, WY

“Capture the Spirit of the West”

April 11-14, 2012

Early Bird Registration—March 1st

*Stipends Are Available*



## Tour helps promote CTE Month

In South Dakota, 60 percent of high school students were consistently enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course/program between 2008 and 2011. The graduation rate for students taking CTE classes is approximately 97 percent. The graduation rate for all other students is 89 percent, according to the State of South Dakota Department of Education's Perkins Data Reports.

South Dakota students and faculty will join others across the nation during the month of February to celebrate national Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. This year's theme is *CTE: Careers Through Education*. CTE Month provides CTE programs across the country an opportunity to demonstrate how CTE educates students to be college- and career-ready and prepares them for high-wage, high-demand career fields.

To help kick off the month, Ashley Parker, Media Relations Manager of the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), visited programs across the state. The media in the respective communities were invited to attend all or any part of the tours.

The tours illustrated the rigor and relevance CTE courses and programs offer students. By partnering with the business community, CTE programs are investing in student lives with the latest technology and skills that will prepare them to become successful employees and future leaders.

SDACTE provided key contacts to help coordinate the media and activities in several communities. These included Jim Kayl in Sioux Falls; Annika Russell in Mitchell; Dianne Rider in Watertown; Joline Dunbar in Brookings; Steve Elwood in Pierre, Deb Reynolds in Rapid City; and Coleen Keffeler in Sturgis. SDACTE Executive Director Dodie Bemis served as Parker's chauffeur and guide.

Ashley Parker shared her thoughts on the experience, saying, "I applaud SDACTE for taking the initiative and engaging in a media tour. The first step towards building a proactive, positive relationship with the media is meeting face-to-face with the journalist and educating them on the issues and story opportunities within the CTE community, and the tour was a great opportunity for SDACTE leadership and members to make those connections and establish a foundation for partnership moving forward. The trip was such a great experience for me, because I take so much value from meeting with our members and their students. It really inspires me and provides me with so many concrete examples to use when I speak with media or we meet with policymakers in Washington, D.C.!"

Speaking on behalf of the SDACTE Board of Directors, Bemis was very excited about the results. "The media we visited were very receptive and positive about the message we wanted to get out to the general public. We received great newspaper coverage in each of the communities, plus television and radio in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, and two radio talk shows in Watertown. We couldn't be more pleased. Our goal was to raise public awareness about the benefits of CTE and we believe our mission was accomplished."

SDACTE and the Administration Division will share the costs of the tour.

*Pictured at left are: LAMD instructors Joe Dalton and Dianne Rider share the value of Career and Technical Education with KSDR's Jeff Anderson on his early morning talk show.*



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force Plans a Celebration

The summer conference will be an anniversary celebration. Plans are being made to have visual history display, anniversary gifts for conference participants, a past president's reception and special cakes. The logo contest was a great success and the task force extends a special thank you to those that submitted designs and helped students with submissions. The task force members have been working to make this summer conference one to remember. Members of the task force are: Myron Sonne, Larry Nelson, Randy Doescher, Suzy Ries, MaryKay Drees, Pat Bortnem and Dianne Rider. We welcome your input to make this conference the best ever. If you have additional suggestions or are interested in being a part of the task force please contact me at [dianne.rider@k12.sd.us](mailto:dianne.rider@k12.sd.us)

**Dianne Rider—SDACTE President –Elect**



# SDACTE Keynotes

## Michael Oster—Wednesday Keynote

Upon the recommendation of several SDACTE members, Michael Oster has been selected to keynote the Summer Conference closing session on Wednesday. His message is entitled "It's All About Attitude." He will help his audience explore attitude and personal growth—the power of the positive; "you can be who and what you want to be if you will simply believe and live like you are already there."

Michael has been a public speaker and "entertainer" from a young age. Starting in student government in college and being elected at the young age of 22 as a Rapid City Commissioner were indicators of a talent which allowed Michael to spread a message with passion and conviction which translated to results.

Michael has owned and operated a Human Resources and Labor Relations consulting firm and served in the Army National Guard.

