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Connecting Education and Careers

Hello, Region V Members!

“An optimist understands that life can be a bumpy road, but at least it is leading somewhere. They learn from mistakes and failures, and are not afraid to fail again.” —Harvey Mackay.

Now that everything is in full swing and fall is upon us, it is sometimes challenging to remain optimistic, but this quote reminds me that it is so important to celebrate achievements, large and small.

I was recently introduced to a website called actionforhappiness.org, and it designates October as "Optimistic October." Each month, there is a new calendar of actions you can take to increase your happiness. The calendars provide opportunities to follow the "Ten Keys to Happier Living" as designed by Action for Happiness.



Region V Innovative Program Awards

Did you know that each state and territory in Region V can submit for the innovative awards? There are so many unique, innovative and creative career and technical education (CTE) programs across Region V, and we want to recognize YOURS! Each state association may submit one nomination annually, make sure to submit your nomination by the March 1st deadline.

All CTE programs qualify for the award, so long as they meet the following criteria:

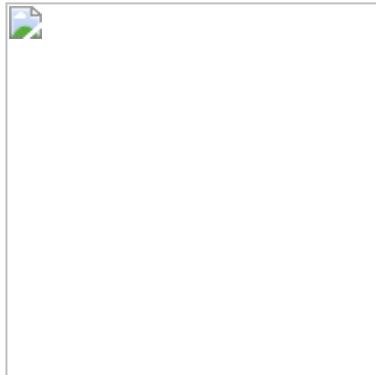
- Program must demonstrate a capacity to prepare graduates to perform successfully in an occupational field
- Program should exemplify the highest standards within its occupational field



- Staff must be involved in an in-service program to keep abreast of technological changes in their occupational field
- Program must have been in operation for at least three years
- Instructor(s) in the program must have been a member of the state association for at least three consecutive years.

I challenge each state association to apply for the Innovative Career and Technical Education Program today! Go to the [Region V Awards page](#) to get the application and more details now. Let's show our state and regional pride and have all 16 states and territories represent their innovative CTE programs!

Learn more and apply



Innovation and Inspiration at CareerTech VISION 2021

This year's ACTE CareerTech VISION conference is hybrid, offering both a live conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, and virtual sessions. To accommodate those who are unable to travel to the conference, we are offering both the Region V policy committee meeting and business meeting in a hybrid format on **Wednesday, Dec. 1** to meet the needs of everyone.

The Region V Policy Committee is scheduled for **8:00–10:00 a.m. CT**. For those policy members attending virtually, more information will go out soon.

The Region V Business Meeting is scheduled for **3:30–5:00 p.m. CT**. This meeting is hybrid and a link

for access is available for you to register for the meeting.

All Region and Division Business Meetings are open meetings (with no registration fee) but require an RSVP to verify ACTE membership for members to vote on necessary items during the meeting. RSVPs are required by **Friday, Nov. 5**. The Zoom meeting link will be sent to each RSVP no later than **Friday, Nov. 12**. Questions? Contact [member services](#).

[View the meeting agenda](#)

Learn more and register

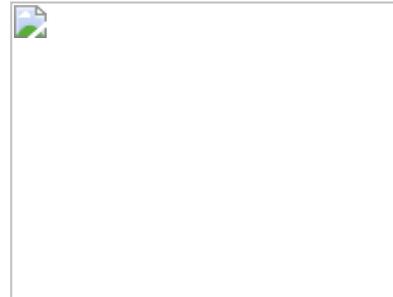
COVID-19 Protocols in New Orleans

ACTE has been working very closely with our partners in New Orleans as we monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting safety protocols and want to share an update. Please note, these protocols are not ACTE's but are the requirements of the city of New Orleans.

INDOOR MASK MANDATE IN EFFECT IN NEW ORLEANS

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask indoors when with people who are not in their immediate household. This means, all attendees must wear a mask while indoors at all venues, restaurants, etc. at all times. While eating, your mask can be off but must be put back on immediately after eating.

VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE COVID TEST REQUIRED in order to gain access to the following areas in New Orleans:



- Restaurants
- Bars
- Breweries, microbreweries, distilleries and micro-distilleries
- Event spaces such as hotel ballrooms, event venues and reception halls
- Casinos, racetracks and video poker establishments

Anyone 12 years of age and older must provide the following, if attending any of the above listed events in New Orleans:

Proof of at least one dose of an approved COVID vaccine -- original, digital photograph, or photocopy of CDC Vaccination Card (both sides) or;

Negative PCR test within 72 hours -- physical or electronic test results from a PCR COVID-19 test indicating negative results within the past 72 hours. Antigen tests will not be accepted. For more information on testing sites, please click the [New Orleans Testing Sites](#).

