

## ***National Conference: Big Bang For Your Buck***

Are you attending ACTE in Nashville on November 19-21? If so, you are in for a real treat!!!

The conference has over 250 sessions that cover everything from best practices to possible solutions for challenges we all face. You will be able to share with colleagues and bring back valuable information to improve your programs. Along with great sessions, there will be over 200 exhibitors to visit which will allow you to see products and possibly “try them out”.

You will definitely not want to miss the general sessions where keynote speakers “Chef Jeff” Henderson and Stedman Graham will share their stories and give insight on career and technical education.

Obviously, you’ll want to connect with some fellow South Dakotans during the conference. The SDACTE Board of Directors is sponsoring a get together on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The details are in the invitation to the right. Invite a colleague and join us for refreshments and good conversation!

**See you in Nashville!!!!**

**-Annika Russel, President-Elect**

*You are cordinally invited to attend*

a

South Dakota Gathering

with

light snacks, beverages,  
and networking

*hosted by*

**SDACTE Board of Directors**

**November 20, 2009**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn**

**(Located across from the Opryland Hotel)**

**Jon Severson’s Room #TBD**

**Nashville, TN**

---

## ***Highlighting Our Success: Get the Word Out !!!***

SDACTE needs your help! One of the responsibilities of SDACTE is to advocate for your programs, and ultimately, for our kids. The Board of Directors for SDACTE is looking for some spotlight stories to share with legislators, policy makers, and the general public in order to put a face to what we do. We know CTE impacts kids powerfully; we want evidence.

Please take a few minutes to write something up for us, and include pictures. Some ideas of what we are looking for include stories about new programs, new equipment, or even existing programs that are making a difference to kids. One good approach to take is how well a particular program is using a funding source to make an impact, but it does not have to be about money. Look at what you are doing, be creative, and just tell a story. Don’t forget about student organizations: how are they helping their communities, developing leadership?

If you want some more guidance, contact your division president. Each division president has a template created by FACS President Janelle Weatherly that works really well to organize the information.

Spotlight stories can be sent to Erik Person at [erik.person@k12.sd.us](mailto:erik.person@k12.sd.us), or to Dodie Bemis at [bemisd@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:bemisd@lakeareatech.edu). We would like to have these stories in our hands by December 9th.

**Without YOUR story of CTE success, it will difficult for us to promote CTE and create “talking points” to visit with our SD legislators in January.**

Thank you for all you do for kids every day!

**-Erik Person, Administration Division President**

## SDACTE Board of Directors

President	Jon Severson	Aberdeen
President-Elect	Annika Russell	Mitchell
Past President	Jim Wilson	Lennox
Admin. & Support Services	Erik Person	Burke
Agricultural Education	Josh Christiansen	Flandreau
Business/Marketing	Lenessa Keehn	Lead-Deadwood
Family & Consumer Sciences	Janelle Weatherly	Flandreau
Trade & Industrial	Trent Theye	Watertown
State OCTE Liaison	Brad Bies	Pierre
Executive Director	Dodie Bemis	Watertown



**The SDACTE Viewpoint:** published in September, November, 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](mailto:bemisd@lakeareatech.edu)

### *from Dodie's desk . . .*

South Dakota will be hosting the 2011 Region V ACTE Conference in Rapid City April 5-9. Coleen Keffeler, Scott Fossum, and I have agreed to oversee the planning of this professional development event, but we are obviously going to need lots more willing hands. Volunteers will be needed for everything from program and entertainment to advertising and marketing to exhibitors and tours. Some jobs will require a little more time than others, but all are important to a successful conference. The group agreed that the majority of the meetings will be held via DDN or conference call, but it will be necessary to have an on site meeting in early June 2010.

Thus far the following people have agreed to serve on the steering committee for the Region V Conference:

- \*Cindy Brace- Redfield High School
- \*Lynn Brace- Redfield High School
- \*Randy Doescher- Mitchell Technical Institute
- \*Jolene Dunbar- Brookings High School
- \*Lenessa Keehn- Lead-Deadwood High School
- \*Julie LeVake- Lake Area Multi-District
- \*Charlotte Mohling- Wessington Springs High School
- \*Deb Renolds- Rapid City Stevens High School
- \*Dianne Rider- Lake Area Multi-District
- \*Suzy Ries- Baltic High School
- \*Annika Russell- Mitchell Technical Institute

If you're interested in helping, please contact me at [bemisd@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:bemisd@lakeareatech.edu).

### **Time Moves on; Make the Best of It!**

#### **Josh Christiansen, Ag President**

It seems like such a long time away before you have to start thinking about August 2010 and Summer SDACTE Conference. I'm sure that all of you have been wondering where the time has gone since school started nearly 14 weeks ago! Where does the time go, what have we accomplished in our classes, our FFA and our person lives since that glorious August day that school started?

In all that reminiscing about how the first quarter and a half of school went, have you given any thoughts to how you could have done some things differently or how you would like to change things for next time you teach these lessons? Being the excellent teachers that you are, I know you have!

Let's build on those "what-ifs" and desires to excel. How can the SDACTE Board and the SDAAE Board help you to improve what you do for the future of our state (your students)?

