Whenever your preferred theme song is that gets you thru the final days of school and looking forward to Summer Conference, I hope you are humming or whistling it with a smile on your face. I know I have a smile on my face when I think about what SDACTE 2021 will look like: coming together to share stories of the classroom, our families, and personal and professional tragedies and triumphs. This is what makes SDACTE so great! The board of directors and the team from the Division of Career and Technical Education have been working to include meaningful content for many cluster and content areas. Sunday night we will kick off with a social – while the details are still in the works, we do know that many of us are ready to spend some time gathering for an evening of fellowship. Kent Julian promises to deliver an engaging and thought-provoking keynote address Monday morning. The afternoon will offer breakout sessions, in-depth sessions, and industry tours. Due to social distancing protocols, the tours will be capped at 20 persons per tour – so get your choice in early! Tuesday will follow up with division specific meetings as well as the annual SDACTE Business Meeting. Please be sure to attend as this is where a new President-Elect will be voted in, decisions regarding our association will be made, and the passing of the gavel on leadership will take place. After it is all said and done, we will say our good-byes that afternoon only until the next time we can gather. To find a tentative schedule of the summer conference, it has been shared in the SDACTE Google Drive. You can also access that here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VTdBR1jnuMn6KIJ25xnZQWP4WsHifN8H/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VTdBR1jnuMn6KIJ25xnZQWP4WsHifN8H/view?usp=sharing) (long version) To register for conference and get ready to come together, you can access the live link at: [https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference](https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference)

Lenessa Keehn, SDACTE President

Register for SDACTE In-Person Summer Conference!

Like many of you, I am starting to get excited about the end of this spring semester and summer starting! Also, like many of you, I am REALLY getting excited for SDACTE Summer Conference July 25-28, 2021. I’m especially excited that we will be able to have an IN-PERSON conference at Lake Area Technical College!

The SDACTE Board of Directors has worked to make registration as simple and efficient as possible. Everything can be done online at [https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference](https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference), or scan the QR code below. You can also find the link on the SDACTE website at [https://www.acteonline.org/sdacte/conference/](https://www.acteonline.org/sdacte/conference/).

Once you click on the link, you’ll need to select the Division that you are registering for, enter your name and information, and select which dues package(s) you would like. We encourage you to attend the Sunday evening social (and register for it so we have a head count) because it will be twice as fun as most years to make up for the missed opportunity last year. Tours should also be selected at the time of registration. Each tour has a 20 person limit due to distancing requirements. You don’t want to miss out on your first choice of tour.

If you will require lodging while in Watertown for conference, there is a block of rooms available at the Ramkota Hotel. This is where several conference activities will be taking place as well. The Ramkota Hotel is located at 1901 9th Ave. SW in Watertown. They are offering a special rate of $94.99 per night for a standard double or single room. You can call the hotel directly at 605-886-8011 and ask for the 2021 SDACTE Conference group rate. All reservations should be made by July 1, 2021.

It is very important that you remember to complete the portion of registration that includes the dues packages! SDACTE membership took a hit this year with many former members not renewing their membership. Luckily, the association was able to receive a grant from the state that helped us stay afloat financially for the year. Membership in SDACTE provides so many opportunities that everyone should take advantage of. There are scholarships available for professional growth and professional development. Members have access to a host of shared resources on the SDACTE Shared Google Drive. Some Divisions offer liability insurance. The organization promotes and advocates for CTE at the local, state, and national levels. Awards for excellence are provided at the Division level as well as the state, region, and national ACTE level. There are so many other benefits that there isn’t room to list them all here. This link will take you to the ACTE member benefits webpage for more details [https://www.acteonline.org/about/membership/individual/member-benefits/](https://www.acteonline.org/about/membership/individual/member-benefits/).

I look forward to seeing all of you and networking at SDACTE Summer Conference in Watertown July 25-28, 2021.

Josh Christiansen, Past- President
2021 ACTE Region V Conference
"Pioneers of Change - Throw Your Hat in the Ring"

Tracy Kern, Region V Policy Committee Member

On Thursday, April 15th, SDACTE members were able to be "Pioneers of Change" by attending the Region V Virtual Conference. This conference was hosted by the Nevada ACTE association. During this conference, members were able to listen to a variety of experts and speakers in the CTE community. The opening general speaker of the conference was Kenneth Shelton who is well-rehearsed in bringing practical experience and knowledge to those in education. The closing general speaker was Gerry Brooks. Gerry Brooks is a fun-loving public speaker who focused his talk on encouraging educators to improve their instructional abilities. The conference also allowed members to partake in a variety of breakout sessions and if they were first-time attendees, learn more about Region V. The conference ended with the Region V business meeting and awards ceremony. South Dakota was well represented with our award nominees and Region V committee chairs and members. Congrats to South Dakota for being "Pioneers of Change".

Interested in attending next year’s Region V Conference in person? If so, mark April 6 - 9th on your calendar as it will be in Rapid City!