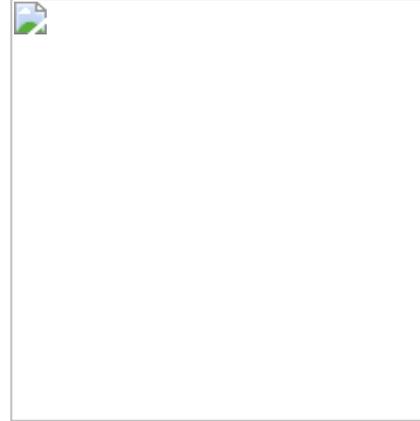
For the latest and addition COVID-19 information and guidelines in New Orleans to ensure your safety as a VISION attendee, please visit the [New Orleans Ready site](#).

Learn more

Congratulations to ACTE's 2022 National Award Finalists!

ACTE is delighted to announce the 2022 National Award finalists, individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CTE and serve as inspirational leaders in the field. Finalists are recognized in the following categories: Teacher of the Year, Postsecondary Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, Teacher Educator of the Year, Counseling and Career Development

Professional Award, Lifetime Achievement and Carl Perkins Community Service Awards. [Meet the finalists](#)



Georgia Power Named Business-Education Partnership Award Winner

ACTE is pleased to announce **Georgia Power** as the ACTE Business-Education Partnership Award Winner. Georgia Power's investments locally and regionally strengthen their position as a statewide partner for Georgia Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE). From developing opportunities within a variety of advisory boards to working with career and technical student organizations, Georgia Power is always at the table to help improve CTAE. [Read more about this excellent partnership](#)

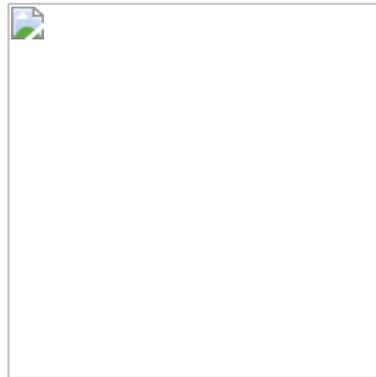
Patrick Biggerstaff Named Champion for CTE Winner

ACTE is pleased to announce the ACTE Champion for CTE: **Patrick Biggerstaff**, Indiana CTE Director at Area 31 Career Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. This past year, Biggerstaff represented Indiana CTE Directors on the Indiana Governor's Workforce Cabinet CTE "Back on Track" working group to help develop the guidance for reopening facilities and returning to in-person instruction after COVID-19 and actively contributed to the ACTE *High-quality CTE Planning for a COVID-19 Impacted School Year* publication. The ACTE Champion for CTE award recognizes education leaders who support and champion CTE programs as a vital part of developing a prepared, adaptable, and competitive workforce. [Meet Patrick Biggerstaff](#)

Mississippi Student Wins ACTE National Student Trophy Design Contest

ACTE is excited to announce a St. Martin High School student **Nathaniel Bryan** as the winner in its sixth annual [student trophy design contest](#). He is taught by Richard Humphreys, an

instructor at St. Martin High School in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. In addition to having his design used to create this year's trophies, Nathaniel will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and St. Martin High School will receive a free one-year lease of a 3D printer, courtesy of [Stratasys, Ltd](#), a manufacturer of 3D printers and production systems and generous sponsor of the contest. [Meet Nathaniel Bryan](#)



ACTE Awards Gala

The ACTE Awards winners will be presented at the ACTE Awards Gala on **Nov. 30 at 4:00 p.m. CT** in conjunction with [ACTE's CareerTech VISION](#), happening this **Dec. 1–4** virtually and in person in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Awards Gala is free to everyone to attend and generously sponsored by [CareerSafe](#), [Express Employment Professionals](#), [Goodheart-Willcox](#) and [Stratasys Ltd](#).

Sign up to attend!

Verify Your Membership by Nov. 3 to Vote!

