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NORTH CAROLINA | PUERTO RICO | SOUTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE | VIRGINIA | VIRGIN ISLANDS

Connecting Education and Careers

Dear Region II ACTE members,

Happy New Year! In our house, we stuffed a piñata for the kids to bust after gorging on take-out fajitas from a nearby restaurant and watched a [New Year's Eve Kids early countdown to 2022](#), ringing in the new year at 9:00 pm! As the parent of a “tween,” I’m not sure how much longer we can keep this charade up, but for now, I enjoy calling it a night early and waking up for a run on New Year’s Day.

I really enjoy the start of a new year because I see it as a time to reflect and reset, often resolving to do something new or different with both personal and professional resolutions. Personally, I hope to spend less time working while the kids are around and more time doing things with them. Already this year, I’ve painted dinosaurs, built model cars, created a terrarium, and currently our kitchen table looks like a Lego explosion as I learn [stop-motion animation](#) with our fifth grader (both health science and A/V production teachers will enjoy that film). As I play with my kids in these different ways, I’m reminded of how essential career and technical education is to engaging students in experiences that expose them to possible career paths. Professionally, I hope to read (or, finish) more books. I’ve got four sitting on the nightstand that I’ve been working through for the past two years – don’t judge, this is how I roll! I often read multiple books at the same time, picking up one and putting down another. So, for 2022, I plan to finish [Last Night in Twisted River](#), [The One Year Bible](#) (I’m $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through this one, and I’ve been working at it for three years, ha!), [The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog](#), and [Me and White Supremacy](#). Whether it be expanding my vocabulary or enhancing my understanding of how words and actions relate to the lived experiences of others, each of these books provides an opportunity for me to grow as a professional in career and technical education (CTE).

Did you make a New Year's resolution? Are you reading any good books? We'd love to hear about it. So, go to our [Region II Facebook](#) group and let us know what's happening in your 2022! Telling people about your plans and goals is a great way to cultivate accountability.

If you're still not sure of what 2022 holds in store for you, perhaps you'll consider some opportunities from ACTE! Coming up soon, we've got CTE Month in February which is followed by the ACTE National Policy Seminar in March. ACTE will also provide a series of webinars. Take a look below for information on these activities and other things that might interest you.

ACTE VISION 2021 Update

I hope all who attended VISION 2021 had a wonderful experience. I enjoyed interacting with members during the Region II reception and hope we can make that an annual event. It was an exciting time for Region II, as two of our region award winners were also named national award winners. Congratulations to Kelli Lancaster from South Carolina on being named national winner for the Counseling and Career Development Professional Award and Ashley Rogers from Kentucky on being named national winner for the New Teacher of the Year Award.

Additionally, the following states received the National Quality Association Standards Award. The purpose of the [Quality Association Standards](#) is to provide benchmarks for state associations to determine levels of performance and satisfactory service to their members and prospective members. States who meet these standards as evidenced by submission of an annual report receive this recognition. From Region II, these included:

- Georgia
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Virginia

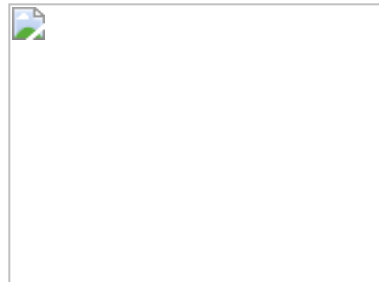
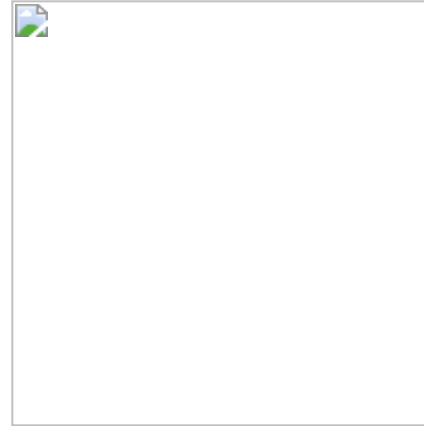
Region II Awards Deadline

Approaching

The Region II 2021 deadline for states to submit their award nominees for the regional competition is fast approaching – **March 1!**

Marcia Day from Alabama represents Region II on the National Awards Committee and will work with the Region II Awards Committee to organize and execute the interviews and recipient selection process. If you have questions about the process, you can check with your state leadership, download the [Region II awards process document](#) on the [ACTE Region II website](#), or contact [Marcia Day](#).

