

SDACTE Viewpoint

South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education, Inc.

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Definition of Opportunity -Erik Person



First, SDACTE is supporting a bill to change the requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship. Thank you to Representative Jason Frerichs and his co-sponsors, Reps. Brunner, Faehn, Fargen, Krebs, Lucas, Rave, Sorenson, and Wink and Senators Olson (Russell), Abdallah, Bradford, Brown, Garnos, Jerstad, Nelson, Nesselhuf, Peterson, and Rhoden. HB 1190, if passed, will allow students to choose CTE courses as part of their requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

This would be a good change for CTE and a good change for kids. This bill also would allow schools to offer core credit for some approved CTE courses. The core credit for CTE courses is not, as some opponents fear, going to allow schools to stick a kid in welding class and if he passes, give him credit for Algebra 1. The core credit would have to be approved by the DOE based on content standards being met and other criteria.

I urge you as an SDACTE member to support HB 1190 being heard this week in the House Education Committee. This is the bill that will change the requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship. The Opportunity Scholarship was designed to allow students in South Dakota to receive an affordable, quality education right here in South Dakota at any accredited university, college, or technical school. The change has to happen because the scholarship is aligned with a set of graduation requirements that no longer exist. South Dakota now has one set of graduation requirements instead of three. SDACTE is working to get this bill passed. It is something we have wanted for a long time, and we need your help. Please contact your legislators.

Maybe it is time for a brief vocabulary lesson: **Opportunity** – *an occasion offering a possibility or chance*; **Peculiar** – *different from the usual or normal: curious, eccentric, queer*

The change in graduation requirements presents an opportunity to fix a problem. The problem with the Opportunity Scholarship is that, while the requirements appear to be appropriately rigorous and academic, they have the affect of limiting opportunities for students. Maybe we should have studied the definition of **irony**. While registering for high school courses, many students must choose between their interests and the Opportunity Scholarship. The current requirements state that a student must have 2 units of world language. The interesting thing about that requirement is that while it makes the Opportunity Scholarship appear more academic, 2 units of world language is not a requirement for admission to any of the schools in which the scholarship can be used. It is a requirement for many schools outside of South Dakota. I thought this scholarship was designed to provide opportunities *within* South Dakota, so that we could retain our best and brightest. That is peculiar.

The issue of the curricular requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship needs to be addressed. HB 1190 addresses the issue, maintains the rigorous grade point and ACT score requirements, and provides greater opportunities for South Dakota kids. Encourage your legislators to vote for the bill when it gets to the floor.



Now-more than ever - DATA !!! -Coleen Keffeler



As CTE teachers, we have stated for years that our programs keep students engaged in high school and learning. The Legislative Committee developed a brochure using the state's Perkins data to let the policy makers know that statement **is indeed fact**.

Career and Technical Education: A Well-Kept Secret in South Dakota is now available on SDACTE's website. Please utilize this brochure with your school board members, advisory committees, Chambers of Commerce, and legislative representatives. The data collected illustrates the importance of CTE programs for South Dakota students.

Copies have already been distributed to all legislators, but a personal contact from you with additional data from your own school/program is necessary to reinforce our message of the necessity for CTE programs in South Dakota. This important information also needs to be shared with your administration, school board, chamber of commerce, advisory board, parents.....

The legislative committee has met via conference call four times this year. The committee will be reaching out to the legislative district contacts and you, the individual member, soon. By forming coalitions with business and education groups, we can strengthen our message that CTE is preparing South Dakota's future workforce.

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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

from Dodie's desk . . .

Have you made plans to promote February as CTE month? The Governor signed a proclamation and it's posted on our website.

Remember South Dakota will be hosting the 2011 Region V ACTE Conference in Rapid City April 5-9. Under the leadership of committee chairs Scott Fossum and Coleen Keffeler, the planning is well underway. Back by popular demand, Kevin Honeycutt will deliver the keynote at the opening session. Motivational speaker Malcom Chapman will address the group on Friday. Saturday's closing session will be at Mt. Rushmore, and hopefully Pat Bortnem will keynote.