The 2022 ACTE board of directors' election will be held this year **Dec. 3–Jan. 3!** Please mark your calendars to reflect the election schedule below:

- You must be an ACTE member by **Nov. 3** to vote
- Voting will open during VISION on **Dec. 3** and run through **Jan. 3**



- Winners will be announced in January 2022

[Learn more](#)



**Region V Conference: Portrait of
Success Leadership Conference**
SAVE THE DATE: April 6–9 in Rapid City,
South Dakota



Region V Conference

Your Region V Conference Committee from South Dakota is busy putting together an incredible spring conference experience tailored for you, our Region V members. Pre-conference activities include CTE Leadership 101, a leadership strand for new, emerging leaders as well as anyone desiring a refresher course; a Scavenger Hunt of downtown Rapid City, and an informal reception. VJ Smith will kick off our opening session with breakout sessions to follow. Education tours including dinner are planned for Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday includes more breakout sessions. Personally, I cannot wait for the Crazy Horse Experience and awards banquet Friday evening! The call for presentations will come out soon, but in the meantime, check out the incredible tour options available to you!

- Mt. Rushmore and the National Park Service
- Black Hills Pioneer – Spearfish (arts and communications cluster)
- Deadwood Hospitality Tour
- Western Dakota Technical College – Law Enforcement and Health Science Programs
- B9 Creations (Manufacturing/STEM)
- C-Lock (AFNR Cluster)

To conclude the conference on Saturday morning, participate in the Best Practices in CTE Networking session and a send-off brunch that includes an inspiring keynote speaker, future conference updates from North Dakota and Hawaii, and amazing must-be-present to win prizes! Watch for more details and

information at the Region V Business Meeting at VISION 2021.

Check the ACTE website for the Call for Presentations and registration information. See you in Rapid City!

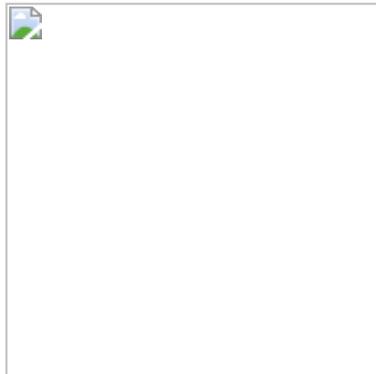
Visit the website

Donate to ACTE Support Fund

ACTE's support fund promotes CTE nationwide. The fund is designed to generate positive awareness, increase member and public engagement, and expand the reach of CTE for all students. Your donation supports the following types of outreach: annual twitter chat during CTE month with the National Career and Technical Student Organizations, guest blogs with partner organizations, interviews with Education Talk Radio, and development of written content that supports career and technical education.



Donate now!



Upcoming Webinars

Mark your calendar for these upcoming free webinars, covering innovative best practices and inclusion, access, equity and diversity in CTE.

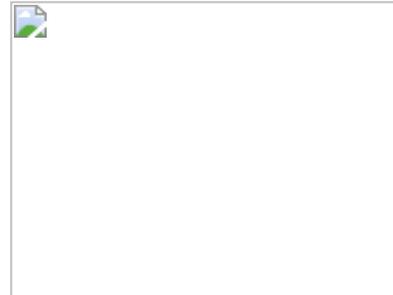
- Taking Business to School Series: West-MEC's Partnership with Palo Verde Generating Station on **Oct. 25 at noon ET**

- How Space Exploration Can Solve Climate Change on **Oct. 27 at noon ET**
- How Virtual Patients are Reshaping Health Education on **Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. ET**
- IGNITE Worldwide: Closing the Gender Gap in STEM on **Dec. 8 at 2:00 p.m. ET.**
- Transforming the Middle School Experience: A Community Approach to College and Career Readiness for Students in Grades 6-8 on **Dec. 13 at 1:00 p.m. ET**
- Reclaiming Humanity: Services to Individuals who are Justice-involved or Incarcerated on **Jan. 13, 2022 at noon ET**

[Learn more](#)

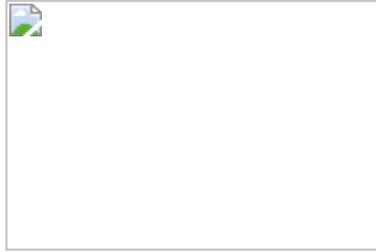
Apply to Be a Mentee in ACTE's IAED Mentorship Program

ACTE's Inclusion, Access, Equity and Diversity (IAED) Mentorship Program, offering professional development opportunities to help cultivate more diverse and inclusive work environments for career and technical educators, is open to all ACTE members. Those who are interested in becoming a mentee in ACTE's IAED Mentorship Program should apply by **Oct. 31.**



[Learn more](#)

[Newly Updated Sector Sheet](#)



Shani Watkins
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