Michael truly believes that he is called to service in the area of providing a message of success and personal and professional achievement.

Whether it is students, teachers, military leaders, business professionals or simply a mix of all of the above, the requirement is the same, ensure people leave believing they can be better tomorrow than they are today in all aspects of their life.

## Brian Blasko—Monday Keynote

*Cruisin through life at 35 MPH*

Life is a journey... Enjoy the ride. This exciting program offered by Brian Blasko invites you to discover and maximize your own personal potential. Our lives and careers are like vehicles, and we are the engines that keep them running smoothly. Come learn how to gain some 'fuel' for your internal gas tank.

While travelling on this journey, Brian will share a few strategies for successful leadership, teamwork, and personal growth. The strategies have all been test-driven and proven road-worthy. Do not let life's little road blocks keep you stuck on the side of the road. Come have some fun and learn how to push your pedal to the metal.

*Cruisin' Through Life at 35 MPH* is a delightful road trip.





Plans are coming together for our annual SDAAE Conference in Pierre. Updates on Ag Career Network, new degree and proficiency applications, and relevant breakout sessions will be provided. Tour choices will include the Pierre water treatment plant and the Discovery Center where a hands on lab will be done during the time. It is important to attend the conference to stay active in your professional organization. See you in Pierre!

Ross Hudson—Division President  
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This is the first article that I am doing for the newsletter so I would like to thank the T & I division for the opportunity to serve as president. I have really enjoyed learning more about ACTE and meeting with people that are a part of the organization. This year I have also attended the national conference in St. Louis. This conference had some exceptional sessions and speakers. If you ever get a chance, I would highly recommend that you attend this conference.

Speaking of conference, I would like to say that an excellent opportunity is coming your way in our own state conference. There will be a post- secondary showcase to help connect the secondary instructor to programs that appeal to their students. We will also have some presentations that will be put on by Black Hills State University. There are several break-out sessions for the division covering all of our career clusters. There are too many to list individually but be looking for the preconference schedule that will be coming out in the next couple months. As always, there are some very inspirational and entertaining keynote speakers for everyone to enjoy. This year we will have golfing and/or fishing for our division. More information will be out later. Hope to see you all out in Pierre July 29- August 1.

Jim Mahoney—Division President  
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Hopefully your spring semester started on a positive note. We surely cannot complain about the weather thus far. I look forward to spring seeing green grass outside the classroom windows. This is an exciting time for CTE in the state as many new programs are being developed around the state. We keep hearing about economic development, workforce development, students being job ready, so on and so on. It is fine time that people recognize career & technical education as part of the solution to all of these priorities. As CTE promoters we need to keep sharing the success stories and let folks know that we should not be overlooked.

The Board has been working on the schedule for Summer Conference and I encourage all of you to attend. We will again pay the registration fee for first-time administrator or counselor attendees so make sure you invite them along as well. Some relevant topics for the administration division we have been working on include: an employer panel, concurrent enrollment and dual credit opportunities for students, teacher evaluation, legal management, and starting programs on a shoestring. We will also have information and updates from programs around the state.

We hope to see you in Pierre!

Jim Kayl—Division President  
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### How's Your "A-Game"?

When Monday morning arrives, do you have your A-Game on? According to Eric Chester, there are seven workplace values employees need to bring to work. One is ATTITUDE. Being enthusiastic and positive are strong motivators to achieving success and developing teamwork. The second value is ATTENDANCE. Make sure you are at work regularly and on time. The third one is APPEARANCE. Dress like a professional and be well-groomed. The fourth value is AMBITION. Be invaluable by learning more, exceeding expectations and being involved in professional organizations. ACCOUNTABILITY is the fifth value. Do the right thing and be the type of person you would trust. If you make a mistake, admit it and try to correct it. The sixth value is ACCEPTANCE. Respect authority and follow the established guidelines. And last of all, is APPRECIATION. Thank others for their contributions and provide the best service possible.

If you wish to learn more about the A-Game, you can go to [www.theAgame.com](http://www.theAgame.com) <<http://www.theAgame.com>>. There's a wealth of information we can share with others.