The 2010 SDACTE Scholarship Application forms are on the website. Once again, four \$500 scholarships will be given. Encourage your students or your child to apply. Remember there are two applications: secondary and post secondary.

Kudos to the Legislative Committee. This active group has already developed the CTE Talking Points brochure that each of you should have already received in the mail. They've also developed and the SDACTE Board of Directors have adopted four position statements. These can be found on the SDACTE website. In addition, they're busy strategizing on the passage of HB 1190 to change the requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship. Give them your support!

Graduation Requirements: Good News for CTE

Brad Bies, OCCTE Liaison

I'm sure most of you have heard about the changes in graduation requirements, but you might not have had time yet to digest all of the information and figure out what it means for your program. The change that's most important to us as CTE educators is the addition of approved CTE courses alongside World Languages and Capstone/Service Learning for one credit, any combination. All schools are now required to offer CTE courses to students. Now that doesn't mean all students are required to take CTE class or that all students will, but it does give us a real chance to continue to prove how important CTE course work is to student success. Along with plans in the next year to create a state level application process to allow upper level very rigorous CTE courses to be offered for core academic credit these requirements open doors that have been shut to us for a long time. Remember only you can be an advocate for your program locally. The requirements are a good start, but you need to build your programs locally to take advantage.

I think as time goes on we'll find things we don't love about this set of requirements; I'm afraid that's just the nature of the topic. However, I think CTE is as well positioned as we can be to attract and keep more students, build stronger more rigorous programs, and increase student achievement along the way.

For more information about graduation requirements visit: <http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/gradrequirements>

Conversations with Legislators

Jon Severson, SDACTE President

In an effort to make SDACTE's position known and our voices heard by our state lawmakers, five members of your Board of Directors (Dodie Bemis, Lenessa Keehn, Erik Person, Annika Russell, and I) attended the annual Legislative Dinner on the opening day of the Eighty-Fifth Session Legislative Assembly. We met with Senators Dan Ahlers, Dell Rapids; Julie Bartling, Burke; Pam Merchant, Brookings; Ben Nesselhuf, Vermillion; and Representatives Lance Carson, Mitchell; Mike Kirkeby, Rapid City; Betty Olson, Prairie City; Lance Russell, Rapid City; Charles Turbiville, Deadwood; and Dean Wink, Howes.

We discussed the value of the Opportunity Scholarship to our students and in-state post-secondary education. We shared our belief that rigor and relevance are two (of many) key components in any approved career and technical education (CTE) program. The Opportunity Scholarship already has a

high standard of curriculum requirements and SDACTE would like to see “an approved CTE course OR world languages” as an option in which students may choose when establishing their initial eligibility in the Opportunity Scholarship program. We asked for their support in helping draft a bill to enhance the Opportunity Scholarship with approved CTE programs. The dialogue with the legislators was very positive.

You can help our cause by contacting your local legislators and ask them to support CTE and the proposed changes in the Opportunity Scholarship. Also if you know of any businesses that are be willing to partner with CTE, encourage them to contact their legislators as well. This would be a benefit to them because the students they help could be their potential employees in the future.

SDACTE Represented on ACTE Task Force

Annika Russell, President-Elect

This past fall, ACTE formed the State Association Task Force with the mission to increase member value through a strong and productive relationship between ACTE and the state associations. Coleen Keffeler chairs this task force and asked me to serve on it.

We are in the process of developing tools that will help the state leaders be effective and do the most for their state associations. A state handbook has been developed and is in the review stage. We are also in the process of developing a “To Do” list/calendar which will contain general information that state leaders can access and then add their own specific deadlines. They will also be able to see examples of other states’ project steps and organization to give guidance in their own work.

Another project of the task force is developing a systematic way to set up mentoring relationships within each region and the national association. This will allow state leaders to share their expertise with others who may want/need some guidance. We have also started State Association Leadership calls the last Tuesday of each month. These calls will provide state leaders with valuable information from ACTE along with encouraging people to share information and stay connected to each other. Our first call was Jan. 26th. Grassroots Advocacy was discussed along with what was happening in Congress. It was a great success!!!