We hope to have more national award winners next year!



Announcing the Board of Directors 2022 Election Results

ACTE is pleased to announce the results of the recent election for spots on its Board of Directors.

- Chaney Mosley, President-elect: Mosley is an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- Michael Culwell, Region IV Vice President-elect: Culwell is the Campus Director at Kiamichi Tech-Poteau in Poteau, Oklahoma.
- Sean Crevier, Business Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors Mr. Crevier is Teacher at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

- Katy Blatnick-Gagne, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors, Ms. Blatnick-Gagne is an Education Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education in Des Moines, Iowa.

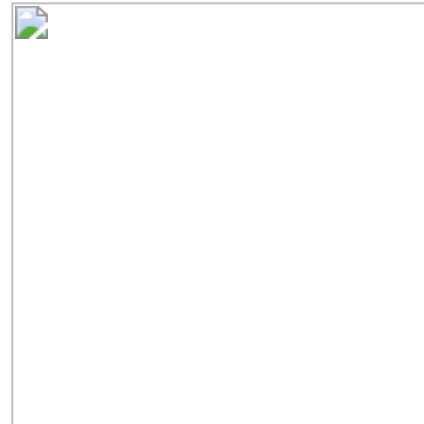
Additionally, the vice president-elects whose election occurred last year will join the Board as vice president in July 2022. Susan Leon will assume the position of New & Related Services Division Vice President, Brandon Russel will assume the position of Region III Vice President, and Beth Parks will assume the position of Region II Vice President.

ACTE congratulates the winners, and thanks all of the candidates for their willingness to serve and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the association. ACTE also thanks its members who had their voices heard by voting in the election.

[Read more](#)

Voice Your CTE Priorities at NPS!

Join CTE professionals at ACTE's National Policy Seminar (NPS) to engage on key education policy topics, hear best practices for influencing federal policy related to CTE advocacy and messaging, and participate in Capitol Hill visits. This year's NPS will be offered as a hybrid event and happens both virtually and in person at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, **March 21–23**. We will follow a similar schedule to past years but may have to make some COVID-19-related tweaks.



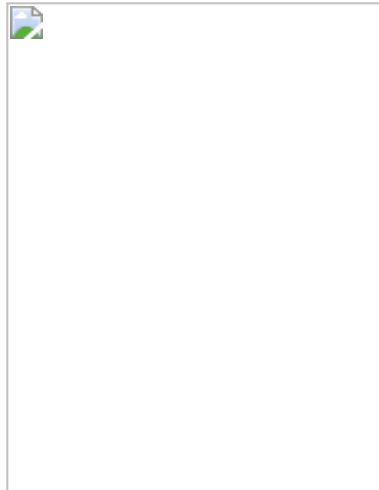
[Learn more](#)

Present at CareerTech VISION 2022!

Share your expertise at ACTE's CareerTech VISION, happening **Nov. 30–Dec. 3** in Las Vegas, Nevada, by being an esteemed presenter. Won't you consider submitting a proposal to lead an educational program session? We're looking for innovations and insights on the most pressing issues in the field today. Accepted session topics may also address current and emerging trends to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. VISION offers unparalleled networking, hundreds of concurrent program sessions covering high-quality CTE and stories of successful education and business collaborations. Call for presentations will open in late January and close **March 31**.



[Learn more](#)



Celebrate CTE Month[®]!

Generously sponsored by NAHB

Join us as we celebrate CTE Month, generously sponsored in 2022 by the National Association of Home Builders. Share with the world how much you love CTE! Raise awareness about the importance of CTE for our students and our nation's economy and have fun doing it!

- Share ACTE's 28 days of CTE social media messages by following us **@actecareertech** on Twitter or Facebook. You can also share your

own success stories on social media by using **#CTEMonth**. Be sure to tag us!