Roberta Stoebner— Division President  
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The Business & Marketing (and IT) division of the SDACTE is currently working on conference preparations and a re-vamp of the division Web Page. We are currently looking for teachers who would like to share spotlight stories that highlight achievements of their students or their programs. If you have a spot light story please send it to [brendan.streitz@k12.sd.us](mailto:brendan.streitz@k12.sd.us).

The division would like to congratulate to Kristie Olson of Madison for having students selected as finalists in both the Big Idea (Hayden Namken) and the South Dakota Bankers Foundation (Tom Rowland,) business plan competitions.

Lastly, an Information Technology career cluster student from Flandreau Jean Belmonte had her design chosen as the 40th Anniversary logo for the SDACTE. Congratulations!

Brendan Streitz—Division President  
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Marketing and IT  
Business

## SDACTE 40th Anniversary Winning Logo Selected



South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education has selected a logo for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Over 20 logos were submitted in a contest hosted by the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force. The quality of the designs submitted was impressive. The winning design was done by Jean Belmonte a senior at Flandreau High School.

Jean writes, "I arrived from the Philippines in March of 2010 and have been attending Flandreau High School, since then meeting new individuals and accumulating new experiences. Throughout my high school years, mathematics and computer-related classes are what I enjoy the most. I've always been interested in working with computers. I am fascinated on how we can use them for almost everything. I took a Web Design class under Mr. Brendan Streitz last semester. In this class, we didn't just focus on making web pages, Mr. Streitz also taught us about different computer software and strategies and design principles essential for web building. When I was designing the logo, I kept in mind that it must be simple but not plain and I applied the techniques and knowledge I learned from my Web Design class. I am planning to attend South Dakota State University next fall to major in Computer Science. I intend to earn my Bachelor's Degree in this field and have a career where I can use my knowledge to develop useful software programs and improve performance of existing software."

Congratulations to Jean and thank you to all students and teachers that submitted designs.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE—April 1st**

**Awards available for Secondary and Post-Secondary**

**Find the applications online at our website [www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte](http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte)**



# Communications Survey



One of the goals set by the Board of Directors this fall was to ‘develop a system to evaluate the effectiveness of SDACTE communication and services’ among the board and its members. To accomplish this goal we knew we needed to see how our membership viewed our communication.

A survey was sent out to all SDACTE members in November and 124 of you completed it. The results indicated to us that we are doing a decent job communicating to our members, but there still could be improvements.

Some of the results include

- \*56% said they have accessed the SDACTE website in the last 6 months;
- \*72% are aware of the several professional stipends available to members;
- \*only 23% have actually applied for those stipends;
- \*only 46% know that SDACTE collects data for members to share when advocating their programs; and
- \*84% find the newsletter useful and helpful.

I would like to thank all the members who completed the survey and urge others to take the time to fill out future surveys. The Board of Directors does use the information when planning for our membership.

--Annika Russell, SDACTE Past President

Go to Facebook and search for South Dakota ACTE



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## An International Summit on Excellence in CTE

Get a glimpse of the exciting future ahead for career and technical education at CareerTech VISION 2012— the only international summit on excellence in CTE! This dynamic event features a new format that is focused on what you need to succeed in your program, your institution and your community. You can't afford to miss the crucial networking, vital business and industry connections, and hands-on learning unprecedented in our profession!

You don't want to lose this opportunity! At CareerTech VISION 2012, you will:

- \* Form beneficial new partnerships with the business and industry sectors
- \* See, touch and interact with the latest innovations in the world of education
- \* Earn critical CEUs in a challenging and stimulating new context
- \* Connect with your colleagues and the leaders in CTE today
- \* Energize your ongoing commitment to excellence
- \* Envision the potential of your CTE program—and discover practical ways to achieve it
- \* Experience firsthand the exciting future of CTE in your community and across the country
- \* Plan now to attend CareerTech VISION 2012 and join thousands of your fellow CTE professionals at the most exciting CTE event of the year! Remember, ACTE members receive priority registration and discounted rates. Catch the VISION—because together, we make it work!



