Dear Counseling and Career Development Members,

It's hard to believe my three-year term as your VP is coming to an end. It has been such an honor and privilege to serve our division. As I reflect on my term, I think about the many challenges our country and our division have faced but feel encouraged by all that we have accomplished as a team. Some of the highlights I am most proud of include:

- Division name change — Counseling and Career Development division
- Increased membership (We won the membership award in 2019!)
- Active social media presence
- Increased interest by members in leadership and committee opportunities
- Highly attended division PD webinars

This division truly does have the best members. Each of you continue to inspire me to think creatively about how we approach our work and how we can best support each other and our students. Thank you for staying engaged, for showing up and for the countless hours you give students and families across the country.

I also want to send a special thank you to my outstanding policy committee who supported me and worked tirelessly on behalf of all CCD members. I would not have been able to do any of this work without you!

As I step down, let me assure you I am leaving you in excellent hands. My successor, Teresa “Gibby” Gibbons is amazing. She has a tremendous amount of leadership experience in her home state of Virginia as well as with ACTE. Her energy and passion cannot be matched. I am excited to see where she will lead us in the years ahead.
I hope each of you will take some time this summer to rest and rejuvenate. I know I’m looking forward to traveling again and seeing loved ones. It’s been a long year, and we all need more time for the things that bring us joy. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon at future ACTE events!

Investing together,

Nicole

ACTE Releases Report on CTE During and After COVID-19

While COVID-19 has led to many challenges for career and technical education (CTE), the pandemic has also created opportunities for innovation in CTE program delivery. ACTE’s latest publication, *High-quality CTE During COVID-19: Challenges and Innovations*, generously sponsored by MajorClarity, describes these challenges, shares examples of innovative practices, and provides recommendations for how CTE leaders can better prepare the post-COVID-19 workforce and embrace lessons learned during the pandemic.

New Brief: Connecting SEL Learning to Career Success
Social-emotional learning (SEL) is gaining traction within schools, particularly as research demonstrates an increase in overall well-being and lifelong benefits. Fortunately, social-emotional skills can be learned, taught, interwoven and prioritized in CTE programs. This Xello-sponsored brief, the latest in its Student Career Development series, written by Dr. Angela Smith, School of Education, North Carolina State University, is now available.

Read more

Early Bird Registration for Hybrid VISION is Open

The most important event for career and technical educators, ACTE’s CareerTech Hybrid VISION happens Dec. 1–4 online and on-site in New Orleans, Louisiana. Featuring keynote speakers Kevin Brown, author of *The Hero Effect: Being Your Best When It Matters the Most*, and Anne Grady, entrepreneur and author of *Mind Over Moment: Harness the Power of Resilience*, VISION will provide unparalleled networking and concurrent program sessions covering best practices in remote, hybrid and in-person programming.

Learn more and register
Board of Directors Election —
Accepting Applications
Interested in serving the association as a member of the board of directors? Applications for open positions are due June 15. For more information, please see the guidelines for the board of directors nominations.

Upcoming Webinars
Plan to attend these free webinars, covering innovative best practices in CTE.

- Confronting Isms in the Classroom, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. EST
- Innovative Connections: STEM + CTE at Home or School, May 4 at 4:00 p.m. ET
- Equity for Remote Learning, June 3 at 2:00 p.m. ET
- Ensuring your classroom is providing equity for all CTE Students, Aug. 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET
- Pivoting to Practice: Making Your Work-based Learning Experiences Meaningful, June 8 at 2:00 p.m. ET
- Empowering Girls and Women in CTE, July (date TBD)
New CTE Learn Advocacy and Perkins Courses

ACTE is pleased to announce two new courses available via CTE Learn:

- **Spending and Managing Carl D. Perkins Grant Funds** introduces participants to the federal rules that govern the spending and management of Perkins funds. LEARN MORE

- **CTE Advocacy: Policymakers and the Press** provides education professionals with the background, skills and know-how to successfully advocate and promote their CTE programs to both the press and policymakers at the local, state and federal levels. LEARN MORE

ACTE Impact Awards — Call for Nominations

The ACTE Impact Awards recognize groups and individuals from the education, business and industry communities who contribute to the improvement, promotion and development of CTE. Individuals or entities making a positive impact on the image of CTE are eligible recipients of these awards. The deadline to apply for these two awards, the Business-Education Partnership Award and the Champion for CTE Award, is May 1.
ACTE Student Trophy Design Contest Returns

ACTE is excited to announce our sixth annual student contest to redesign the 3D-printed trophies for the ACTE Excellence Awards. The winning trophy design will be 3D-printed by Stratasys and presented to the 10 national award winners at the 2021 ACTE Virtual Awards Gala on Nov. 30. We highly encourage you, your peers and students to participate in this year’s contest — the deadline for design submissions is May 1.

Learn more

WBL Conference is Now Fully Virtual

All sessions at ACTE’s and Iowa’s Work-based Learning (WBL) Conference this April 29–30 will now be live-streamed. Next month's event will include more than 40 WBL topics presented live over Zoom to virtual participants. The ACTE WBL policy meeting, committee meetings and regional WBL receptions will also be hosted virtually. Check out the schedule-at-a-glance, and join us to learn about best practices in WBL from across the country.

Learn more

Signature Event for CTE Administrators
Save the date for The Best Practices and Innovations in Career and Technical Education Conference, hosted by the ACTE Administration Division and NCLA and happening Sept. 29–Oct. 1 in Austin, Texas. This annual conference is specifically focused on the professional development for administrators of both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and institutions.

Learn more

Contribute to a New National Career Clusters Framework

ACTE is pleased to share that Advance CTE is launching a crowdsourcing portal to modernize The Career Clusters Framework! Through May 7, Advance CTE invites you to complete a set of idea challenges to ensure The National Career Clusters Framework bridges education and work, empowering each learner to explore, decide and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers.

Learn more

Applications Are Open!

Now in its fifth year, the 2021 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence will award $1 million in prizes to public high school skilled trades teachers and programs in the U.S. Apply by May 21, or share this opportunity with a deserving teacher.

Learn more
CTE Innovation Summit Set for June 1

Are you ready to prepare your learners for the rapidly changing workplace with cutting-edge tools and techniques? Attend the CTE Innovation Summit taking place virtually on **Tuesday, June 1**. Presenters from the Consumer Technology Association, Microsoft, Google, Brookings Institution and a host of others will share their insights on the new innovations that will change the way you teach and how your students learn.

Nicole Cobb
VP, ACTE Counseling & Career Development Division

Association for Career and Technical Education
1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
703-683-3111

Learn more and register