Professional Development Stipends Available

Applications are now being accepted for the SDACTE Professional Development stipend. The $500 stipend is open to any SDACTE member completing professional development studies such as college courses for certificate renewal or who are pursuing an advanced degree or additional certification. The stipend may not be used for expenses related to conferences. The link to access the application is https://www.acteonline.org/sdacte/professional-development/

Applications must be received by July 25, 2021.

The Finish Line is in Sight:
This year has been a wild ride between dealing with the challenges that COVIDV-19 has presented along with all the day-to-day challenges that arise with instructing students, raising your family, and caring for loved ones. Please make sure to take time this summer to spend with your family and recharge yourself both physically and mentally; especially if you have a younger family. If done right, our children are the greatest success we will have in this life. With that being said, please be sure to get nominations for T&I President-Elect to me ASAP. I am really excited to see all of you at the conference come to an end of July. Please continue to promote SDACTE within your school, especially to non-members. If you know of anyone that is on the fence about joining, please have them reach out to me.

Jed Schoenfelder, T&I President

CALLING ALL HEALTH SCIENCE CTE TEACHERS

The SDACTE Board of Directors is working hard to make a worthwhile conference for all divisions including strengthening our Health Science Programming. If you have a health science teacher in your district, please contact me at Lori.Christensen@k12.sd.us with their information so I can formally invite them to conference. This includes secondary and post-secondary teachers. Also, please encourage them to attend. We feel that this growing cluster is one that we need to work to develop in the years to come. We appreciate all our CTE teachers support in our work to make South Dakota a premier leader in Career and Technical Education.

- Lori Christensen, SDACTE President-Elect

Post Secondary Perspective

The semester is wrapping up here at Mitchell Tech and it's hard to believe that this school year is coming to an end. This past year has brought many challenges, but we have all made it through. Here at Mitchell Tech, we have been able to have 4 successful exploration days and have had many other students visit on campus. It is evident that students are wanting the hands-on education CTE provides. With everything that has happened in the last year, the careers offered at our technical college are growing dramatically and we are definitely seeing that trend.

We are all looking forward to getting back to "normal" and part of that will be attending the SDACTE Summer Conference. The conference is a great time for technical college instructors to and high school teachers to network and shares what we are each doing. It helps grow stronger CTE programs on all levels.

Annika Russell-Manke, Post Secondary Lesasion
Silent and Live Auction, Basket Bonanza and more...

Every year SDACTE sponsors fundraisers at conferences to raise money for the SDACTE secondary and post-secondary scholarships and professional development stipends for members. This year, we have some fun things lined up to support the cause. Some of the highest demand items in the past couple of years have been student projects brought by instructors to add to the auctions. We want to showcase the great things that our students are doing, so we are asking each of our members to try to bring student projects for the silent and/or live auctions.

Below are some of the details on the fundraisers you can look forward to at the summer conference:

* Silent Auction = The Silent Auction will take place on Monday night during the Awards Banquet. We will also be repeating the online bidding system with about 20 items. Members will be able to bid on items throughout the day on Monday using your mobile devices. It proved has proved to be quite popular!!.

* Live Auction = 5 items will be chosen from the donated items up to be part of the Live Auction after the Awards Banquet on Monday night. The live auction is always a crowd favorite!

* Basket Bonanza = Once again each Division will be providing a “basket” with a minimum value of $75. Members will have opportunities to buy tickets to be placed in their preferred basket for a chance to win. The drawing for all the baskets will take place during the closing session Tuesday afternoon.

* Prize Winners = The individual who brings the item that sells for the highest bid will receive a $25 gift certificate to Target. To get into the competitive spirit a bit more, the SDACTE division that raises the most money for the SDACTE scholarship/professional stipend fund will be the carriers of the “Traveling Trophy”.

Adam Shaw, Admin Division President

Lodging at Summer Conference

The SDACTE Board of Directors has reserved a block of rooms at the Ramkota Hotel for the summer conference in Watertown. All the Sunday activities and Monday night awards banquet will take place at the Ramkota. Monday’s and Tuesday’s daytime activities will take place on the campus of Lake Area Tech. The Ramkota has guaranteed the special rate of $94.99 for a standard double or single room.

Please have the attendees call the hotel direct at 605-886-8011 and ask for the 2021 SDACTE Conference to obtain the group rate. All reservations must be received by 7-01-2021. At that time the remaining blocked rooms will be released and sold on a first come first serve basis. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact Dodie Bemis at 605-881-4746 or bemisd@lakeareatech.edu.

W.O.W.

Did you participate in the SD Week of Work? What an amazing week! We were so energized by the stories of work-based learning in communities throughout SD and the virtual panels were outstanding. If you missed out, its okay these will remain online. Each panel is 40 minutes long and very engaging about specific careers for each cluster. There are also resources to help you instantly turn these into valuable lessons. We know there are days in your classroom you are looking for supplement activities or something with substance when you have a substitute. These resources will remain at weekofwork.sd.gov. Just click on the session playback button under the 2021 schedule to view any of the 38 panels.