Join us in Atlanta, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2012!



## Make Up HAPPY CRAP!

By Erika Oliver (*Recovering Pessimist*), Chief Happiness Officer

Chief Happiness Officers (CHO's) make up Happy Crap. Simple as that. CHO's know that most thoughts are not facts but just crap – assumptions - the brain makes up. CHO's know they can either fill in the blanks – spaces between facts – with positive or negative stories (assumptions). What else do CHO's know about their thoughts?



thoughts mean only what you decide  
thoughts can be changed anytime you want  
thoughts determine how you feel

So, why wouldn't you choose positive thoughts? Here are the 3-fast-easy-fun steps to making up Happy Crap:

**STEP 1: notice how you are feeling.** If you feel anything you don't like - anger, fear, frustration or maybe jealousy – you are making up negative (crappy) crap. Thoughts can be fueled or influenced by other people and outside environments, but they can be chosen by YOU.

**STEP 2: sift through your thoughts and pull out the facts.** Ask yourself, what do I know for sure? For example, if you feel angry with someone at work for not responding to your phone call, what do you know for sure? Well, you know you called them, you know that they did not call you back (or at least you didn't get a message), and maybe you know that in the past (which really doesn't predict the future) they have ignored your phone calls. That's it – about 2.5 facts – and everything else you are thinking is an assumption - just crap you are making up.

**STEP 3: replace negative - crappy – assumptions with a positive story.** Make this fun. Go crazy and make up a story that is **OUTRAGEOUSLY** positive. If you find yourself thinking that the person didn't call back because they don't care (that's your opinion so it's not a fact), assume something else. For example, make up a story that they are solving your most important problem and want to surprise you with the result. "Not true!" you say. Here's the key, the negative assumption is no truer than the positive assumption. So, why not choose the one that makes you feel good? It's **your choice**.

Chief Happiness Officers choose to make up Happy Crap because they know happy thoughts make for more powerful brains, more creativity, and more positive experiences. You write and tell your life story with every thought you think. Will your story be crappy or happy?

**P.S.** There are times when making up Happy Crap feels harder than other times. Be gentle with yourself and trust that it's okay to choose happy thoughts, no matter what the external situation.

If your organization, association or team wants to become CHOs, contact Erika Oliver for a customized Happy Camp! **Erika Oliver, MPA**, is the author of the award-winning **Three Good Things: Happiness Every Day, No Matter What!**, **Three Good Things: A Coloring Book for Everyone!** and **Happy Crap: The Power of Positive Assumptions**. As a *recovering pessimist*, Erika is now a Positive Approach Coach who helps people, teams, and organizations find their "happy." Learn more at [www.erikaoliver.com](http://www.erikaoliver.com).

### Eat your P.E.A.S.!!!

**Position** – choose a positive mental position,

**Energy** – maintain a positive energy balance

**Assumptions** – make outrageously positive assumptions when you don't have all the information

**Start with 3 Good Things** – identify the positive – what works – before solving problems or identifying defects.

Governor Dennis Daugaard issued an Executive Proclamation recognizing February as CTE month. Pictured with the proclamation are Terry Rieckman, SDACTE President and Annika Russell, SDACTE Past President.



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Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

### Health Science Career Experience

Presley O'Farrell, a student at Summit High School is enrolled in the Health Science class at Lake Area Multi-District. During her experiences at Prairie Lakes Hospital she assisted with typing and cross matching a blood sample for transfusion to a patient. Presley made the following comments: "Shadowing at Prairie Lakes Hospital could help any student with a jump start to their future career. It helped me to find the perfect job and I now know what I want to pursue in college. I recommend Health Science class to every student. What a great experience!"

Health Science classes provide hands on experience and authentic tasks for the students to learn about healthcare opportunities and discover their interests. Curriculum standards include infection control and safety measures, ethical and legal responsibilities, communication in a healthcare environment, medical terminology, first aid and other technical skills. Students enjoy learning in an applied setting.



Student Spotlight Story Submitted by –  
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