- Encourage your students to participate in this year's [CTE Month-NASA HUNCH student video](#) challenge to showcase the importance of CTE and/or project-based learning. This year's theme: **How Can Space Exploration Solve Climate Change?** Submit videos, two minutes or less in length, by **April 1**.
- [Gear up](#) with mood pens, pencils and other festive CTE Month merchandise.
- [Engage](#) members of your community or the media to learn about your school's strong CTE programs firsthand.
- [Reach out](#) to business and industry leaders in your area to create valuable partnerships.
- [Download the CTE Month logo](#) for use with any of your print and digital outreach.

[Learn more](#)

New Publication Features Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrup Grumman Partnership

Xello is pleased to support ACTE and CTE practitioners through the production of a series of publication briefs to delve deeper on topics within ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework: Business and Community Partnerships. The third publication in the Taking Business to School Series focuses on the Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrop Grumman partnership that resulted in a new

robotics engineering program that also helps fuel the local region's growing unmanned aerial systems industry.

Read more

TAKING BUSINESS TO SCHOOL:

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND NORTHROP GRUMMAN



Partnership Catalyst

Northrop Grumman has a strong commitment to supporting education initiatives that foster student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The company partners with educational institutions to offer "engineering and technology based programs and initiatives that excite, engage, and educate students." (Northrop Grumman, 2021). Northrop Grumman provides sponsoring STEM education initiatives opportunities where it has a physical presence and employee base to both meet its commitments and partner to develop local talent.



In 2017, Northrop Grumman opened a new facility near Grand Forks, North Dakota, to support development and operation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), an emerging technology in the aviation field. The Grand Sky Unmanned Aerial Systems Business and Aviation Park is the nation's first commercial UAS business park. The facility was developed in partnership with the United States Air Force and engages the infrastructure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base for its operations. (Northrop Grumman, 2017). The Air Force has a group of Global Hawk, autonomous aircraft from the Air Force, and the development of the Grand Sky facility meant that Grand Forks was becoming a hub for the UAS industry.

partnership expanded to include more direct engagement between Northrop Grumman employees and Grand Forks students. Students enrolled in Grand Forks Public Schools now have the opportunity to participate in several of Northrop Grumman's robotics STEM education initiatives, including the VEX Robotics program and a high school mentoring program.

As the Grand Sky facility was being developed, Northrop Grumman also began developing its partnership with the region's academic institutions to support STEM education in the community and collaborate to develop a local workforce with skills needed for the UAS field. Northrop Grumman's Grand Sky site director Mike Hayslett said, "Northrop Grumman built a robust network facility at Grand Sky because of the ability to work closely with our customers and because of the region's strong academic institutions and commitment to supporting the autonomous systems industry." (Grand Forks Region Economic Development, 2020). Early on, Northrop Grumman reached out to the region's secondary and postsecondary education institutions to see if there were local education leaders and high-achieving STEM education partnership opportunities. Northrop Grumman initially supported STEM education in the region through a state mentoring grant program and invested in STEM education at the post-K level.

Program Overview

Grand Forks Public Schools has established a highly successful and globally competitive robotics engineering program over the last several years. Robotics program students participate in the VEX Robotics game-based engineering challenge. Students build their own robots capable of completing a certain set of tasks specified by the game.

Creating Strong Business Partnerships

For more information on creating strong business partnerships, see the "Business and Community Partnerships" element of ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework at <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/>

PELL GRANTS & SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS:
Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities

ACTE | DECEMBER 2021

WHAT ARE SHORT-TERM POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS?
Short-term postsecondary education programs are focused and non-credit occupational education programs offered to postsecondary students that temporarily replace traditional college and allow individual courses that apply to two semesters of college. Research and program evaluations show that students who complete these programs are more likely to graduate and earn higher wages. Since 2010, the number of short-term certificate programs has increased by nearly 20%, and completion of the certificate has a noticeable positive impact on other educational goals.

LIMITATIONS OF PELL GRANTS
Through the passage of short-term education programs leading to in-demand credentials of program. 70% of all Higher Education programs that grant eligibility to postsecondary programs that grant at least 900 hours of instruction over 15 weeks. This includes students enrolled in these programs leading to a certificate or credential from receiving federal aid.