As the task force continues to work to meet our objectives, it is our hope to create strategies that will strengthen state association leadership teams and create a more effective association.

We need your ideas !!!

Josh Christiansen, Ag President

SDACTE Annual conference is a great time for CTE teachers to gain valuable information in order to improve Career and Technical Education at the local level. We gather information from many sources throughout the year. Workshops and vendors at regional and national conferences, local in-services, and webinars are all ways that teachers develop from year to year. It is the gathering time at annual conference that we have the opportunity to share what we’ve learned with others in our field.

The SDACTE Board of Directors works hard to prepare a conference that is beneficial for all the members. In order for the board to give the members the best possible conference, the board needs member input. Take the time to think about those presenters or vendors who made an impact on you. Consider how these presenters will also affect others in the CTE family. Please forward information about workshop presenters and vendors to your division president. In doing so, you are not only becoming more involved in your organization, but also helping all CTE teachers become better at what we do... build students’ success.

Spotlight Stories....Urgent...What’s Your Story??

Janelle Weatherly, FACS President

Yes, what is your story on how Carl D. Perkins funding has elevated your CTE program for your students? Lenessa Keehn from the Lead-Deadwood School District consented to share her story how funding helped her students learn from and network with local business leaders who hire youth as employees. Spotlight Stories such as Keehn’s will demonstrate to legislators, school board members, and the public how CTE programs assist student transition into becoming a productive workforce, presently and in the future. Read her story in the insert.

We know your stories will be as varied as the South Dakota CTE programs are. Some will be short and others more in-depth. That’s A Okay with us. We want to hear from YOU! No one can tell YOUR story better than you about how Carl D. Perkins funding makes a difference in the lives of your students within your community.

Thank you for taking the time to promote South Dakota CTE.

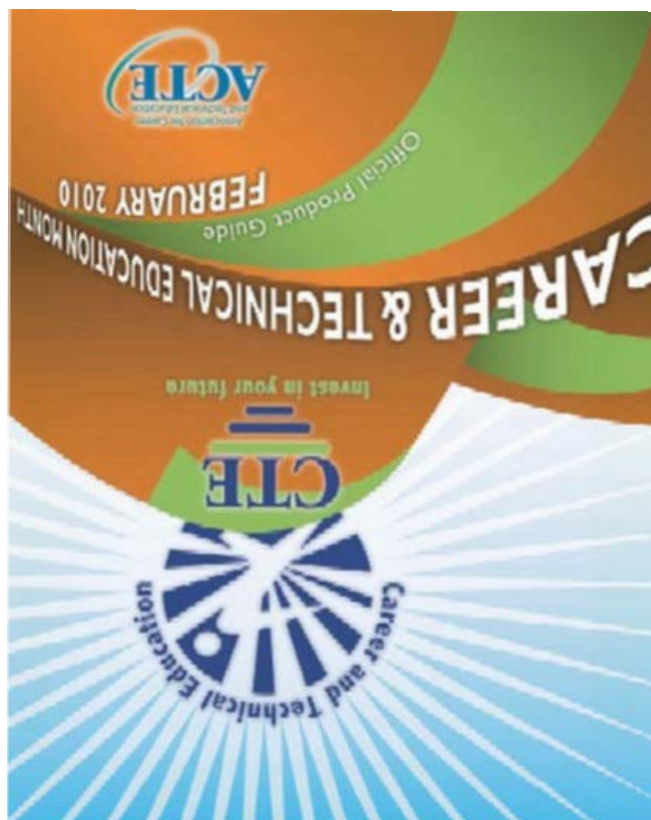
Please e-mail
YOUR SPOTLIGHT story to
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Technical Education**

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- GET NOTICED -

Make sure your school, the media, businesses and the community know about the CTE month and why career and technical education is a wise investment as early as possible. Check out the great suggestions to increase awareness throughout the year at www.acteonline.org/ctemonth.aspx