Amy Miller, DOE
Ag Division Updates

Happy end of the school year to all the hard-working teachers reading this newsletter this month! I know you all have had an extremely difficult and unconventional year, but I continue to be amazed when I hear about the amazing things teachers, specifically CTE teachers are accomplishing here in South Dakota. Summer Conference this year promises to be a great “return to normal” and the SDCTE and SDAEE Executive committees have some great things planned for your summer conference experience this year and we cannot wait to see everyone in Watertown. The Aggies will be holding our annual banquet at the American Legion in Watertown where we will recognize the last two years’ worth of award winners and send some of our long-time colleagues off with the traditional roast in their honor. We hope that all the Ag teachers and their guests can join us in celebrating this profession on Tuesday July 27th at 5:30pm. Another highlight of conference is the instruction packets that are put together by a volunteer group of teachers. If you have suggestions about a theme for the instructional packets or would like to volunteer to be on that committee, please let one of the SDAEE Executive team know. Also look for information coming out soon about NAAE Region 3 conference which will be help virtually in June. I look forward to seeing you all in person in Watertown this summer. Until then, enjoy your summer’s- you have earned it!

Dani Herring
Ag Division President

HAPPY SPRING SDATFACS MEMBERS,

The end-of-school countdown has definitely begun and I am sure you are busy, busy with final projects and award programs and other fun stuff. As this crazy year comes to close, please consider sharing some of the new and innovative projects and activities you have designed for your classroom, at our summer conference. The SDATFACS board is providing an opportunity, after our annual meeting on Tuesday (July 27), for members to take part in what we are simply calling “FACS Features”. Each member, who would like to take part, will be given a 10-15 minute time slot to share out their latest or greatest ideas and answer any questions. This type of activity at summer conference has always received rave reviews in the past, and we would love to continue that in 2021. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in giving one of these short presentations and we will be happy to add you to our list. On a final note, I just want to thank you all for the opportunity to be your SDATFACS President for the past two years. Your kindness, and your passion for Family and Consumer Science, has been an inspiration and a gift. Best wishes for a relaxing break and I hope to see you in Watertown for SDACTE Summer Conference.

All my best,
Wendy Conrad ~ SDATFACS President

Are You Ready for Some “Normal” Times?

Last year, about this time, I was writing a newsletter article about how quickly everything was changing. Who knew that it would take over 12 months for us to start thinking about returning to some “normal” routines. The SDACTE conference is a go for this year! The conference will be July 25-28, 2021, in Watertown. We will still need some nominations for this year’s Awards. Let’s think about teachers in our BMIT Division that are worthy of an Award. If you are not familiar with the Awards available, you can find them at the South Dakota ACTE website, [https://www.acteonline.org/sdacte/](https://www.acteonline.org/sdacte/). Deadline for the Awards and Professional Development Stipend is July 1st. Please think about a fellow teacher you would like to nominate for an award. We will need to have those nominees fill out an application by July 1st.

Registration for the SDACTE Summer Conference is now open - here is the link: [https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference](https://sdacte.regfox.com/south-dakota-cte-summer-conference). Please get your registration in. I am excited to be back together with other BMIT teachers from around the state. You truly don't understand the importance of networking in person until it is suddenly not available. Also, email me (kristie.olson@k12.sd.us) with any topic ideas that you would like to see covered at our Summer Conference. We will have some share time, so come with all the new and great ideas that you had to generate during this unique school year.

We have two years of BMIT Division work to update. There is a need for officers for our division. We will need to decide on a President Elect (to move to President) and/or a Vice President. It is always a challenge for our division to recruit and maintain members. Think of ideas of how we can recruit and reach BMIT teachers in the state. If you know of BMIT teachers that are not a part of SDATFACS, invite them to join or even just to attend the conference. We need to identify all BMIT teachers in the state so we can reach out to them.

As always, make sure you check the SDATFACS website for updates. Don’t forget about the SDATFACS ListServe. If you haven’t subscribed yet, email “Subscribe SDATFACS” to listmanager@k12.sd.us. Please check this out and submit lessons.

I know this last year has been very trying. We are all ready to take a break and we deserve it. What better way to get ready for 2021-22 school year than to attend SDACTE conference, July 25-28, in Watertown. Now is the time for us to help and rely on each other as educators. Our membership in SDCTE can help us do this. The future is going to look different, but together we can help each other navigate this “new normal” and provide an excellent education for our students.

As always, make sure you check the SDATFACS website for updates. Don’t forget about the SDATFACS ListServe. If you haven’t subscribed yet, email “Subscribe SDATFACS” to listmanager@k12.sd.us. Please check this out and submit lessons.
In case you haven’t heard, South Dakota will be hosting the Region V Leadership Conference April 6-8, 2021. Members attending the Virtual Region V Leadership Conference the beginning of April had a choice between virtual in Arizona, hybrid in Utah, and on site in South Dakota. Those voting chose South Dakota. It will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City, the same location as 5 years ago. Coleen Keffeler and Dodie Bemis will serve as the co-chairs of the Planning Committee. They will be contacting members of the 2017 committee to see if they might be interested in helping once again. The goal is to have at least one representative from each division. The vast majority of the meetings/planning will take place via e-mails and conference calls. If you’d like to get involved and become a CTE ambassador for one of the best professional development opportunities in the country, just contact either Coleen or Dodie.

Want to help plan Region V?

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