EXPANDING PELL GRANT ACCESS
Expanding Pell grants to support the needs of high-quality, in-demand educational programs will help make American education and career pathways more equitable and accessible. Research shows that Pell grants are especially effective for students with financial barriers, program completion, and a postsecondary credential.

Short-term Pell Grants in Action

WAGE GAINS
Certificate holders with short-term high school graduates
10% increase in median wages

HIGHER ENROLLMENT & COMPLETION RATES
Short-term Pell grants increase enrollment rates by 15 PERCENTAGE POINTS
MORE THAN 1 PERCENTAGE POINT

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES
Short-term credentials have increased opportunities in high-demand jobs by 63%

CONTINUING EDUCATION
63% increase in certificate holders with prior postsecondary education pursue additional coursework

27% increase in certificate holders who complete a degree, credential or degree in health

Viginia's New Economy Workforce Credentials
Ved covers hundreds of tuition for non-credit short-term occupational programs in high-demand occupations at a highly competitive cost. The program has a 90% completion rate and an average graduation rate that is higher than other similar programs.

Health Care Training Assistance Program
In a 2016 analysis by Virginia Community College System, students who completed a health care training program at least community college 20 months completed operations. A 42% quarterly wage gain and 24% of graduates pursue additional education in credit-bearing programs.

New Resource on Expanding Access to Short-term Postsecondary CTE Programs

Recently, ACTE released a fact sheet: Pell Grants and Short-term Programs: Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities. These high-quality, short-term postsecondary programs can help individuals earn credentials at an affordable cost and enter the workforce in high-wage, high-demand CTE industries.

Read more

Help Us Define Inclusion and Access

What does **inclusion** mean to you? What about **access**? ACTE seeks to define these terms in the context of CTE, and we need your help. As educators, you advance the ideals of

inclusion, access, equity and diversity (IAED) through the development of high-quality CTE programs of study that serve all students. Read *Techniques* this spring for additional opportunities to contribute on the meaning of IAED in CTE.

[Read more about IAED in CTE in Techniques](#)



Check Out New, Free Resources on CTE Learn

The CTE Research Network Training Modules, designed for CTE practitioners and state agency staff, will strengthen your capacity to access, understand, and use CTE data and research as well as conduct your own research — particularly causal research. This new series seeks to expand the evidence base on the impact of CTE and to bring CTE practitioners and researchers together in collaboration.

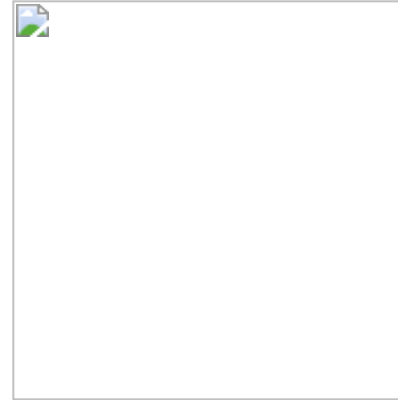
- Understanding CTE Data and Why It Matters
- Using Data and Research to Improve CTE Programs
- CTE Program Evaluation: Why It Matters to Practitioners
- Using State Data to Partner with Researchers
- Using Research to Design Your CTE Program for Equity
- How to Communicate About Your CTE Program Using Research

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Mark your calendar for these upcoming free webinars, covering innovative best practices in CTE.

- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Educators (Part 2) on **Feb. 16 at 4:00 p.m. ET**
- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Students (Part 3) on **April 12 at 4:00 p.m. ET**



Learn more and sign up to attend

Region II on Social Media

Join our Region Facebook group to share ideas and resources or to communicate about opportunities. If you'd like to join the private Facebook group, you'll need to request membership by clicking [here](#).

You can also follow us on Twitter [@ACTERegionII](#) and be sure to tag us with exciting things from your program or state so we can retweet and spread the word.

Stay warm as we move through winter and into spring. The next newsletter will include updates about our Region II Conference which will be hosted by Virginia ACTE.



Sincerely,

[Chaney Mosley](#), PhD
ACTE Region II Vice President

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