Please pass along any ideas that you have for summer conference to me via e-mail or a phone call. The SDAAE officers and the SDACTE Board will be happy to work to implement your ideas for improvement into summer conference in August 2010.

### **Got an Idea? Share it!**

#### **Janelle Weatherly, FACS President**

Currently the SDACTE Board is taking ideas for keynote speakers, division, and session presenters for the upcoming SDACTE Conference beginning August 1, 2010. Yes, it would be difficult to top the awesome performances of Kevin Honeycutt and Myron Sonne... and they may not consent to Act II. So we are *sending out a call to our membership to send in names of people YOU have listened to and appreciated their message.*

If you have a speaker you feel is *pertinent for our association or division to hear*, send the name, contact information, and a statement about their message to me at: [Janelle.Weatherly@k12.sd.us](mailto:Janelle.Weatherly@k12.sd.us) by **December 9th**. Take a few minutes to reflect on the speakers you have enjoyed recently and submit one or more names. Your efforts will be appreciated.

### ***Suggestions Rewarded!!!***

Every SDACTE member who submits a legitimate suggestion for a conference speaker will be eligible for a \$20 gift certificate. Drawing will be made at December 9th Board of Directors meeting.

### **We Want to Know: What Do YOU Want to Know?**

**Lenessa Keehn, Business/Marketing President**

That's right! We want to know what kind of topics, presentations, and speakers are important to you and your professional development. The Board has already begun the work in putting together a fantastic summer conference just for us, and just for teachers like you.

If you would like to see specific topics covered during breakout sessions or have an interest in bringing someone in to talk to the Business Division, please contact me so I can begin making contacts. After all, this conference is for the betterment of our course content, delivery of information, overall improvement and success of our classrooms and students.

If you have a project, idea, or unit that is already successful, we'd like you to share. Please consider being a presenter for the Business Division, the general conference breakout sessions, or both! Feel free to contact me at [Lenessa.Keehn@k12.sd.us](mailto:Lenessa.Keehn@k12.sd.us) with any of your ideas or suggestions.

### **Changing Seasons, Gathering Input**

**Trent Theye, T & I / Tech Ed President**

Hello fellow Trade and Industry members. This is my first article as T & I president and I hope I am successful being your president in the upcoming year. I wish to pass along a few words.

It is that time of year again when the seasons are changing and we need to look forward to getting things lined up so we can get through the winter with no problems. Well, this is a change of seasons for the SDACTE Board of Directors also. We are going into the season of lining up sponsors and presenters for next year's conference in Pierre. We are busy scratching our heads to line up people to have a great conference next summer.

If you have attended conferences in the past and thought there was not much there for you, now is the time for you to step up to the plate to let me know who or what you would like to see there. If you have any contact information with such possible presenters and wish for me to do the legwork, I can do that as I want everyone in the T & I division to think that their conference is worth going to.

You can contact me at [theyet@lakeareatech.edu](mailto:theyet@lakeareatech.edu) or 605-882-5284, ext. 299. Feel free to contact me ASAP so we can ensure that your presenter has a spot in our schedule. Help us to make this conference a better conference than last year.

One does not wait to buy snow boots after the snow has hit the ground. The same holds true with us: we must prepare now so we have a successful conference next summer. Please pass the word to fellow T & I members that may not receive this newsletter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

### **Changes Abound at OCCTE**

**Brad Bies, OCCTE Liaison**

This has been a season of change for OCCTE. I'm sure you've all noticed the extra "C" for Curriculum in our name, which represents the reorganization of our office to include the core content specialists. Now, our new office oversees all curriculum, both CTE and core content. It's a nice change that really cements the importance of CTE courses in the scope of all school curricula.

We've recently hired a new Human Services, Education and Training, and Hospitality and Tourism Cluster Specialist Debra Wenzel. Debra is a native South Dakotan who comes to us most recently from the Kansas Department of Education. Her experience will certainly serve those clusters and Office of Curriculum, Career and Technical Education well.

Additionally, Sarah Carter is a relatively new addition to our staff as a Team Leader. Sarah worked previously in the department and brings the Virtual School and advanced placement courses into our office along with her new duties.

For the first time since I've worked here we've a full staff of specialists. Don't hesitate to call; our number is still the same.

### **SDACTE wants YOU for Region V!!!**

As you heard at summer conference and read in Dodie's column, South Dakota will host the 2011 Region V ACTE Conference in Rapid City. If you're thinking about serving on the planning committee and would like to learn more about a region conference, consider attending the Region V Conference next April in Anchorage, Alaska.

"Too expensive" you say? Well, here are a couple of options for you to obtain additional funds. First of all, the SDACTE Board of Directors has redirected the \$1,200 that was allocated for ACTE stipends (but not expended) to be awarded to members who wish to attend the Alaska conference. In addition, Region V offers a \$500 stipend to first-time attendees.

For your convenience, a stipend application is enclosed or check [www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/](http://www.lakeareatech.edu/sdacte/)

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

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

*Return Service Requested*

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Watertown, SD  
Permit No. 609

ACTE's 2009 Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo is set for November 19-21, 2009  
in Nashville, Tennessee. [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org)

